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Hollywood directors in race row

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THE ARTICLE

Two of Hollywood's top producers are in the middle of a race row that has involved them trading insults. Spike Lee and Clint Eastwood have exchanged words over what Lee described as an absence of black soldiers in two World War II movies directed by Eastwood. Lee, a student of history, criticized Eastwood's films about the American invasion of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. He said it was sad that so many black American soldiers gave their lives in the invasion and that there was not one black face in either of the films. Thomas McPhatter, a black US marine involved in the attack, agreed with Lee. He said: "Of all the movies that have been made of Iwo Jima, you never see a black face. This is the last straw....I've been insulted....We still have a strong underlying force in my country of rabid racism."

The war of words started after comments Eastwood made in an interview in Britain's 'Guardian' newspaper. He took offence at Lee's criticism that his movies were for "whites only" and said Lee should "shut his face". In reply, Lee reminded Eastwood that slavery had ended, saying: "First of all, the man is not my father and we're not on a plantation either....He sounds like an angry old man right there." Lee also attacked the American movie industry: "I know the history of Hollywood and its omission of the one million African-American men and women who contributed to the second world war. Not everything was John Wayne, baby," he said. Eastwood mocked Lee in the same interview by joking that in his new movie about South Africa, he was "not going to make Nelson Mandela a white guy".

WARM-UPS

driving

housework

- **1. HOLLYWOOD:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about Hollywood. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your 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.

race / rows / trading insults / invasions / the last straw / being insulted / racism / criticism / taking offence / slavery / angry old men / American movie industry

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

3. EXCHANGING WORDS: Do you ever argue with people? With your partner(s), discuss what you do / could argue about with the people below. Write your ideas in the table. Change partners and share your ideas. Role play some of the arguments.

Argue with	I do	I could	Is it worth it?
parents			
best friend			
neighbours			
sales assistants			
car drivers			
commuters			

4. ROWS: Is it good to row? Rank thes about; 1 = this is totally pointless rowing aborclass.	
money the TV remote control politics	religion English grammar sport

5. HEADLINE PREDICTION: With your partner(s), use the words in the "Chat" activity above to predict what the news article will be about. Once you have your story, change partners and share them. Who was closest to the real story?

nothing

other

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- Hollywood producers are arguing over the 100 metres at the Olympics. $\,$ T / F
- b. Two top producers have given each other gift-wrapped words.
- c. A history student accused a movie director of ignoring black soldiers.
- † . A US marine went to the movies but someone had taken the last straw. \top / F
- e. The director Clint Eastwood makes movies only for white audiences. T/F
- f. Spike Lee compared a comment Eastwood made to the days of slavery. T/F
- g. Lee said Hollywood forgets about the million black people in WWII. T/F
- h. Eastwood joked that in his next movie, Nelson Mandela would be white. T/F

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

- 1. row
- 2 trading
- 3. absence
- 4. the last straw
- 5. rabid
- 6. comments
- 7. shut his face
- 8. omission
- 9. contributed
- 10. mocked

- a. exchanging
- b. teased
- c. remarks
- d. gave
- e. argument
- f. be quiet
- g. exclusion
- h. lack
- i. the limit
- *i.* extreme

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

- 1. in the middle of a
- 2 exchanged
- 3. many black American soldiers gave
- 4. This is the last
- 5. a strong underlying
- 6. The war
- 7. He took offence
- 8. Lee reminded Eastwood that
- 9. Lee also attacked the
- 10. Eastwood mocked Lee

- a. American movie industry
- b. their lives in the invasion
- c. of words
- d. race row
- e. slavery had ended
- f. straw
- *g.* force
- h. words
- i. in the same interview
- i. at Lee's criticism

