

Arnie wants Mexican border closed (Thu 21 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: Arnold Schwarzenegger / hot water / borders / immigration / illegal immigration / Mexico / tough measures / big mistakes... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

MEXICO BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Mexico. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MY COUNTRY'S BORDERS: In pairs / groups, write down the names of the countries that share borders with your own country (if your country is an island, write down the nearest neighbours). Talk about those neighbours. Have relations always been good? Are there any border problems now? Is illegal immigration a problem? Is it easy to cross the borders? Should they be sealed?

2-MINUTE DEBATES: Face each other in pairs and engage in the following fun 2-minute debates based on the article. Students A take the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Arnie is a great actor. vs. He's terrible. His movies are stupid.
- b. The Canadian border should be closed too. vs. Don't be ridiculous.
- c. Illegal immigrants are criminals. vs. That's a racist comment.
- d. America should ban all immigration and tourism. vs. America still needs immigrants.
- e. Arnie should become US President. vs. That would be a disaster.
- f. Arnie was an immigrant. How can he say such things? vs. He cares about America.
- g. Arnie is a great politician. vs. Arnie is just a dumb celebrity.
- h. My country needs someone strong like Arnie. vs. No thank you.
- i. Immigration is good. vs. Immigration is bad.

EMIGRATING: In pairs / groups, talk about the countries you would consider emigrating to. Explain the reasons why. Talk about which countries you would not want to live in and why you wouldn't want to live there.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the 'illegal' and 'immigration'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Arnold Schwarzenegger likes taking hot baths in Mexico. T / F
- b. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants the USA-Mexico border closed. T / F
- c. He wants the borders closed to stop drug trafficking. T / F
- d. Arnie's press secretary quickly understood he was making a big mistake. T / F
- e. Arnie's press secretary immediately jumped to his rescue. T / F
- f. Arnie meant to say he wants the borders better policed. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------|
| (a) | hot water | conference |
| (b) | comments | policies |
| (c) | convention | big trouble |
| (d) | illegal | aid |
| (e) | measures | wanted to say |
| (f) | rescue | unlawful |
| (g) | meant | safe |
| (h) | secured | remarks |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) | Arnold Schwarzenegger is in hot | immigration |
| (b) | the American | too easy to cross |
| (c) | illegal | mistake |
| (d) | He said the border was | water |
| (e) | tougher | rescue |
| (f) | big | measures |
| (g) | jumped to his | entry |
| (h) | illegal | border with Mexico |

BEST WORD: There are four sets of words in *italics* the article. Circle the word in each set that best fits.

Arnie wants Mexican border closed

BNE: Arnold Schwarzenegger is in *hot / freezing / boiling* water again for comments he made about closing the American border with Mexico. He was answering reporters' questions at a newspaper convention when he said he wanted the USA to "close the borders...all across Mexico" to stop illegal immigration. He said the border was too easy to cross and that tougher measures were needed to stop people crossing illegally: "It is just *wonderful / unfair / fair* to have all those people coming across and have the border open the way it is." His press secretary was quick to understand Arnie was making a big mistake. She immediately *fell / jumped / bounced* to his rescue and stopped Arnie from saying anything else that might damage his career. She explained that what Governor Schwarzenegger really meant was that he wants the borders to be better *policed / staffed / manned*, not closed: "He wants to make sure that our borders are secured so that we don't have illegal entry."

HOMEWORK:

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on Arnold Schwarzenegger. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. IMMIGRANT PROFILE** Create a profile of the kind of immigrant you would like to live in your country. Compare your profile with other students in your next class.
- 4. LETTER:** Write a letter to Arnold Schwarzenegger explaining what you think of his comments to shut the US-Mexican border. Read your letter in your next class.

DISCUSSION:

- a. What's your first thought when you see an Arnold Schwarzenegger headline?
- b. Was there anything in this story that made you angry?
- c. Did you agree with anything you read?
- d. What do you think of Arnie?
- e. What do you think of the American dream?
- f. What do you think of Mexicans illegally crossing America's borders?
- g. Do bad actors make good politicians?
- h. Do you like Schwarzenegger movies?
- i. Are Arnold Schwarzenegger's views dangerous?
- j. Is illegal immigration a problem in your country?
- k. Are you happy with the immigration policies in your country?
- l. What problems do illegal immigrants bring?
- m. What are the good things about immigration?
- n. Are illegal immigrants needed to do work?
- o. What should happen to illegal immigrants if they are caught?
- p. What do you think of a world without borders?
- q. Would you like to emigrate to another country?
- r. Have you ever worked illegally in another country?
- s. Have you ever jumped to someone's rescue?
- t. Did you like this discussion?
- u. Teacher / Student additional questions.

TEXT

Arnie wants Mexican border closed

BNE: Arnold Schwarzenegger is in *hot* water again for comments he made about closing the American border with Mexico. He was answering reporters' questions at a newspaper convention when he said he wanted the USA to "close the borders...all across Mexico" to stop illegal immigration. He said the border was too easy to cross and that tougher measures were needed to stop people crossing illegally: "It is just *unfair* to have all those people coming across and have the border open the way it is." His press secretary was quick to understand Arnie was making a big mistake. She immediately *jumped* to his rescue and stopped Arnie from saying anything else that might damage his career. She explained that what Governor Schwarzenegger really meant was that he wants the borders to be better *policed*, not closed: "He wants to make sure that our borders are secured so that we don't have illegal entry."

CAREER HISTORY:

What kind of experience is best to become a politician? Arnold Schwarzenegger was a world bodybuilding champion and movie actor.

From the list below, decide which careers provide the best training to become a politician. Give a score from 1 (poor training) to 10 (excellent training) for each job. In pairs / groups, compare scores and discuss which skills from each job would be useful for a politician.

<u>JOB</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>USEFUL SKILLS</u>
actor		
lawyer		
farmer		
police officer		
journalist		
engineer		
bank clerk		
soldier		
teacher		
company CEO		

IMMIGRATION POLICY:

You are an immigration officer responsible for what kind of people can come and live in your country. In pairs/groups, (1) Agree on the rules for these points:

- The number of immigrants that can come to your country every year.
- The reasons for wanting to come to your country.
- The kind of skills and qualifications your country needs.
- The amount of money the immigrant has.
- The number of family members the immigrant wants to bring to your country.
- The language ability of the immigrant.
- The age of immigrant
- Other

(2) Present your ideas to the rest of the class. The other students may ask you questions. The students watching the presentation should take notes on the ideas and appraise them. (3) Change partners and talk about the ideas you heard – were they good ideas or bad ideas? (4) Vote for the best / worst ideas.

IMMIGRATION RULES			
Team #	Rule	My opinion	My questions