

## BBC Top Gear star 'punches' producer

14<sup>th</sup> March, 2015



BBC Television has suspended one of its biggest stars for reportedly punching a producer. Reporters say Jeremy Clarkson, 54, the presenter of

the hugely popular programme Top Gear, got into a fight with the producer, Oisin Tymon. There was an argument about the lack of food available after filming one of the shows. Mr Clarkson supposedly got angry with Mr Tymon over this and hit him. The BBC immediately suspended the show's host and announced they would not broadcast the next two programmes. Clarkson is so popular worldwide that an online petition started, calling for the BBC to "reinstate" him. So far, more than 400,000 people have signed it.

One of Mr Clarkson's co-presenters, James May, did not think the incident was so serious. He told BBC News: "I think [Clarkson has] been involved in a bit of a dust-up and I don't think it's that serious." Mr Clarkson joked with reporters yesterday. They asked him where he was going as he got into his car. He said he was going to the job centre. Clarkson also retweeted a message from a fan to his 4.5 million Twitter followers. It read: "How can the BBC not show the remaining episodes of Top Gear? Can't this be resolved without making the fans suffer?" The show is broadcast in over 200 countries. Over 350 million people watch it. Clarkson has a history of making racist comments about other nationalities.

Sources: *BBC.com / telegraph.co.uk*

## Writing

TV shows about cars are better than TV shows about fashion. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*BBC / stars / punching / hugely popular / argument / lack of food / online petition / serious / joked / reporters / remaining episodes / suffer / broadcast / racist comments*

## True / False

- The BBC has fired one of its stars for punching a producer. T / F
- The TV presenter and the producer argued over a lack of food. T / F
- The BBC decided it would not air the next few Top Gear shows. T / F
- Over 400,000 people signed a petition to ask the BBC to fire Clarkson. T / F
- A Top Gear co-presenter said this was a serious matter. T / F
- Reporters tried to find Mr Clarkson but he was nowhere to be found. T / F
- Mr Clarkson has 4.5 million followers on Twitter. T / F
- More than 350 million watch Top Gear worldwide. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. stars     | a. globally     |
| 2. hugely    | b. stated       |
| 3. argument  | c. very         |
| 4. announced | d. bad          |
| 5. worldwide | e. background   |
| 6. incident  | f. big names    |
| 7. serious   | g. settled      |
| 8. remaining | h. happening    |
| 9. resolved  | i. disagreement |
| 10. history  | j. last         |

## Discussion – Student A

- What kind of TV shows do you like?
- Have you ever had a "dust up" at work or school?
- How important do you think Jeremy Clarkson is to the BBC?
- What are the good things about Jeremy Clarkson's job?
- What's your favourite car, and why?
- What can fans do to get the BBC to show the programmes?
- What might happen to Top Gear's popularity without Mr Clarkson?
- What questions would you like to ask Jeremy Clarkson?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. BBC Television has suspended one | a. episodes of Top Gear |
| 2. the hugely                       | b. the lack of food     |
| 3. an argument about                | c. next two programmes  |
| 4. they would not broadcast the     | d. over 200 countries   |
| 5. an online                        | e. comments             |
| 6. involved in a bit of a dust-     | f. of its biggest stars |
| 7. retweeted a message              | g. up                   |
| 8. the remaining                    | h. petition             |
| 9. The show is broadcast in         | i. popular programme    |
| 10. racist                          | j. from a fan           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the TV show Top Gear?
- What do you think of TV shows about cars?
- Is the BBC right to suspend Jeremy Clarkson?
- What are the pros and cons of firing Jeremy Clarkson?
- Why would a rich and famous person fight over food?
- Is the BBC being unfair to fans by not showing Top Gear?
- When have you signed (or would you sign) a petition?
- Who is your favourite TV presenter, and why?

## Spelling

- dpusedsne one of its biggest stars
- the hqueyl popular programme
- the lack of food valailaeb
- stdarbaoc the next two programmes
- an online ipteniot
- atirsente him
- One of Mr Clarkson's co-teerrsenps
- I don't think it's that ierusso
- the remaining spioseed
- making the fans erufsf
- caarobdst in over 200 countries
- making isctar comments

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. d	8. j	9. g	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Music show host

You think being a music show host would be best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their host jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): car show host, travel show host or quiz show host.

### Role B – Car show host

You think being a car show host would be best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their host jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music show host, travel show host or quiz show host.

### Role C – Travel show host

You think being a travel show host would be best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their host jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): car show host, music show host or quiz show host.

### Role D – Quiz show host

You think being a quiz show host would be best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their host jobs aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): car show host, travel show host or music show host.

## Speaking – TV Shows

Rank these with your partner. Put the show you would most like to present at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| • music show   | • movies show    |
| • car show     | • quiz show      |
| • chat show    | • travel show    |
| • cooking show | • gardening show |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.