

1 In Bolivia, soccer is the national sport, but the country is also for another sport—wrestling. Local people like watching and it's popular with tourists, too. It's an exciting mixture of sport, drama, and . When modern wrestling started in Bolivia in the 1950s, the were all men, but nowadays women are also competing in the ring.

2 The city of El Alto is a good place to watch wrestling.

10 Hundreds of spectators go to the fights in the evening. This evening, the is sitting around a huge wrestling ring and shouting, " Bring them on!" , the commentator is speaking into a microphone, "Ladies and gentlemen. It's time for Yolanda and Claudina!" The crowd is screaming with as two women in colorful clothes enter the ring.

3 Yolanda and Claudina are like famous pop stars. They smile and wave to their fans. The music stops, and the starts the fight. Claudina jumps on Yolanda.

Then Yolanda throws Claudina on the floor. As Claudina the floor, Yolanda smiles and waves to the crowd. Then Claudina gets up and pushes Yolanda the ground. One minute, Yolanda is winning. The next

25 minute, Claudina is winning. The spectators

Away from the ring, many are women with families. At home, Yolanda has a normal, quiet family life. She has two daughters, and she makes for a living. Her father was also a wrestler, so it's a family

30 tradition. In answer to the question "Would your daughters like to become wrestlers one day?", Yolanda says they . She answers, "My daughters ask me why I do this. It's dangerous, and they complain that wrestling doesn't bring any money into the house." So

35 Yolanda loves wrestling because of her fans—and she has lots of them. One of her fans is named Esperanza Cancina. Esperanza pays \$1.50 (a large part of her

40 salary) to sit near the ring. She wrestling because, she says, "We laugh and we forget our problems for three or four hours."

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2 Read the article about wrestling in Bolivia. Which paragraph (1–5) describes:

- a the two wrestlers before the fight? 2
- b the popularity of male and female wrestling in Bolivia?
- c Yolanda's family life?
- d the reason why a fan watches it?
- e the fight between the two wrestlers?

3 Find words in the article for these definitions.

- 1 something people watch for pleasure entertainment
- 2 a large group of people c
- 3 the person who describes the action in a sport c
- 4 get very excited, shout, and jump up and down g c
- 5 people who like a famous athlete f
- 6 the money you earn for work done s

Critical thinking reading between the lines

4 An article doesn't always tell us about how people feel, but we can often guess. Match the people from the article (1–3) with the sentences (a–c).

- 1 Yolanda
- 2 Yolanda's daughter
- 3 Esperanza

- a "I don't understand why wrestling is so popular."
- b "I feel wonderful every time I step into the ring."
- c "Life is very hard for people like me."

5 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- 1 How do you feel about the women wrestlers?
- 2 Would you like to see this sport? Why or why not?