

“A matter of opinion”

A. Listen to the first part of Lewis and Amelia’s conversation.

Who likes boxing? _____ (for-boxing)
Who doesn’t like boxing? _____ (anti-boxing)

Which of these opinions do you think are Lewis's (L)? Which do you think are Amelia's (A)?

- _____ 1) Boxing is dangerous.
- _____ 2) Other sports are more dangerous.
- _____ 3) In boxing, the goal is to hurt other people.
- _____ 4) People are naturally aggressive.
- _____ 5) Boxers are great athletes.
- _____ 6) People can choose to box or not.
- _____ 7) Children under sixteen shouldn't box.
- _____ 8) If you ban boxing, it will become more dangerous.
- _____ 9) Boxers could do other sports because they're good athletes.

B. Listen to the rest of Lewis and Amelia’s conversation and check your ideas in 1-9 above.

C. Complete Lewis’s and Amelia’s opinions with the words below.

feel / course / think / know / find / thing (x2) / anyway

- 1 I think it's awful.
- 2 I _____ it quite exciting.
- 3 We all _____ that people are aggressive.
- 4 And _____, nobody has to box.
- 5 I really _____ that if people want to box, we shouldn't stop them.
- 6 Of _____ that's not the same.
- 7 The _____ is, they have rules and there's a referee.
- 8 Another _____ is, being a boxer is a job, you know.

D. Decide whether the highlighted expressions are used to

(1) agree? (2) disagree? (3) finish the conversation?

- 1 L: I mean, a lot of boxers get injured. Some even die.
A: **Sorry, but** more people die in football matches, you know. _____
- 2 A: Lots of sports can be dangerous.
L: **Yes, but** in football, you're not trying to hurt someone, are you? _____
- 3 A: People are aggressive. Naturally.
L: **Well, not really.** I think it depends on their environment. _____
- 4 L: Yeah, but ...
A: **Just a second.** The thing is, they have rules and there's a referee. _____
- 5 A: ... and that'll be a lot more dangerous.
L: **OK, that's a good point.** _____
- 6 L: But you said boxers are great athletes, right?
A: **Yes, exactly.** _____

Transcript

LEWIS Do we have to watch this?

AMELIA What?

L This boxing match. Can't we watch something else?

A No, I want to see it.

L But you don't like boxing.

A I do. I've always liked it.

L But why? I think it's awful.

A Really? I find it quite exciting.

.....

AMELIA Really? I find it quite exciting.

LEWIS But it's very violent. I mean, a lot of boxers get injured. Some even die.

A Sorry, but more people die in football matches, you know - from heart attacks and stuff. Lots of sports can be dangerous.

L Yes, but in football, you're not trying to hurt someone, are you? In boxing, the idea is to hit the other guy until he can't stand up.

A We all know that people are aggressive. Naturally. It's silly to say they're not-

L Well, not really. I think it depends on their environment.

A Hmm... anyway, boxers don't just hit each other, you know. They train for thousands of hours. The best boxers are great athletes like Mohammed Ali. And anyway, nobody has to box. They have a choice. I really feel that if people want to box, we shouldn't stop them.

L And what about children - like under sixteen they shouldn't box. They're too young. And it teaches them to be violent and-

A No, no. It's a sport, like any other sport, and it actually trains them to defend themselves. And it's perfectly safe... they wear helmets and all the protective gear.

L But what if people want to fight in the streets, or in the park?

A Of course that's not the same. In a proper boxing match, they have rules to protect the boxers-

L Yeah, but-

A Just a second. The thing is, they have rules and there's a referee. The boxers wear gloves, there are doctors near the ring. If you ban boxing, people will just start boxing illegally and that'll be a lot more dangerous.

L OK, that's a good point.

A Another thing is, being a boxer is a job, you know. Some people box to make money, to live.

L But you said boxers are great athletes, right?

A Yes, exactly.

L So they don't have to box. They could do another sport... Oh, look, it's finished.

A What, already? Oh, thanks a lot.

L Sorry. Erm... would you like some more coffee?