

Should We Ban It?

ESL Speaking Lesson

CEFR: B2

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Bullfighting

This is bullfighting, a type of blood sport.
Today, its practice is controversial.



Where does
bullfighting take place
today?



Bullfighting

Bullfighting dates back at least 4,000 years. While it has been banned in many places, it remains legal in some regions of Spain, France and a handful of other countries.

‘Bullfighting is a tradition in my country. My country is proud of its culture. Of course, not everyone enjoys bullfighting and some people want it to be banned. However, not all bullfighting is the same. Most people think that the bull dies at the end of each fight. That’s untrue. In some bullfights, the bull isn’t harmed in any way. I understand that some people are against bullfighting. Clearly it upsets certain people but if you want to ban something, you should at least be knowledgeable about the subject. You can’t just ban something when you don’t have all the facts.’

What does the speaker infer about people who want to ban things?





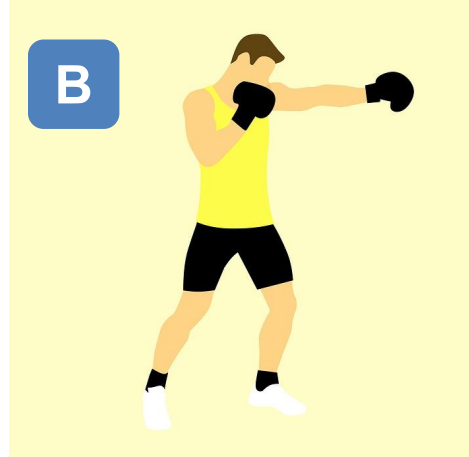
Ban it!

What can you see here? How do you feel about it?

A



B



C



D



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Ban it!

Match the images to its appropriate opinion.



Smoking should be **banned** everywhere, not just in some places.

It should be **against the law** to kill animals for fur.

It is outrageous that bullfighting is still **allowed**.

Fox hunting should be **outlawed**. It's disgusting.



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Vocabulary

Match the terms and definitions for the upcoming text:

a connected series of operations designed to bring about a desired result

petition

a formal written request made to an official person or organized body

campaign

a person who is not acceptable to society and is avoided by everyone

lobby

a group of people who try to influence government decisions on a particular industry or issue

pariah



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Smoking



For the last 30 years, smoking has been under attack in many countries around the world.

When I look back 30 years, it's incredible to see how public opinion has changed. What was once acceptable, has now become unacceptable. In a couple of generations, the public's opinion on tobacco has moved 180 degrees.

As it became clear that there is a link between smoking tobacco and cancer, people **campaign**ed to ban it. Many people signed **petition**s that were sent to governments. Slowly, governments began to react. Of course, the tobacco industry refuted the link between smoking and cancer. People **lobbied** their governments to make changes. At the same time, powerful tobacco companies **lobbied** governments too.

In the end, it appears that the anti-smoking lobby has won. In many countries, smoking now makes you a **pariah**.





Everything changes

Over time, people's opinions change. Naturally, some cultures change at a different pace than others.

Should women be allowed to vote?

Should female teachers be allowed to marry?

Should we be able to buy and sell other humans?



Should gay people have the right to marry?

Should children under 10 be allowed to work full-time?



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What do you think?

Many people around the world cannot understand US laws on gun control. Australia changed its gun laws, though it took a horrific occurrence for this to happen.

In 1996, a lone gunman killed 35 people and wounded 23 in Port Arthur, Australia. This mass killing horrified the country. People campaigned the Australian government to tighten gun laws.

In a short space of time, the government banned many types of firearms. People who owned a firearm prior to the killings had to hand them in. In return, they received compensation.

How do you feel about gun laws in your country?



Should guns be banned?

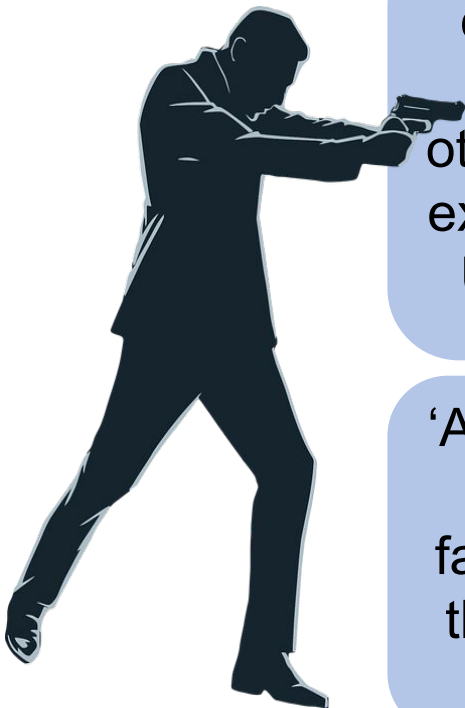


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Opinions

Gun control is an explosive topic in the United States.
What do you think of these opinions?



