

Hazing

"Hazing is the only way fraternities can keep out the guys who aren't serious about joining."

—Anonymous commenter online



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you know what hazing means?
2. Do schools in your country have sorority or fraternity clubs?
3. Do athletic teams in your country welcome newcomers in a cruel or unusual way?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. exclusive | a) the act of causing (or the feeling of) shame and serious embarrassment |
| _____ 2. tolerate | b) only open to one or a select few |
| _____ 3. hazing | c) a ritual that involves the abuse and humiliation of new group members |
| _____ 4. mild | d) to withstand pain or discomfort |
| _____ 5. orientation | e) a process of introducing someone to something new |
| _____ 6. fraternity | f) not very serious |
| _____ 7. sorority | g) an exclusive university group for men (brotherhood) |
| _____ 8. assault | h) away from the school grounds |
| _____ 9. humiliation | i) a physical attack |
| _____ 10. torture | j) an exclusive university group for women (sisterhood) |
| _____ 11. essential | k) necessary |
| _____ 12. off-campus | l) serious abuse that may cause a person to give in to demands |

Reading

HAZING

What does it take to join the club?

1. Have you ever joined an **exclusive** club or team? Were you welcomed openly, or did you have to prove yourself? In some clubs and groups, newcomers are abused rather than welcomed. The abuse can be physical or mental. To be accepted into the group, an individual must **tolerate** the abuse. This is called **hazing**.
2. **Mild** forms of hazing are a typical part of **orientation** carried out by leaders or long-term members. Examples include name-calling and the assignment of dirty chores. New members might also be assigned embarrassing names or costumes.
3. Violent forms of hazing are common in **fraternities, sororities**, and even some athletic clubs. Hazing may include **assault, humiliation**, or **torture**. The withdrawal of **essential** needs, such as sleep, is a very common form of torture in a hazing ritual. Many universities are trying to prevent hazing practices. This is difficult because the abuse usually occurs **off-campus** and club members are sworn to secrecy. What happens when you quit or get kicked out of an exclusive club like this? Some ex-members fear for their lives.
4. Hazing is also a common ritual in the military. Is boot camp a form of hazing, or is it a necessary part of military training?

Discussion Questions

1. Would you join a club that practiced hazing?
2. In your opinion, which is worse: physical abuse or mental abuse?
3. Describe the last group that you joined. How did you feel as a newcomer?
4. What qualities should a leader have?
5. What would you do if you witnessed serious hazing?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What two main types of abuse are mentioned?
2. What is the purpose of hazing?
3. Name two “mild” forms of hazing that are mentioned in the passage.
4. Why does the reading mention fraternities and sororities?
5. What example is given as a form of torture in a hazing ritual?
6. How do some victims of hazing feel after being kicked out of an exclusive club?

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Correct Response

Choose the correct response to each question or statement. This task can also be done orally with a partner. Read the sentence and choices out loud.

1. Where are you going to live in your first year of university?
 - a) Orientation is tomorrow.
 - b) Yes, I joined a sorority.
 - c) I'm renting an apartment off-campus.
2. Are you going to join the sorority you talked about?
 - a) No, I don't like their hazing rituals.
 - b) Yes, the fraternity is accepting members.
 - c) My sister goes to that school.
3. I told you to only bring your essential needs.
 - a) But I need my makeup!
 - b) That's not necessary.
 - c) I am sworn to secrecy.
4. What did your leader make you do on the first day?
 - a) I don't like being the leader.
 - b) We had to wear humiliating costumes.
 - c) No. Orientation starts on day two.
5. I heard three team members got charged with assault.
 - a) I'll tell you if I hear anything.
 - b) Yes, there was a hazing incident on the field.
 - c) I suffered mental abuse.

B. Odd One Out

Circle the word that does not belong. Write one more word that *does* belong in each blank space.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. a) abuse
b) mild
c) assault
d) torture

_____ | 3. a) hazing
b) violence
c) humiliation
d) welcome

_____ | 5. a) withstand
b) humiliate
c) tolerate
d) accept

_____ |
| 2. a) essential
b) necessary
c) important
d) orientation

_____ | 4. a) essential
b) sorority
c) club
d) fraternity

_____ | |

Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2010/10/06/podcast-hazing/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

HAZING

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2. **Mild** forms of hazing are a typical part of **orientation** _____ by leaders or long-term members. Examples include name-calling and the assignment of dirty chores. New members might also be assigned _____ names or costumes.
3. Violent forms of hazing are common in **fraternities, sororities**, and even some athletic clubs. Hazing may include **assault, humiliation**, or **torture**. The withdrawal of **essential** needs, such as sleep, is a very common form of torture in a hazing _____. Many universities are trying to prevent hazing practices. This is difficult because the abuse usually occurs **off-campus** and club members are _____. What happens when you quit or get kicked out of an exclusive club like this? Some ex-members fear for their lives.
4. Hazing is also a common ritual in the military. Is _____ a form of hazing, or is it a necessary part of military training?

1. openly, mental
2. carried out, embarrassing
3. ritual, sworn to secrecy
4. boot camp

ANSWERS: