Argument

College students who say their parents argued about money when they were growing up are twice as likely to have more than two credit cards as those whose parents didn’t – and three times as likely to have a large amount of debt. *(Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 9, 2012)*

**Son: “I’m growing a beard!” Mom: “Okay.” Son: “And I’m not shaving it off, no matter what you say!” Mom: “Fine.” Son: “This act of rebellion would be more meaningful to me if you’d stop supporting it so wholeheartedly.” Mom: “Sorry, sweetie!” *(Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

**Son: “I need some advice about arguing with women, Dad.” Dad: “Sure, Son. There are two theories of arguing with a woman, and neither one works.” *(Dean Young & Denis Lebrun, in Blondie comic strip)***

**A senator had a friend whose company he enjoyed because the man always argued with him. They would argue far into the night. The senator thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual stimulation. One day the friend needed a loan and the senator gladly granted it. From that moment on, however, their relationship changed. The friend no longer argued. Instead, he began to agree with everything the senator said. After several weeks the exasperated senator, now thoroughly bored with the man’s company, blurted out: “Look, either start arguing with me again, for heaven’s sake, or pay me my money!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I don’t have to attend every argument I’m invited to. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The best way of answering a bad argument is to let it go on. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Arguing with the umpire has never won a ball game. But it has helped lose many. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I argue very well. Ask any of my remaining friends. I can win an argument on any topic. People know this and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me. *(Dave Barry, in Miami Herald)***

**Man: “Hi, is it something I said?” Woman: “Is what something you said?” Man: “I thought we might have our argument before dinner tonight. There's a game on TV later that I want to watch.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Now there's a book for people who disagree -- a contradictionary. *(Paul L. Lyons, in Reader's Digest)***

**Few people listen to both sides of an argument. Neighbors are among the exceptions. (Bits & Pieces) 1212911**

**Woman to marriage counselor: "I would have brought my husband, but we'd just end up arguing." *(Schwalb, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**The first one who uses "but" has lost the argument. *(Nassim Nicholas Taleb, author)***

**A quarrel is like buttermilk: Once it’s out of the churn, the more you shake it, the more sour it grows. *(Irish proverb)***

**The best argument is that which seems merely an explanation. *(Dale Carnegie)***

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**People generally quarrel because they cannot argue. *(G. K. Chesterton, in More Quotable Chesterton) 9209022***

**The thing I hate about an argument is that it always interrupts a discussion*. (G. K. Chesterton, English journalist, essayist, novelist, and poet)***

**Perhaps the principal objection to a quarrel is that it interrupts an argument. *(C. K. Chesterton)***

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**“Crime control” ought to start with “argument control,” contends one expert in the law. “Arguments lead to more homicides than all the felonies put together,” says this expert. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Race-car driver Cale Yarborough's reason for not engaging in an argument with a fellow driver: “Don't ever wrestle with a pig. You'll both get dirty, but the pig will enjoy it.” *(Reader's Digest)***

**Nothing is as frustrating as arguing with someone who knows what he’s talking about*. (Sam Ewing)***

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**Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; an argument is an exchange of ignorance. *(Robert Quillen, journalist)***

**An exchange of ideas and intelligence is a discussion, but an exchange of ignorance is an argument. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**An Ontario family's fireside argument over whether the earth is flat or round became so heated that the fire department had to be called out. Police said a 56-year-old man was sitting at a park bonfire with his son and his son's girlfriend when the woman asserted that the earth is flat. When she refused to back down, the man became enraged and started throwing camping equipment into the fire -- including a propane cylinder. Firefighters were called to put out the blaze. After admitting the fight was "stupid," the dad was charged with a misdemeanor. *(The Week magazine, July 1/July 8, 2016)***

**The best way to convince another is to state your case moderately and accurately. Then say of course you may be mistaken about it; which causes your listener to receive what you have to say and, like as not, turn about and convince you of it, since you are in doubt. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**Why do so many arguments go on long after the people originally involved have all disappeared? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**A lot of good arguments are spoiled by some fool who knows what he’s talking about. *(Gene Brown)***

**On his way to a reception held in his honor, Ulysses S. Grant got caught in a shower and offered to share his umbrella with a stranger walking in the same direction. The man said he was going to Grant’s reception out of curiosity; he had never seen the general. “I have always thought that Grant was a much overrated man,” he said. “That’s my view also,” Grant replied. *(Quoted in The Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes)***