‘We should be allowed to carry weapons. Other countries should not tell the United States what is right and what is wrong. Besides, there are many other countries with worse gun violence than us. For example, about 33,000 people died by firearm in the US in 2012. In the same year in Brazil, more than 42,000 died from firearms.’

‘At the very least, guns should be banned for people who don't need them. Soldiers need guns. Some farmers might need guns, but does a family living in the suburbs of a city need a gun? Absolutely not! If you think you need a gun, you are living in fear.’



Should it be banned?

How do you feel about each of these issues?

A



B



C



D



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Values change

What do you think of each statement? Is it possible?
Give reasons.

I predict that it will become illegal to add sugar to food. It might seem odd now, but eventually it will happen.

Gradually, alcohol will be banned in most countries. Alcohol is a drug that causes much more misery than other drugs.

I imagine that zoos will disappear, and that circuses will be banned. When people of the 22nd century look back, they will consider our current treatment of animals barbaric.

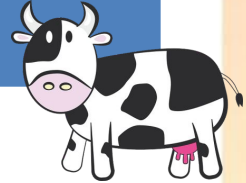


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What's the problem?

You live near the city of Plymouth, in New Zealand.
Plymouth's major industry is dairy farming.



Dairy products are a large part of Plymouth's economy. 57% of people in the region work in dairy farming. Dairy farming accounts for 68% of the region's total economy. This decade, some farmers have changed from keeping dairy cows to raising meat-producing cows. Therefore, some farms now produce beef instead of milk. Since beef is more valuable than dairy products, the local economy has grown 14% in the last ten years.

However, when the beef cattle arrived, they also brought a disease with them. Now, each year, a small percentage of milking cows dies from this disease. At present, there is no vaccine against the disease.

Scientists are working on a vaccine, but they estimate it may take at least 15 years to develop one. Other scientists have stated that the disease is spreading, and it will kill more and more dairy cows each year.



Solutions

You are a member of a committee that must advise the New Zealand government about whether or not to ban beef cattle.

Think about the following points before making a decision:

- a. Most scientists, though not all, believe that banning beef cattle will not affect the spread of the disease. The disease is already present in the region, and this will not change.
- b. A small group of scientists has stated that a vaccination could be ready in as little as two years.
- c. Some economists predict that beef production will eventually bring far more money to Plymouth than dairy products.
- d. One independent report states that the disease was already present in the region before the beef cattle arrived.

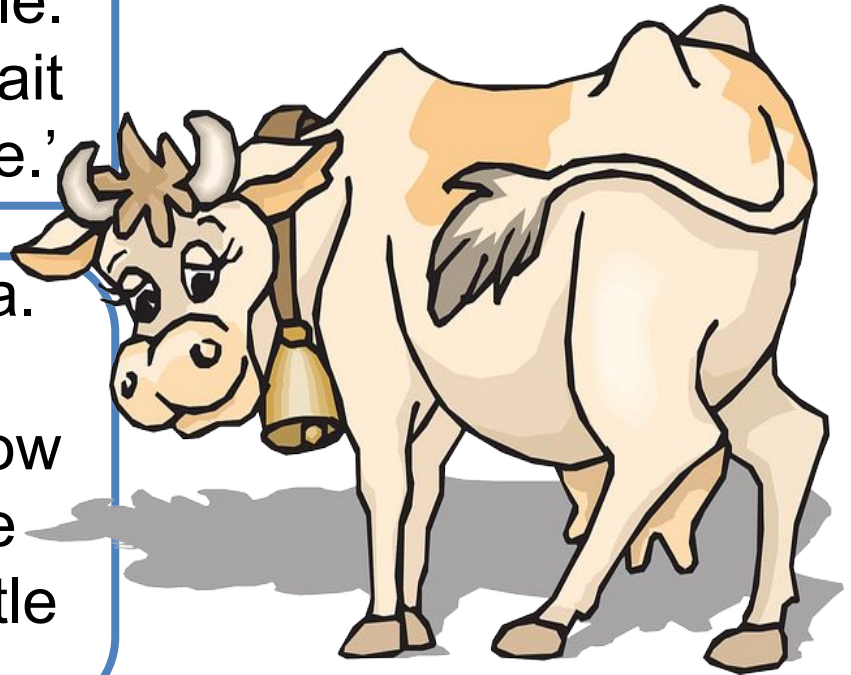


What would you recommend?

Do you agree or disagree with other members of the committee? State your own opinions.

‘We shouldn’t ban beef cattle. In my opinion, we should wait until the vaccine is available.’

‘I don’t agree with that idea. We cannot wait for the vaccine, and we cannot allow the disease to spread. We must get rid of the beef cattle immediately.’



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Do you have a pet peeve?

A *pet peeve* is something you love to hate. If you could ban anything, what would it be? Why? Is it *really* that bad?

Would you ban any of the things below?



I think I'd ban women's magazines. All they do is make me feel bad about myself.

cosmetic surgery

paper money

homework

motorbikes

tattoos

hip hop music



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