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Bullfighting ends in Catalonia, Spain

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

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25th September, 2011

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

Bullfighting has come to an end in northeastern Spain. Fans in the region of Catalonia saw their last fights on September 25. The actual ban comes into effect on the first of January, 2012, but Sunday's fighting was the last of the season. Over 20,000 spectators packed Barcelona's Monumental arena to see this age-old spectacle performed in the city for the last time. Spain's top matadors performed at the historic event, which sold out at record speed. One matador, Julian Lopez, told the AP news agency: "This is such a beautiful arena, with a lot of tradition both for bullfighters and this national celebration." Despite this, bullfighting at the arena has been on the decline, with smaller and smaller crowds each year.

Catalonia decided to ban bullfighting last year after 180,000 people signed a petition against it. They argued the *corrida** was barbaric. Opponents of the ban believe they have a chance of getting it overturned next year. Bull breeder, Moeses Fraele said: "I think the politicians will think twice about the ban and bullfighting will live on. And thank God because Catalonia has plenty of serious bullfighting fans." He added that, "in a democratic country [fans] should be able to go to a bullfight." Catalonia is the first mainland region in Spain to ban bullfighting. The age-old sport has been part of Spanish life for centuries. It has been held at La Maestranza arena in Seville since 1765. There are dozens of bullrings across the country.

* Spanish for 'bullfighting'.

WARM-UPS

1. BULLFIGHTING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about bullfighting. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

come to an end / fans / region / spectators / spectacle / record speed / tradition / crowds / petition / barbaric / politicians / democratic / mainland / centuries / dozens

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ANIMALS: Should we leave them alone? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Animals for...	Why yes	Why no
bullfighting		
pets		
medical research		
the blind		
zoos and circuses		
eating		

4. BANNED: Students A **strongly** believe bullfighting should be banned around the world; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. TRADITIONS: How many are there in your country? Write a list below and rank them. Put the best at the top. Share your rankings with your partner(s).

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

6. BAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'ban'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Bullfighting has been banned from September 25 in a part of Spain. | T / F |
| b. Fewer than 2,000 spectators were at the final fights. | T / F |
| c. Some of Spain's top matadors performed at the final event. | T / F |
| d. Crowds attending bullfights have been growing recently. | T / F |
| e. Around 180,000 people signed a petition against bullfighting. | T / F |
| f. Opponents of the ban have said the fight isn't over. | T / F |
| g. Catalonia is the first region on mainland Spain to ban bullfighting. | T / F |
| h. Bullfighting started in Seville's Maestranza bullring 500 years ago. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. come to an end | a. a great deal of |
| 2. actual | b. leading |
| 3. spectators | c. finished |
| 4. top | d. prohibit |
| 5. in decline | e. enthusiasts |
| 6. ban | f. onlookers |
| 7. argued | g. area |
| 8. fans | h. dying |
| 9. plenty of | i. real |
| 10. region | j. claimed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bullfighting has come | a. crowds each year |
| 2. The actual ban comes into effect | b. at the historic event |
| 3. Over 20,000 | c. twice |
| 4. top matadors performed | d. spectators |
| 5. smaller and smaller | e. region |
| 6. 180,000 people signed | f. to an end |
| 7. they have a chance of | g. for centuries |
| 8. think | h. on the first of January |
| 9. mainland | i. a petition against it |
| 10. part of Spanish life | j. getting it overturned |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Bullfighting has come to an (1) _____ in northeastern Spain. Fans in the region of Catalonia saw their last fights on September 25. The (2) _____ ban comes into effect on the first of January, 2012, but Sunday's fighting was the last of the (3) _____. Over 20,000 spectators packed Barcelona's Monumental arena to see this age-old spectacle (4) _____ in the city for the last time. Spain's top matadors performed at the historic event, which sold out at record (5) _____. One matador, Julian Lopez, told the AP news agency: "This is such a beautiful (6) _____, with a lot of tradition both for bullfighters and this (7) _____ celebration." Despite this, bullfighting at the arena has been on the decline, with smaller and smaller (8) _____ each year.