WHILE READING / LISTENING

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

Two of Hollywood's top producers are in the of a	
race row that has involved them trading Spike	insulted
Lee and Clint Eastwood have exchanged words over what Lee	insults
described as an of black soldiers in two World War	
II movies directed by Eastwood. Lee, a student of history,	either
criticized Eastwood's films about the American of	middle
the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. He said it was sad that so	invacion
many black American soldiers gave their lives in the invasion	invasion
and that there was not one black face in of the	racism
films. Thomas McPhatter, a black US marine in the	absence
attack, agreed with Lee. He said: "Of all the movies that have	
been made of Iwo Jima, you never see a black face. This is the	involved
last strawI've beenWe still have a strong	
underlying force in my country of rabid"	
The war of words started after Eastwood made in	
an interview in Britain's 'Guardian' newspaper. He took	omission
at Lee's criticism that his movies were for "whites	slavery
only" and said Lee should "shut his face". In reply, Lee	Slavery
Eastwood that had ended, saying:	offence
"First of all, the man is not my father and we're not on a	reminded
plantation eitherHe sounds like an angry old man right	
there." Lee also the American movie industry: "I	mocked
know the history of Hollywood and its of the one	attacked
million African-American men and women who to	comments
the second world war. Not everything was John Wayne, baby,"	
he said. Eastwood Lee in the same interview by	contributed
joking that in his new movie about South Africa, he was "not	
going to make Nelson Mandela a white guy".	

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

Two of Hollywood's top producers	_ a race row that
has involved Spike Lee and Clint	Eastwood have
exchanged words over what Lee described	black
soldiers in two World War II movies directed by Eastwood. I	Lee, a student of
history, criticized Eastwood's films about the American	invasion of the
Japanese island of Iwo Jima. He	so many black
American soldiers gave their lives in the invasion and that the	nere was not one
black face films. Thomas McPhatter, a	black US marine
involved in the attack, agreed with Lee. He said: "Of all the r	movies that have
been made of Iwo Jima, you never see a black face	
strawI've been insultedWe underly	ying force in my
country of rabid racism."	
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in Britain's 'Guardian' newspaper. He Le	
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reply, Lee reminded Eastwood that slavery had	ended, saying:
", the man is not my father and v	we're not on a
plantation eitherHe sounds like an angry old man right	
attacked the American movie industry: "I know the histo	ory of Hollywood
one million African-American men a	and women who
contributed to the second world war. Not everything wa	as John Wayne,
baby," he said. Eastwood mocked Lee	by joking that
in his new movie about South Africa, he was "not going	to make Nelson
Mandela a white guy".	

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words **'race'** and **'row'**.

race	row

- 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:

middle	• comments
 exchanged 	• shut
• sad	angry
either	 million
• straw	• baby
• force	• joking

STUDENT RACISM SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about racism 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
	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 1 STUDENT 2

- 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.

ARGUMENTS 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 term 'race row'?
- c) What do you think of top Hollywood directors trading insults in public?
- d) Why do you think there are no black faces in Clint Eastwood's war movies?
- e) What do you know about the American invasion of Iwo Jima?
- f) Do you think Spike Lee is correct to attack Clint Eastwood?
- g) Do you think Hollywood is racist because it so often "forgets" to put black soldiers in its war movies?
- h) What do you know about Spike Lee and Clint Eastwood?
- i) When was the last time you felt insulted?
- j) When was the last time you exchanged words with someone?

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ARGUMENTS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) When was the last time you took offence at something someone said?
- c) What do you think of Eastwood for telling Spike Lee to "shut his face"?
- d) Do you think Spike Lee has a point in comparing Eastwood's comments to the days of slavery?
- e) Do you think Hollywood is still an industry dominated by white people?
- f) What did Spike Lee mean when he said, "Not everything was John Wayne, baby"?
- g) Do you think Hollywood is a force for good when it comes to race relations?
- h) Do you think the two producers should apologize to each other in public?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Spike Lee and Clint Eastwood?
- j) Did you like this discussion on the Hollywood producers?

