

University to replace clapping with hand-waving

6th October, 2018



A university in the UK has voted to replace hand clapping with 'jazz-hand waving'. The University of Manchester Students' Union voted in favor of replacing clapping with 'jazz hands' to respect people who

can be negatively affected by loud noise. The jazz hands action is the British Sign Language's form of clapping. It is simply the practice of waving one's hands in the air. Students' Union spokeswoman Sara Khan said the vote was taken out of respect for many people who are affected by loud noise, which includes clapping and cheering. She said many people with conditions like autism, sensory issues and deafness tend to avoid public events because of loud clapping and cheering.

The vote has sparked a lot of criticism online. British broadcaster Piers Morgan tweeted that, "Britain is losing its mind". The debate even reached as far as the USA, where former Florida governor Jeb Bush tweeted: "Not cool, University of Manchester. Not Cool." Representatives of the Students' Union hit back, saying they represent the majority of students' views at the university. The Union said: "The policy was passed to encourage the use of British Sign Language clapping during our democratic events to make those events more accessible and inclusive for all." It added: "We are not banning audible clapping. We understand that some people may be more comfortable to continue using it."

Sources: abcnews.go.com / independent.co.uk / sky.com

Writing

We should refrain from clapping to respect people with sensory issues. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

university / clapping / jazz / loud noise / waving / respect / conditions / autism / vote / criticism / debate / governor / majority / encourage / democratic / inclusive / banning

True / False

- a) A university in the UK will ban clapping and cheering at its events. T / F
- b) The university wants to respect people who are affected by loud noise. T / F
- c) "Jazz hands" is a waving action used in British Sign Language. T / F
- d) A spokeswoman said clapping affected people who suffer from autism. T / F
- e) A British broadcaster accused Britain of losing its hands over this. T / F
- f) A former U.S. governor said the decision wasn't cool. T / F
- g) The spokeswoman said jazz hands would make events less inclusive. T / F
- h) The spokeswoman said she didn't understand people who clapped. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. replace | a. problems |
| 2. in favor | b. discussion |
| 3. form | c. opinions |
| 4. debate | d. type |
| 5. conditions | e. ex- |
| 6. sparked | f. substitute |
| 7. former | g. most |
| 8. majority | h. at ease |
| 9. views | i. for |
| 10. comfortable | j. brought about |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of clapping?
- b) What do you think of the student union's decision?
- c) Why do people clap?
- d) When can clapping be too loud?
- e) Why might waving be better than clapping?
- f) What do you think of waving to consider people with sensory issues?
- g) What would an event like a concert be like without clapping?
- h) Would it be better to ask people to clap or cheer quietly?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. voted in | a. clapping |
| 2. people who can be negatively | b. hands in the air |
| 3. the practice of waving one's | c. of students' views |
| 4. the vote was taken out of respect | d. like autism |
| 5. many people with conditions | e. as far as the USA |
| 6. The vote has sparked a | f. favor |
| 7. The debate even reached | g. and inclusive |
| 8. they represent the majority | h. for many people |
| 9. make those events more accessible | i. lot of criticism online |
| 10. We are not banning audible | j. affected by loud noise |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you think Britain is "losing its mind"?
- Why is former governor Jeb Bush commenting on this?
- Would you choose to clap or wave?
- What would singers or actors think of no clapping?
- What other things should we do to help people with sensory issues?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask the student union?

Spelling

- voted in rvaof
- egtnviaely affected by loud noise
- epsrect for many people
- clapping and heericng
- people with conditions like tuaism
- nsosery issues and deafness
- sparked a lot of iitrccsim online
- The ebadte even reached as far as the USA
- the ojmratiy of students' views
- ncuearoge the use of British Sign Language
- more accessible and nlicusive for all
- We are not banning udabile clapping

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Clapping

You think clapping is the worst loud noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their noise isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a screaming baby, a vacuum cleaner or heavy traffic.

Role B – Screaming Baby

You think a screaming baby is the worst loud noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their noise isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): clapping, a vacuum cleaner or heavy traffic.

Role C – Vacuum Cleaner

You think a vacuum cleaner is the worst loud noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their noise isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a screaming baby, clapping or heavy traffic.

Role D – Heavy Traffic

You think heavy traffic is the worst loud noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their noise isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a screaming baby, a vacuum cleaner or clapping.

Speaking – Loud Noise

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst of these loud noises at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • thunder | • clapping |
| • vacuum cleaner | • baby screaming |
| • fireworks | • airplane |
| • heavy traffic | • rock concert |

Answers – True False

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