**Man: “Hi, is it something I said?” Woman: “Is what something you said?” Man: “I thought we might have our argument before dinner tonight. There's a game on TV later that I want to watch.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Check Mate: My husband and I, sitting next to each other on the bed, were having a disagreement in which neither one of us would give an inch. Realizing I was getting nowhere in the argument, I said in frustration, "You're impossible!" He turned to me and, with a smile, responded, "No, I'm not. I'm next to impossible." *(Lynn Ann Whinery, in Reader's Digest)***

**It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument. *(William Gibbs McAdoo, U.S. politician)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Bad week for: Getting along, after an Indian woman filed for divorce from her husband, citing his refusal to argue with her. "Whenever I make a mistake, he always forgives me," the woman complained to a judge. "I am feeling suffocated in such an environment." *(The Week magazine, September 4, 2020)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Argue like you’re right and listen like you’re wrong. *(Adam Grant, organizational psychologist)***

**What are the three words most likely to start a household argument? So inquires a reader. Try these: “Why didn’t you? . . .” (L. M. Boyd)**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences, including the vitiating of his temper and loss of self-control. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**The concept of two people living together for 25 years without a serious dispute suggests a lack of spirit only to be admired in sheep. *(A. P. Herbert)***

**All logical arguments can be defeated by the simple refusal to reason logically. *(Steven Weinberg, physicist)***

**Couple to their host and hostess: "We really must be going -- we have a long argument ahead of us." *(Jerry Marcus, in Reader's Digest)***

**What couples are really arguing about: Married couples argue about all kinds of things, from money to whose turn it is to take out the garbage. But in reality, says Scientific American, all fights come down to two basic issues that have little to do with the content of the arguments: One person feels that he or she is being unfairly controlled or feels neglected. Baylor University psychologists gave a questionnaire to 3,539 married couples and analyzed such variables as the words couples used to describe a fight and the feelings they experienced. Researchers concluded that the tension that sparked the arguments almost always involved deeper issues relating to whether the partners felt understood or valued. Appreciating this dynamic might help couples figure out how to improve communication. For example, says study author Keith Sanford, if a husband realizes that his wife’s anger over his coming home late is really about her feeling disregarded, he could fashion an apology that includes “demonstrations of deference and expressions of appreciation.” *(The Week magazine, July 16, 2010)***

**The Suez Canal does not have locks. But did you know Napoleon wanted to dig that canal? His advisors argued against it, saying the Mediterranean and Red Seas have different levels. He jumked the notion. His advisors were wrong. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**As newlyweds, my husband and I were having one of those intense first arguments while driving to a nearby city. Finally, my husband reached his limit. He pulled the car over to the side of the road and said, "If you don't like it, you can just get out here!" It was then that we noticed a road sign: "Unlawful to throw out burning material." We laughed and went on our way. *(Mrs. M. Engelbert, in Reader's Digest)***

**There is no good in arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat. *(Longfellow)***

**My parents only had one argument in forty-five years. It lasted forty-three years. *(Cathy Ladman)***

**A foreman was a hardworking, conscientious man, but had not received a promotion in ten years. Asked if he had an explanation for his failure to advance, he replied,, “Many years ago I had an argument with my supervisor. I won.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**People’s minds are changed through observation and not through argument. *(Will Rogers)***

**There’s two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works. *(Will Rogers)***

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**"That's a nice plant," said a woman at the florist's shop, pointing to the flower I was buying. "Yeah, my wife and I had an argument," I admitted. "I was going to buy her a dozen roses, but I don't think she's that mad at me." *(Art Flagel, in Reader's Digest)***

**Dad: “I think screaming is the primary form of communication for girls.” Mom: “Oh, it is not.” Dad: “They scream when they’re happy. They scream when they’re scared. They scream when they’re excited. They scream when they’re mad.” Mom: “Look, I don’t have the energy to argue with you right now. I’m so tired I could scream.” Dad: “Ah-hah!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Buck, a rancher in Montana, hated to wear a seat belt, but one day he spotted a state policeman behind him and decided to quickly put in on. "Here, take the wheel," he told his wife. She did, but it was too late, and the trooper pulled them over. "I noticed you weren't wearing your seat belt," the officer said. "Yes, I was," the rancher said. "But don't take my word for it. Ask my wife." "So how about it, ma'am?" the state policeman asked. "Officer, I've been married to Buck for 20 years," she replied. "And one thing I've learned in all that time is: never argue with him when he's drunk." *(Quoted by Garrison Keillor on "A Prairie Home Companion," Minnesota Public Radio)***