national
performed
actual
crowds
speed
end
season
arena

Catalonia (9) _____ to ban bullfighting last year after 180,000 people signed a petition against it. They (10) _____ the *corrida* was barbaric. Opponents of the ban believe they have a chance of getting it (11) _____ next year. Bull breeder, Moeses Fraele said: "I think the politicians will think (12) _____ about the ban and bullfighting will live on. And thank God because Catalonia has plenty of (13) _____ bullfighting fans." He added that, "in a democratic country [fans] should be able to go to a bullfight." Catalonia is the first mainland (14) _____ in Spain to ban bullfighting. The age-old sport has been part of Spanish life for (15) _____. It has been held at La Maestranza arena in Seville since 1765. There are (16) _____ of bullrings across the country.

region
overturned
serious
dozens
decided
centuries
argued
twice

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

Bullfighting has _____ northeastern Spain. Fans in the region of Catalonia saw their last fights on September 25. The actual ban _____ the first of January, 2012, but Sunday's fighting was the last of the season. Over 20,000 _____ Barcelona's Monumental arena to see this age-old spectacle performed in the city for the last time. Spain's top matadors _____ event, which sold _____. One matador, Julian Lopez, told the AP news agency: "This is such a beautiful arena, with a lot of tradition both for bullfighters and this national celebration." Despite this, bullfighting at the arena has _____, with smaller and smaller crowds each year.

Catalonia decided to ban bullfighting last year after 180,000 people _____ against it. They argued the *corrida* was barbaric. Opponents of the ban believe they have a chance _____ next year. Bull breeder, Moeses Fraele said: "I think the politicians will _____ the ban and bullfighting will live on. And thank God because Catalonia has plenty of serious bullfighting fans." He added that, "in _____ [fans] should be able to go to a bullfight." Catalonia is the first mainland region in Spain to ban bullfighting. The age-old sport has been part of Spanish _____. It has been held at La Maestranza arena in Seville since 1765. There are dozens of _____ country.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'bull' and 'fight'.

bull	fight
-------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• come• actual• packed• event• both• crowds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• against• chance• twice• plenty• life• dozens
--	---

STUDENT BULLFIGHTING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bullfighting in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BULLFIGHTING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'bullfighting'?
- c) Some say it's a sport; others an art. What do you think?
- d) Is bullfighting cruel?
- e) Why do people fight bulls? What's the purpose of the sport?
- f) Should any animals be used in sport?
- g) Do you agree with the ban in Catalonia?
- h) Do you think illegal bullfighting will start up in Catalonia?
- i) Why are matadors treated as heroes?
- j) Do you think it's sad that a national celebration is coming to an end?

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BULLFIGHTING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Have you ever signed a petition?
- c) Do you think the opponents of the ban will get it overturned?
- d) If there are fans who want to see it, why ban bullfighting?
- e) Do you think there'll be no bullfighting in Spain one day?
- f) Will countries lose their tradition if they keep abandoning traditions?
- g) What would you think if you were in the ring with the red cape and an angry bull was staring at you?
- h) [Have you ever seen / would you ever go to see] bullfighting?
- i) Why do people become matadors?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a top matador?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

Bullfighting has come to an (1) _____ in northeastern Spain. Fans in the region of Catalonia saw their last fights on September 25. The (2) _____ ban comes into effect on the first of January, 2012, but Sunday's fighting was the last of the season. Over 20,000 spectators (3) _____ Barcelona's Monumental arena to see this age-old (4) _____ performed in the city for the last time. Spain's top matadors performed at the historic event, which sold out at record speed. One matador, Julian Lopez, told the AP news agency: "This is such a beautiful arena, with a lot of tradition (5) _____ for bullfighters and this national celebration." Despite this, bullfighting at the arena has been (6) _____ the decline, with smaller and smaller crowds each year.

