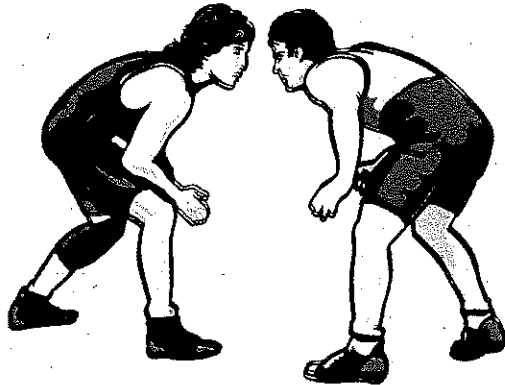


Champion Female Wrestler

For many years, Patricia Miranda had to fight to compete in the sport she loves—wrestling. But today, she is a successful Olympic contender.

As a child, Miranda was always interested in taking on challenges. One day, as she watched a group of boys in a wrestling class, she decided that wrestling was the sport for her.



Unfortunately, there were no girls' wrestling teams, so Miranda learned the sport by competing with the boys. At times, she found it hard. She had to get used to the pain and bruises from a rough sport. (1) She had to *haggle* with coaches to be recognized as a team member. (2) Some people thought that Miranda's request to join the high-school wrestling team was a *ruse* to get attention, and they didn't treat it seriously. Perhaps most painful were the taunts and mean jokes she had to endure. But Miranda continued her efforts to become a wrestler.

(3) Wrestling is an aggressive sport; at times, opponents and fans can be *belligerent*. Miranda stood five feet tall and weighed just over a hundred pounds. (4) She found it challenging to win against stronger

adversaries. In college, she had trouble even getting a chance to compete in matches. In fact, she had to wait until her senior year to get into the lineup. Even then, she wrestled only after three male teammates were disqualified. She lost far more matches than she won. But finally, one important victory over a male opponent boosted her confidence.

(5) Not all the *skirmishes* Miranda fought were in the ring. (6) She became *embroiled* in a dispute with her father, who initially opposed her decision to wrestle. (7) The cause of the *strife* was her father's concern about her schoolwork. (8) He *chided* her for her interest in wrestling because he worried that it would interfere with her studies. (9) The *discord* ended when they made a deal: Miranda promised that she would get all A's if he would let her wrestle. (10) When she kept her part of the bargain, her father realized that sports and academic excellence were not *contradictory*. Today, he supports her fully.

Slowly, Miranda's skills developed. She did exceptionally well in women's events, winning the gold at the 2003 Pan American Games and the 2003 World Cup. She also took second place in the World Championships in 2000 and 2003. Then, in 2004, women's wrestling was approved as an Olympic sport. That same year, a proud Patricia Miranda earned a bronze medal for the United States at the Summer Olympic Games in Athens.

Today, Miranda, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Stanford, is studying law at Yale University. Not surprisingly, she wants to specialize in conflict mediation. Overcoming barriers that stood in her way—teams without a place for her, family opposition, and long strings of losses—Miranda has proved that women belong in wrestling.

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- _____ 1. She had to _____ with coaches to be recognized as a team member.
 a. argue b. spend time c. war d. agree
- _____ 2. Some thought that her request to join the wrestling team was a(n) _____.
 a. conflict b. trick c. argument d. struggle
- _____ 3. Wrestling is an aggressive sport; at times, opponents and fans can be _____.
 a. inconsistent b. cooperative c. hostile d. entangled
- _____ 4. She found it challenging to win against stronger _____.
 a. supporters b. battles c. opponents d. friends

NAME _____

DATE _____

- _____ 5. Not all the _____ Miranda fought were in the ring.
 a. minor battles b. clever tricks c. strong enemies d. hostile people
- _____ 6. She became _____ in a dispute with her father, who initially opposed her decision to wrestle.
 a. unhappy b. surprised c. dissatisfied d. involved
- _____ 7. The cause of the _____ was her father's concern about her schoolwork.
 a. war b. conflict c. harmony d. trickery
- _____ 8. He _____ her for her interest in wrestling because he worried that it would interfere with her studies.
 a. congratulated b. scolded c. opposed d. threatened
- _____ 9. The _____ ended when they made a deal.
 a. battle b. support c. discussion d. disagreement
- _____ 10. When she kept her part of the bargain, her father realized that sports and academic excellence were not _____.
 a. in opposition b. in harmony c. important d. involved

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. Success in wrestling came easily to Patricia Miranda.
- _____ 2. For a time, Patricia Miranda's father was opposed to her wrestling competitively.
- _____ 3. Patricia Miranda won a bronze medal in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. Mom seems to enjoy _____ over meat prices with the butcher. (*haggle*)
- _____ 2. _____ is probably not a quality that will help you make friends. (*belligerent*)
- _____ 3. Governments can become _____ in hostile actions when peaceful diplomacy fails. (*embroil*)
- _____ 4. Faced with a larger and stronger opponent, a smaller force may resort to clever _____ in order to achieve victory. (*ruse*)
- _____ 5. After starting several _____ in the schoolyard, the girl was suspended. (*skirmish*)
- _____ 6. Dad always _____ me for eating too fast. (*chide*)
- _____ 7. The phrase "tough love" may seem to be a _____. (*contradictory*)
- _____ 8. Political _____ is best settled at the ballot box. (*strife*)
- _____ 9. I'm sorry you took a position that was _____ to mine. (*adversary*)
- _____ 10. The _____ feelings within the group spoiled the atmosphere of the party. (*discord*)