LANGUAGE

invo (2) mov abou	lved t —— ies di ut the	ollywood's top hem trading in what Lee desc rected by East American inva	sults. cribed a wood. asion (3	Spike Lee and as an absence Lee, a student 3) the Ja	Clint of blact of his apane	Eastwood have ack soldiers istory, criticizes island of I	ve excl n two ed Eas wo Jin	nanged words World War II stwood's films na. He said it
		hat so many b			_			
		there was not						•
		marine (5) _		-	_			
		at have been						
		I've been ir		We still have	e a st	rong underly	ing (6) in my
cour	itry oi	f rabid racism.'						
The	war (of (7) st	tarted	after commen	ts Ea	stwood made	in an	interview in
		Guardian' new						
		"whites only"						
		Eastwood that					=	_
not	my fa	ther and we'r	e not c	n a plantation	n eith	erHe sound	ls like	an angry old
man	right	t there." Lee	also at	tacked the Ar	merica	an movie ind	ustry:	"I know the
histo	ory of	Hollywood and	d its (10)) of the	one r	million African	-Amer	ican men and
wom	nen w	ho contributed	to the	second world	war.	Not (11)	_ was	John Wayne,
baby	/," he	said. Eastwoo	d (12)	Lee in th	ne sar	ne interview	by joki	ng that in his
new	movi	e about South	Africa,	he was "not o	going	to make Nels	on Ma	ndela a white
guy'	′ .							
			_		_			
Put	the c	orrect words	from t	the table belo	ow in	the above a	rticle.	
1.	(a)	end	(b)	beginning	(c)	muddle	(d)	middle
2.	(a)	out	(b)	over	(c)	under	(d)	on
3.	(a)	of	(b)	for	(c)	with	(d)	by
4.	(a)	livelihoods	(b)	living	(c)	lives	(d)	life stories
5.	(a)	involving	(b)	involvement	(c)	involved	(d)	involves
6.	(a)	farce	(b)	force	(c)	fierce	(d)	face
7.	(a)	words	(b)	word	(c)	wording	(d)	wordy
8.	(a)	replays	(b)	replay	(c)	replied	(d)	reply
9.	(a)	whole	(b)	all	(c)	everything	(d)	lot
10.	(a)	emit	(b)	emission	(c)	omit	(d)	omission
11.	(a)	whole	(b)	all	(c)	everything	(d)	lot
12.	(a)	mocked	(b)	smacked	(c)	smoked	(d)	mucked

WRITING:

Write about	racism	for 10) minutes	s. Corre	ct your	partne	er's pap	er.	

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 the war of words between Spike Lee and Clint Eastwood. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.
- **3. DIRECTORS:** Make a poster about Clint Eastwood and Spike Lee. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?
- **4. WAR OF WORDS:** Write a magazine article about the war of words between Spike Lee and Clint Eastwood. Include imaginary interviews with the two directors. What do they think of each other?

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 Spike or Clint. Ask him three questions about the war of words. Give him three pieces of advice on what he should do to help race relations. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.
- **6. DIARY / JOURNAL:** You are a Hollywood director. You are in the middle of making a new movie. Write your diary entry about one day in your work. Read your entry to your classmates in the next lesson.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. F c. T d. F e. F f. T q. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

1. row argument a. 2 trading b. exchanging 3. absence lack c. 4. the last straw d. the limit 5. rabid e. extreme 6. comments f. remarks 7. shut his face be quiet q. 8. omission h. exclusion 9. contributed i. gave 10. mocked teased j.

PHRASE MATCH:

in the middle of a 1. a. race row

2 exchanged h. words 3. many black American soldiers gave their lives in the invasion

This is the last 4. d. straw

5. a strong underlying e. force

6. The war of words f. 7. He took offence g.

at Lee's criticism 8. Lee reminded Eastwood that h. slavery had ended

9. Lee also attacked the i. American movie industry

c.

j.

in the same interview

10. Eastwood mocked Lee

GAP FILL:

Hollywood directors in race row

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The war of words started after **comments** Eastwood made in an interview in Britain's 'Guardian' newspaper. He took offence at Lee's criticism that his movies were for "whites only" and said Lee should "shut his face". In reply, Lee **reminded** Eastwood that **slavery** had ended, saying: "First of all, the man is not my father and we're not on a plantation either....He sounds like an angry old man right there." Lee also attacked the American movie industry: "I know the history of Hollywood and its omission of the one million African-American men and women who contributed to the second world war. Not everything was John Wayne, baby," he said. Eastwood mocked Lee in the same interview by joking that in his new movie about South Africa, he was "not going to make Nelson Mandela a white guy".

LANGUAGE WORK

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