7 Blood sports

Aim To read a text debating the pros and cons of a political and moral issue.
Preparation Copy the handouts on pages 31 and 33 – one copy per student. If required, cut up the text in Activity A into five sections.

Introduction (5 minutes)
Write the phrase blood sports on the board and ask students: What are blood sports? (= the killing of animals for pleasure). Elicit answers from students and explain if necessary. Ask students for examples of blood sports. Write the word fox-hunting on the board and ask students: What is fox-hunting? If necessary, teach the words fox, to hunt. Ask: In what country do people go fox-hunting? (Answer: Britain. Dogs and horse riders chase a fox and kill it.) Also teach the word upper classes (= people who belong to the highest social class/group).

Presentation (15 minutes)
Activity A In this activity, students have to put sections a, b, c, d and e into the right order. You can do the activity in this way: Students work in groups of five. Cut the text in Activity A into five sections: a, b, c, d and e. Give each member of a group one of the five sections. Each student reads his/her section, using a dictionary where necessary. S/he must not show it to the other students. Then, as a group, students have to put the story together. They do this by telling each other about their section. They can read it to the rest of the group if they wish. Tell students they should not try and understand every word. Pre-teach these words: argument (for/against/anti), to abolish, cruel, supporter. Alternatively, students can do the activity in pairs. In this case, give one student sections a, b and c. Give the other student sections d and e. If you don’t wish to cut the text up, students simply read the paragraphs on the page and number them in the correct order. The group activity is probably the most useful, however, as students have to communicate with each other. Check answers orally, asking students to explain how they got to the answer. The correct order is: b, e, c, a, d. There are certain sentences in the text that signal the next paragraph. For example, paragraph e: What are the arguments for and against? and paragraph a: Supporters of blood sports have several answers to this.

(continued on page 32)

Key A b, e, c, a, d

(continued on page 32)
Teacher's notes

Practice (30 minutes)
Activity B In pairs, students read the paragraphs in the correct order and answer the questions. Check students understand the questions. Elicit/teach in favour of (= 'for something). Check answers orally. Check written answers for question 2. Correct major errors.

Activities C, D and E Students do these activities in pairs, using dictionaries if necessary. Check answers orally, explaining where necessary. Write new words on the board in sentences. Omit if lack of time.

Activity F Students discuss these questions in small groups or pairs. Alternatively, the questions could be discussed as a whole class activity. Correct major errors.

Conclusion (5 minutes)
Activity G Check answers orally. If students suggest some surprising words, ask them to justify their answers.

Homework
Students can write an answer to Activity F, question 3. They can also do any omitted exercises.

Key
B 1 against; paragraph c
   for: paragraph a
2 Arguments against blood sports
   Blood sports are cruel.
   It is not acceptable to kill for pleasure.
   Arguments in favour of blood sports
   The suffering of the animal lasts a very short time.
   Foxes must be killed anyway. Other ways of killing them are just as cruel.
   Blood sports are a way of life.
   Blood sports employ thousands of people.
3 The author is simply giving the arguments, without giving a personal opinion.

C 1a, 2b, 3a, 4a
D a3, b1, c2
E 1 ... man hunted because he had to in order to eat.
   2 ... people have marched in the streets to show that they are either for or against fox-hunting.
   3 Today, many people want to abolish blood sports.
   4 Blood sport supporters are determined keep blood sports.
   5 ... fox-hunting can be an important event, a time when people meet and enjoy themselves together.
G cruelty, terror, painfully, suffering
A Read the paragraphs and put them into the correct order.

a Supporters of blood sports have several answers to this. They say that the suffering of the animal lasts a very short time. In the case of fox-hunting, they say that foxes destroy the countryside and must be killed anyway. Other ways of killing them are just as cruel. They argue that blood sports are a way of life for many people. For country people in Britain, fox-hunting can be an important social occasion. Finally, they argue that sports such as bullfighting and fox-hunting employ thousands of people. For this reason alone they must continue.

b Man is a hunter. True or false? Certainly, for thousands of years man hunted from necessity, and in some parts of the world he still does. In other parts, the practice continues, not from necessity, but because hunting gives pleasure to the hunter. In Britain the upper classes are famous for their love of fox-hunting. In this sport, a fox is chased by dogs and the dogs are chased by horses and riders, eager to see the fox killed.

c Blood sports are cruel, say those who are against blood sports. They ask how we can allow such cruelty in the twenty-first century. In fox-hunting, for example, the hunters create terror in the fox before killing it. In bullfighting, the bull is killed slowly and painfully. To kill in order to eat is acceptable. But it is not acceptable to kill for pleasure. That is cruelty, goes the argument.

d The issue of fox-hunting in Britain has brought people out on the streets. Country people have marched in London. Anti-blood-sport campaigners have marched against the country people. Who will succeed in the end? At present it is impossible to say.

e Fox-hunting is known as a ‘blood sport’ – in other words, the killing of animals for pleasure. Other blood sports include bullfighting (Spain and Latin American countries) and cockfighting (many countries but particularly Asia). Today, many people want to abolish such practices. Blood sport supporters, however, are determined to fight back. What are the arguments for and against?
7 Blood sports (continued)

B Read the paragraphs in the correct order. Then, in pairs, answer these questions.
1 Which paragraph gives the arguments against blood sports? Which paragraph gives the arguments in favour of blood sports?
2 Summarize in writing the arguments against blood sports. Then summarize the arguments in favour of blood sports.
3 How do you think the author of this essay feels about blood sports? Or can’t you say?

C Find these words in the text. Choose the word or phrase below which best explains them.
1 eager (paragraph b) a wanting to do something very much b happy
2 to abolish (paragraph e) a to change b to stop
3 campaigner (paragraph d) a someone who tries to change something b an angry person
4 to march (paragraph d) a to walk with others in protest against something b to walk a long way

D Match the sport with the description below.
a bullfighting b cockfighting c fox-hunting
1 Two animals are made to fight. They wear metal spikes on their legs.
2 An animal is chased and killed by dogs.
3 An animal is attacked and finally killed with thin spears.

E Explain the meaning of the underlined words.
1 Certainly, for thousands of years man hunted from necessity.
2 In Britain it has brought people out on the streets.
3 Today, many people want to abolish such practices.
4 Blood sport supporters are determined to fight back.
5 For country people in Britain, fox-hunting can be an important social occasion.

F Answer these questions.
1 Are there blood sports in your country? How do people feel about them?
2 The end of the text reads: ‘Who will succeed in the end? At present it is impossible to say.’ Do you agree with this statement? Or do you think the anti-blood-sport campaigners will win and blood sports will be abolished? If so, when do you think this will happen? Give reasons for your opinion.
3 How do you feel about blood sports? Give reasons for your opinion.

G Look at the text again and find four negative words associated with blood sports.