**A husband and wife had been married for 60 years and had no secrets except for one: The woman kept in her closet a shoe box that she forbade her husband from ever opening. But when she was on her deathbed -- and with her blessing -- he opened the box and found a crocheted doll and $95,000 in cash. "My mother told me that the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue," she explained. "Instead, I should keep quiet and crochet a doll." Her husband was touched. Only one doll was in the box -- that meant she'd been angry with him only once in 60 years. "But what about all this money?" he asked. "Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the dolls." *(Reader's Digest)***

**Conversation between two men: "I understand you had an argument with your wife. How did it end up?" "Oh, she came crawling to me on her hands and knees." "Is that so? What did she say?" "She said, 'Come out from under that bed and fight like a man.'" *(Sparta, Georgia, Ishmaelite)***

**One day in our political-science class, the professor and a student became engaged in a heated discussion which grew more and more involved as it progressed. The student, suddenly realizing that the professor had shifted his position, said rather confidently, "But, sir, now you're arguing my side of the question." "I know," responded the professor. "Your side wasn't doing too well." *(Carl P. Chelf, in Reader's Digest)***

**Silence is argument carried on by other means. *(Che Guevara)***

**A lot of good arguments are spoiled by some fool who knows what he is talking about. *(Miguel de Unamuno, poet)***

**Four members of the clergy had a theological argument, with the three male ministers siding against the female minister. The woman prayed, “Lord, I know I’m right. Please send us a divine sign to prove it.” A big storm cloud materialized, and there was a clap of thunder. “See,” said the woman. “It’s a sign from above.” The three clergymen disagreed, saying thunder is a common phenomenon. “Dear Lord,” the woman prayed, “I need a bigger sign.” This time, a bolt of lightning slammed into a tree. “See! I told you I was right,” the woman said. But the men insisted nothing had happened that couldn’t be explained by natural causes. “Help me, Lord,” the woman implored. And a deep voice came from the heavens: “SSSHHHEEE’S RRRIIIGGGHHHTTT!” The woman turned to the three clergymen and asked, “Well?” “So, okay,” they said. “Now it’s three against two.” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**Time spent arguing is, oddly enough, almost never wasted. *(Christopher Hitchens)***

**Never argue with a idiot, because bystanders don't know who the idiot is. *(Mark Twain)***

**Several tons of seaweed remained on a truck at a British movie studio while two unions argued over whether it was living (and should be unloaded by gardeners) or dead (and handled by scenery shifters). After the seaweed had sat in the sun for a couple of days, it was removed -- by a garbage man. *(Buffalo, NY, News)***

**Man to marriage counselor: “My wife and I can’t agree on our vacation. I want to go to Bermuda and she wants to go with me.” *(Hoest/Reiner, King Features)***

**If you really want the last word in an argument, try saying, “I guess you’re right.” *(Funny Funny World)***

**The boss always scheduled the weekly staff meeting for 4:30 on Fridays. When one of the employees finally got up the nerve to ask why, she explained: “I’ll tell you why – I’ve learned that’s the only time when none of you seem to want to argue with me.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**When two people today engage in an argument, each tends to spend half of his time and energy not in producing evidence to support his point of view but in looking for the hidden motives which are causing his opponent to hold his. *(W. H. Auden)***

**I dislike arguments of any kind. They are always vulgar, and often convincing. *(Oscar Wilde, Irish poet, dramatist, author)***

**If you don't like to argue, you're not a good American. *(George Will, columnist)***

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**When you let someone else win an argument, often you both end up winners. If one of my children says, “You never spend any time with me,” my impulse might be to respond, “But I spend lots of time with you. Don’t you remember just yesterday we went out to lunch?” When I have found, however, is that my willing participation in the argument does nothing more than keep it alive by feeding it with attention. Sometimes a better response is, “You’re right. I hope we’ll start spending more time together. I love you so much.” *(Richard Carlson, in Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff With Your Family)***

**Man: “Well, Gloria, I think I finally won an argument with you!” Gloria: “I guess it pays to bring your attorney.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

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