

Ban Boxing?

A. Proper Nouns

Matthew Wright, Dr. David Bull, Tiff Stevenson, John Nicolson

Nick Blackwell – injured middle weight champion
Chris Eubank, Jr. – boxer who injured Nick
Victor Laughlin – referee in the above fight
Michael Watson – boxer injured in a bout with Chris Eubank, Sr. 25 years ago

BMA – The British Medical Association

Michael Norgrove – boxer who was killed 3 years ago
Tom Bowen – quit boxing after he injured Michael
Robert Smith – General Secretary of the **British Boxing Board of Control**

RoSPA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

brain injuries – diffuse axonal damage, Parkinson's disease

B. Vocabulary Words from the Video

a blanket thing to ban class issue coma compulsory consenting dirt poor
down under dueling fallen keep(ing) our fingers crossed knock(ed) out
knockout middleweight (champion) pro-banning punch(es) safeguards
to take something on the chin warped working class

C. Text from the video which uses the vocabulary words.

1. It's a story that's moved from the back pages to the front pages asking if it's time _____ boxing...
2. I'd like to say it goes without saying that we're all _____ for the fallen middle weight champion...
3. Doctors _____, they're currently campaigning for a boxing ban after not one but two fighters dying within six months of each other last year...
4. So, you'll never make it 100% safe. We have _____.
5. I was made to box at my school. It was _____.
6. And so, the aim of boxing, unlike any of those other sports, is to land _____ on your head and to keep punching until your opponent is _____...
7. A _____ is a loss of consciousness, isn't it?

8. If you're a professional boxer and that's your choice, then we need to make _____ but I'm not sure I'd ban it.

9. You can't ban something, I think, when there's _____ parties involved.

10. So, what if you, because I often wonder, if they are from _____ backgrounds, and they are presented with the possibility of becoming multi, multi, multi-millionaires...

11. Is their rationale balanced and fair? Or is it _____ by a desire to make money and get out of poverty?

12. ... you can say that about a lot of sports. I think as well there is a _____ in this; I think boxing is seen as quite a _____ sport.

13. But also, by the way, other sports have been banned like _____.

14. I think your risk with it is, I'm not _____ anything, so that's _____ for me.

15. ... if you ban it, you risk driving it _____, therefore making it way more dangerous for everyone involved.

D. Understanding the Vocabulary Words.

- 1. deep, prolonged unconsciousness
- 2. Australia
- 3. made unconsciousness
- 4. relating to social rank or caste
- 5. to undergo failure or defeat
- 6. to hope for good luck or that something will happen
- 7. to prohibit or forbid
- 8. acceptance, approval, agreement
- 9. in favor of prohibiting something
- 10. a precautionary measure
- 11. a pre-arranged formal gunfight between two opponents
- 12. social class of people who work for low wages
- 13. strikes or hits with the fist
- 14. applying to all conditions or instances
- 15. distorted, morally twisted
- 16. a victory in boxing
- 17. extreme poverty
- 18. a division in professional boxing having an upper limit of
- 19. obligatory, required
- 20. defeated

E. True or False?

- _____ 1. The BMA wants to ban boxing.
- _____ 2. Nearly 19% of boxers suffer some type of brain injury.
- _____ 3. According to Matthew Wright, fighting is in our DNA.
- _____ 4. Boxing is ranked in the top 25 most dangerous sports.
- _____ 5. Cycling is less dangerous than boxing.
- _____ 6. To be knocked out results in a type of brain injury.
- _____ 7. Helmets for amateur boxers are a great safety measure.
- _____ 8. A lot of sports are a social class issue – people wanting to get out of poverty.
- _____ 9. Boxing is banned by some countries.
- _____ 10. The BMA will say that all the safety changes that have been brought in over the last 25 years have had no impact whatsoever on injuries.
- _____ 11. According to John Nicolson, the fact that something goes underground is an excuse to tolerate it.
- _____ 12. When politicians make new legislation, that inevitably involves telling people how to live.

F. Grammar Point!

Dr. David Bull: "I don't think boxing was ever necessarily a working-class sport, indeed! But also, by the way, other sports **have been banned** like dueling. – **the Present Perfect!**

• **Le present perfect** se forme avec l'auxiliaire *have* au présent (*she/he/it has – I/we/you have*) et le participe passé du verbe.

• **Le present perfect pour exprimer le résultat présent d'une action passée**

On ne s'intéresse pas au moment où cette action s'est produite mais seulement à son résultat dans le présent.

• **Le present perfect pour faire le bilan d'une situation dans le présent**

Faire le bilan veut dire que l'on examine le temps écoulé depuis un point de départ passé et que l'on regarde si l'événement en question s'est produit ou pas. On le trouve le plus souvent associé à des verbes au présent ou à des expressions temporelles qui établissent un lien avec le présent (*now, by now, so far, just, recently, it's the first time, over the past few days/months/years, always, never...*).

It's the first time I have heard such a funny joke. (C'est la première fois que j'entends une histoire aussi drôle.)

Cet exemple montre qu'inconsciemment celui qui parle a examiné son passé pour savoir s'il avait déjà entendu une histoire aussi drôle. Il est arrivé à la conclusion que "cela ne s'est jamais produit" et utilise donc le *present perfect* pour faire ce constat.

G. The DIFFICULT Questions!

1. In what year did the BMA begin campaigning for a ban on boxing?
2. What is the percentage of boxers that will suffer some type of brain injury?
3. A good punch from a professionally trained boxer is the equivalent of what?
4. Who was the boxer left overwhelmed by the death of his opponent?
5. Which boxer dropped out of boxing after the death of his opponent?
6. Who did Tom Bowen kill in the boxing ring?
7. Who is the General Secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control?
8. Where are doctors campaigning for a boxing ban after two boxers were killed within a six month period?
9. In what position is boxing in the list of dangerous sports? Why?
10. Name the three sports more dangerous than boxing that they talked about in the video.
11. Who was forced to participate in boxing when he was at school?
12. According to David Bull, what is the main point about boxing?
13. Name at least one type of brain injury that boxing can cause. There were two mentioned in the video.
14. What piece of protective equipment is worthless in amateur boxing?
15. According to Dr. Bull, what do we need to make in professional boxing?
16. According to Tiff, when can't an activity be banned?
17. Why is it possible to ban fox hunting (as opposed to other sports)?

18. For those in extreme poverty, what is warped by the desire to get out of poverty?

19. Boxing is seen as what kind of sport?

20. Name the "sport" that David says has been banned.

21. Into what mysterious place do banned things go?

22. What is the problem with banned sports that are performed illegally?

23. What does the BMA say about all of the boxing safety changes of the last 25 years?

24. Just because something might be forced to go to the mysterious underground is not what?

25. When politicians legislate, it inevitable involves what?

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