

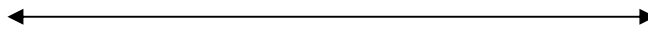
## Super casinos

The UK is considering a controversial change in the laws which control gambling, allowing a huge expansion in the number of casinos. The possibility of this development is unpopular with many people.

1 Have you ever been to a casino? If so, did you win or lose? Discuss your answer with a partner.

2 Gambling is a controversial issue. Where would you put yourself on the scale below? Compare your answer with a partner.

‘Everyone has the right to gamble when and where they wish’



‘Gambling leads to addiction and crime’

3 Read the two articles. List the arguments used by the writers to support or oppose the building of more casinos.

### Business regeneration

What do Caesars Palace and the Hilton hotel have in common? They, along with MGM Mirage, are queuing up to build giant hotels with casinos and entertainment complexes in Britain if the government decides to liberalize the gambling laws. The future could mean casinos open 24 hours and the chance to win an unlimited jackpot. Casinos would also be allowed to advertise for the first time. Britain currently has 126 casinos with slot machine jackpots limited to pay-outs of £2,000. With multi-million pound investment, the prospect of up to 100 new casinos would bring more jobs and a welcome increase in business.

### Gambling addiction set to increase

Allowing dozens of casinos to be built in the UK would be a big mistake. 24-hour gambling would mean that many people’s lives would be ruined by gambling addiction. It is likely that crime would increase too. Look what happened after a change in gambling laws in Australia – it is now thought that 80% of the population there gambles. Gambling is a major social concern. Children are already betting on the Internet. Building so many super casinos in the UK is simply about making money – and ignores some of the serious moral issues.

4 Find words or expressions in the articles which mean:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| (a) to make laws less strict so that people have more freedom              | (Article 1) |
| (b) a large amount of money that someone wins in a game, or on the lottery | (Article 1) |
| (c) amount of money given in winnings                                      | (Article 1) |
| (d) money used in a way to make more money                                 | (Article 1) |
| (e) trying to win money by guessing the results of something               | (Article 2) |
| (f) relating to the right and wrongs of a subject of discussion            | (Article 2) |

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5 Discuss the following questions in small groups and report your ideas to the class.

- What kinds of betting and gambling exist in your country? Is gambling a social problem?
- Should casinos open 24 hours a day? Should winnings be unlimited?
- Is it possible to restrict gambling on the Internet?
- If a super casino were to be built in your home town, would you object?

6 Work in two groups, A and B. Group A are a ‘pro-gambling society’ and group B are an ‘anti-gambling society’. You are going to hold a debate. In your group prepare a list of your main arguments. Now present your ideas to the opposing group and challenge their ideas.