Catalonia decided to ban bullfighting last year after 180,000 people signed a petition against it. They argued the *corrida* was (7) _____. Opponents of the ban believe they have a chance of getting it overturned next year. Bull breeder, Moeses Fraele said: "I think the politicians will think (8) _____ about the ban and bullfighting will live (9) _____. And thank God because Catalonia has plenty of serious bullfighting fans." He added that, "in a democratic country [fans] should be (10) _____ to go to a bullfight." Catalonia is the first mainland region in Spain to ban bullfighting. The age-(11) _____ sport has been part of Spanish life for centuries. It has been held at La Maestranza arena in Seville since 1765. There are (12) _____ of bullrings across the country.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) ends | (b) ended | (c) ending | (d) end |
| 2. | (a) assure | (b) activate | (c) actual | (d) articulate |
| 3. | (a) backed | (b) packed | (c) parked | (d) peaked |
| 4. | (a) spectacle | (b) speculate | (c) spectacles | (d) specked |
| 5. | (a) every | (b) all | (c) both | (d) whole |
| 6. | (a) in | (b) of | (c) by | (d) on |
| 7. | (a) stoic | (b) barbaric | (c) prosaic | (d) tumeric |
| 8. | (a) twice | (b) totally | (c) timing | (d) three |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) by | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) could | (b) can | (c) able | (d) ability |
| 11. | (a) old | (b) long | (c) year | (d) centuries |
| 12. | (a) dozen | (b) dozers | (c) dozes | (d) dozens |

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WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1109/110925-bullfighting.html>

Write about **bullfighting** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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 out more about bullfighting. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BULLFIGHTING: Make a poster about bullfighting. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BAN: Write a magazine article about the bullfighting ban. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against bullfighting.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a bullfighting matador. Ask him/her three questions about bullfighting. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. F e. T f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. come to an end | a. finished |
| 2. actual | b. real |
| 3. spectators | c. onlookers |
| 4. top | d. leading |
| 5. in decline | e. dying |
| 6. ban | f. prohibit |
| 7. argued | g. claimed |
| 8. fans | h. enthusiasts |
| 9. plenty of | i. a great deal of |
| 10. region | j. area |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bullfighting has come | a. to an end |
| 2. The actual ban comes into effect | b. on the first of January |
| 3. Over 20,000 | c. spectators |
| 4. top matadors performed | d. at the historic event |
| 5. smaller and smaller | e. crowds each year |
| 6. 180,000 people signed | f. a petition against it |
| 7. they have a chance of | g. getting it overturned |
| 8. think | h. twice |
| 9. mainland | i. region |
| 10. part of Spanish life | j. for centuries |

GAP FILL:

Bullfighting ends in Catalonia, Spain

Bullfighting has come to an (1) **end** in northeastern Spain. Fans in the region of Catalonia saw their last fights on September 25. The (2) **actual** ban comes into effect on the first of January, 2012, but Sunday's fighting was the last of the (3) **season**. Over 20,000 spectators packed Barcelona's Monumental arena to see this age-old spectacle (4) **performed** in the city for the last time. Spain's top matadors performed at the historic event, which sold out at record (5) **speed**. One matador, Julian Lopez, told the AP news agency: "This is such a beautiful (6) **arena**, with a lot of tradition both for bullfighters and this (7) **national** celebration." Despite this, bullfighting at the arena has been on the decline, with smaller and smaller (8) **crowds** each year.

Catalonia (9) **decided** to ban bullfighting last year after 180,000 people signed a petition against it. They (10) **argued** the *corrida* was barbaric. Opponents of the ban believe they have a chance of getting it (11) **overturned** next year. Bull breeder, Moeses Fraele said: "I think the politicians will think (12) **twice** about the ban and bullfighting will live on. And thank God because Catalonia has plenty of (13) **serious** bullfighting fans." He added that, "in a democratic country [fans] should be able to go to a bullfight." Catalonia is the first mainland (14) **region** in Spain to ban bullfighting. The age-old sport has been part of Spanish life for (15) **centuries**. It has been held at La Maestranza arena in Seville since 1765. There are (16) **dozens** of bullrings across the country.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d

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