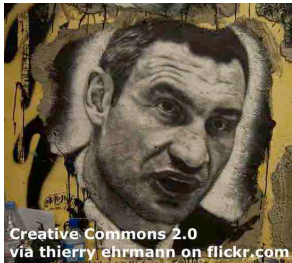


Ex-world boxing champions to defend Ukraine

28th February, 2022



Two former Ukrainian boxing world champions have joined what is probably the greatest fight of their lives. The two are brothers, and they have vowed to take up arms to help defend the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. Vitali Klitschko, 50, is the current mayor of Kyiv. He retired from a glittering career in boxing in 2013, having been heavyweight champion for over a decade. He told reporters that he would fight. He said: "I don't have another choice. I have to do that. I'll be fighting. It's already a bloody war." Vitali's brother Wladimir, 45, dominated the heavyweight and superheavyweight divisions for 15 years. He tweeted: "Destruction and death come upon us....We will defend ourselves with all our might and fight for freedom and democracy."

The boxing siblings have joined the ranks of their compatriots and fellow citizens in mounting a defence of their city. Authorities have already distributed 18,000 rifles to Kyiv residents to defend themselves. There are also images on social media of old women learning to make Molotov cocktails. The two brothers have been outspoken critics of Russia's President Putin and are aware of the danger they now face. Yahoo Sports highlighted the perils that lie ahead. It wrote: "There is an immense amount of bravery required to slip between the ropes and fight another man who has trained for months to defeat you. That's child's play compared to the fight the Klitschkos face today."

Sources: [msn.com](https://www.msn.com) / [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) / [boxinginsider.com](https://www.boxinginsider.com)

Writing

It is better to leave danger to save your life live than it is to stay and fight. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Ukraine / fight / take up arms / capital / boxing / champion / war / defend / freedom / siblings / compatriots / citizens / outspoken / critics / bravery / danger / defeat

True / False

- 1) Two heavyweight greats are going to fight each other. T / F
- 2) The elder brother is the mayor of Kyiv. T / F
- 3) Vitali Klitschko said the only choice he has is to fight. T / F
- 4) The younger brother was a boxing world champion in two divisions. T / F
- 5) The city of Kyiv has given residents 18,000 rifles. T / F
- 6) Only one of the brothers has criticised Russia's president. T / F
- 7) Yahoo Sports said it wasn't so brave to step into a boxing ring. T / F
- 8) Yahoo said boxing was child's play compared to the fight in Kyiv. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. former | a. vocal |
| 2. vowed | b. incumbent |
| 3. current | c. huge |
| 4. bloody | d. protect |
| 5. defend | e. conscious |
| 6. joined | f. promised |
| 7. outspoken | g. easy |
| 8. aware | h. ex- |
| 9. immense | i. enlisted in |
| 10. child's play | j. cruel |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of the attack on Kyiv?
- c) What is the difference between the names Kyiv and Kiev?
- d) What are the dangers the Klitschko brothers face?
- e) How brave are the Klitschko brothers?
- f) What is the biggest show of bravery you've ever displayed?
- g) What kind of person makes a good boxer?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Klitschko brothers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. vowed to take | a. of their compatriots |
| 2. the current | b. critics |
| 3. He retired from a glittering | c. all our might |
| 4. It's already a bloody | d. up arms |
| 5. We will defend ourselves with | e. bravery |
| 6. joined the ranks | f. career in boxing |
| 7. mounting a | g. play |
| 8. outspoken | h. mayor of Kyiv |
| 9. an immense amount of | i. defence of their city |
| 10. That's child's | j. war |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of boxing?
- What do you know about Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko?
- What has been the greatest fight of your life?
- Why might a boxer be a good mayor?
- What do you think of the brothers for fighting for Ukraine?
- Would you fight for your country?
- How important are freedom and democracy to you?
- What advice do you have for the Klitschko brothers?

Spelling

- ovdew to take up arms
- a rnglgttiei career in boxing
- for over a aeddc
- Wladimir, 45, admndtieo
- euortndcits and death
- freedom and mcoeydarc
- The boxing sgilsbin have joined the ranks
- their omcprattsio and fellow citizens
- direibtdtsu 18,000 rifles
- toepsnuok critics
- highlighted the lsepilr that lie ahead
- an mseinme amount of bravery

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Standing in front of a Tank

You think standing in front of a tank is the bravest action. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actions aren't as brave. Also, tell the others which is the least brave of these (and why): standing up against tyrants, staying to fight or dismantling a bomb.

Role B – Standing up against Tyrants

You think standing up against tyrants is the bravest action. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actions aren't as brave. Also, tell the others which is the least brave of these (and why): standing in front of a tank, staying to fight or dismantling a bomb.

Role C – Staying to Fight

You think staying to fight is the bravest action. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actions aren't as brave. Also, tell the others which is the least brave of these (and why): standing up against tyrants, standing in front of a tank or dismantling a bomb.

Role D – Deactivating a Bomb

You think dismantling a bomb is the bravest action. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actions aren't as brave. Also, tell the others which is the least brave of these (and why): standing up against tyrants, staying to fight or standing in front of a tank.

Speaking – Bravey

Rank these with your partner. Put the bravest things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Standing in front of a tank | • Taking up arms |
| • Entering a burning building | • Becoming a soldier |
| • Standing up against tyrants | • Deactivating a bomb |
| • Criticising national leaders | • Staying to fight |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.