

# Arnie wants Mexican border closed

## WARM-UPS

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about: Arnold Schwarzenegger / borders / immigration / illegal immigration / Mexico / Canada / tough measures / political extremists... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**IMMIGRATION BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “immigration”. 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 – past and present. 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 needs tourism dollars and still needs immigrants.
- e. Arnie should become US President. vs. That’d be a disaster.
- f. Arnie was an immigrant. How can he say such things? vs. He cares about America.
- g. Arnie is a skilled politician. vs. Arnie is just a dumb celebrity.
- h. Arnie’s statement was extreme. vs. Arnie’s statement was realistic.
- i. My country needs someone strong like Arnie. vs. No thank you.
- j. Immigration enhances societies. vs. Immigration dilutes cultures.

**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 words 'illegal' and 'immigration'.

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

- a. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants the USA-Mexico border closed. T / F
- b. He wants the borders closed to combat drug and people trafficking. T / F
- c. An assistant realized his blunder and jumped to his rescue. T / F
- d. Arnie's aide said he wants the borders tightly sealed. T / F
- e. Arnie described security at the Mexican border as "lax". T / F
- f. Arnie believes American states should have more control over immigration. T / F
- g. A Democrat said Arnie had an open-minded approach to immigration. T / F
- h. Arnie's views were said to be politically extreme and irrational. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |     |               |                |
|-----|---------------|----------------|
| (a) | combat        | jump           |
| (b) | tough-talking | assistant      |
| (c) | aide          | slack          |
| (d) | clarify       | fight          |
| (e) | impromptu     | faux pas       |
| (f) | lax           | curtail        |
| (g) | lamented      | opinionated    |
| (h) | pounce        | unrehearsed    |
| (i) | gaffe         | straighten out |
| (j) | ratchet down  | deplored       |

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

- |     |                           |                                  |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) | Schwarzenegger has called | to his rescue                    |
| (b) | volunteering              | limitation                       |
| (c) | An aide was quick to jump | extremists                       |
| (d) | impromptu                 | his views                        |
| (e) | damage                    | to pounce on Arnie's gaffe       |
| (f) | border                    | for the USA to close the borders |
| (g) | He stressed               | policy-makers                    |
| (h) | Democrats were quick      | the need for tougher measures    |
| (i) | political                 | security                         |
| (j) | rational                  | immigration                      |

**BEST WORD:** There are eight sets of italicized words in the article. Choose the word in each set that best fits.

### **Arnie wants Mexican border closed**

**BNE:** Arnold Schwarzenegger has *screamed / called / shouted* for the USA to “close the borders...all across Mexico” to combat illegal immigration. The tough-talking California Governor was volunteering his views his on making America safer in front of hundreds of reporters at the Newspaper Association of America convention. An aide was quick to *bounce / bound / jump* to his rescue and clarify his comment. In her impromptu effort at *damage / catastrophe / breakage* limitation, Arnie’s press secretary Margita Thompson explained that what Arnie really meant was that he wants the borders better policed, not closed: “He wants to make sure that our borders are *secured / sealed / airtight* so that we don't have illegal entry.”

Schwarzenegger was answering questions at the NAA convention and described border security as a “lax situation” He *stressed / pressured / strained* the need for tougher measures: “it is just unfair to have all those people coming across and have the border open the way it is.” He also lamented the fact that *solo / individual / unique* American states had little control in immigration matters. Outraged Democrats were quick to pounce on Arnie’s *gaffe / imbecility / preposterousness*. Fabian Nunez warned Arnie should “ratchet down this rhetoric and retreat from this narrow-minded approach to immigration.” Nunez intimated the Governor’s ideas resembled those of “political extremists, not *irrational / rational / rationed* policy-makers.”

### **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 list of conditions that must be met before you would accept someone as an immigrant to your country. Compare your list 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 initial reaction when you see an Arnold Schwarzenegger headline?
- b. Was there anything in the story that was typical of Arnie?
- 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. Shouldn't Arnie be more understanding, considering he was once an immigrant?
- h. Do bad actors make good politicians?
- i. Do you like Schwarzenegger movies?
- j. Are Arnold Schwarzenegger's views those of an extremist?
- k. Is illegal immigration a problem in your country?
- l. Are you happy with the immigration policies your country has?
- m. What problems do illegal immigrants cause?
- n. What are the benefits of immigration, illegal or otherwise?
- o. Do illegal immigrants fill a gap in the labor market?
- p. What should be done to illegal immigrants if they are caught?
- q. What do you think of a world without borders?
- r. Would you like to emigrate to another country?
- s. Have you ever worked illegally in another country?
- t. Have you ever made an impromptu speech?
- u. Have you ever jumped to someone's rescue?
- v. Did you like this discussion?
- w. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## TEXT:

### Arnie wants Mexican border closed

**BNE:** Arnold Schwarzenegger has *called* for the USA to “close the borders...all across Mexico” to combat illegal immigration. The tough-talking California Governor was volunteering his views his on making America safer in front of hundreds of reporters at the Newspaper Association of America convention. An aide was quick to *jump* to his rescue and clarify his comment. In her impromptu effort at *damage* limitation, Arnie's press secretary Margita Thompson explained that what Arnie really meant was that he wants the borders better policed, not closed: “He wants to make sure that our borders are *secured* so that we don't have illegal entry.”

Schwarzenegger was answering questions at the NAA convention and described border security as a “lax situation” He *stressed* the need for tougher measures: “it is just unfair to have all those people coming across and have the border open the way it is.” He also lamented the fact that *individual* American states had little control in immigration matters. Outraged Democrats were quick to pounce on Arnie's *gaffe*. Fabian Nunez warned Arnie should “ratchet down this rhetoric and retreat from this narrow-minded approach to immigration.” Nunez intimated the Governor's ideas resembled those of “political extremists, not *rational* policy-makers.”

Find this and similar lessons at <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com>

**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 enter politics. Give a score from 1 (poor training) to 10 (excellent training) for each job. In pairs / groups, compare scores and discuss which qualities and skills from each job would be useful for a politician.

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

**IMMIGRATION POLICY:** In pairs/groups. You are responsible for the immigration policy in your country. (1) Agree on a policy\* for the next year. (2) Present your ideas to the rest of the class. Be prepared to answer questions from those listening. The students watching the presentation should take notes on the ideas and appraise them. (3) Change partners and talk about the pros and cons of the ideas you heard. (4) Vote for the best / worst ideas.

\* You need to consider and agree on the following factors:

- Numbers of immigrants
- Reasons for wanting to come to your country
- Immigrant qualifications
- Amount of money the immigrant has
- Number of dependants the immigrant has
- Language ability
- Age of immigrant
- Other

<b>IMMIGRATION POLICY ASSESSMENT SHEET</b>			
<b>Team #</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>My opinion</b>	<b>My questions</b>