

CHEATING FISHERMEN GO TO JAIL

May 14th, 2023

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. How often do you eat fish? What kinds of fish do you eat?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|----------------|---|
| 1. Sentence | a) to temporarily stop something from functioning or being valid |
| 2. Suspend | b) a person who cheats |
| 3. Suspicious | c) a piece of fish without bones |
| 4. Declare | d) to say what someone's punishment will be |
| 5. Stuff | e) feeling that someone has done something wrong or criminal |
| 6. Lead weight | f) pieces of the metal lead, which is very heavy |
| 7. Fine | g) a punishment of money that must be paid |
| 8. Viral video | h) a video that becomes popular online |
| 9. Cheat | i) to fill a space with something |
| 10. Fine | j) to say in an official way |
| 11. Probation | k) a period of living with specific rules, often after coming out of prison |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Two cheating fishermen are now going to prison. They were sentenced to _____ days in jail, had their fishing licenses suspended for three years, and had to give up their fishing _____ that is worth \$100 000.

Last September, the fishermen were competing in an Ohio fishing competition, when the tournament director became suspicious of their _____ entries. Soon after being declared

winners of the \$28 000 prize, the men were embarrassed when the director cut open their fish. Inside the fish, they had stuffed lead weights and fish filets to make _____ heavier.

The embarrassing moment became a viral video in which the director yells, 'we got weights in fish!' In the moment, the two cheats appeared to have _____ to say.

Fishing competition officials believe the men had probably cheated before, but it was difficult to prove without the fish for evidence. After getting out of prison, the men will also have to pay a \$2500 fine and _____ a year and a half on probation.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
sentence		x	
suspend			
	suspicious		
declare			

FULL STORY:

Two cheating fishermen are now going to prison. They were sentenced to ten days in jail, had their fishing licenses suspended for three years, and had to give up their fishing boat that is worth \$100 000.

Last September, the fishermen were competing in an Ohio fishing competition, when the tournament director became suspicious of their heavy entries. Soon after being declared winners of the \$28 000 prize, the men were embarrassed when the director cut open their fish. Inside the fish, they had stuffed lead weights and fish filets to make them heavier.

The embarrassing moment became a viral video in which the director yells, 'we got weights in fish!' In the moment, the two cheats appeared to have nothing to say.

Fishing competition officials believe the men had probably cheated before, but it was difficult to prove without the fish for evidence. After getting out of prison, the men will also have to pay a \$2500 fine and spend a year and a half on probation.

Sources: apnews.com, bbc.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. Two men made their fish heavier to win money. (T / F)
2. Their fishing boat is worth ten thousand dollars. (T / F)
3. The fish were cut open. (T / F)
4. The men are being punished in several ways. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. caught / the / were / cheating / men
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2. suspended / their / were / fishing / licences
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. Do you agree with the punishment the men will receive? Should it be harsher or more lenient?
3. Which sounds worse? The official punishment or the embarrassment?
4. Do you like watching embarrassing moments? Or is it too painful?
5. Do people fish as a hobby in your country? If so, where do they usually fish? If not, what kinds of outdoor hobbies do people do?
6. Have you been fishing? Did you enjoy it?
7. Would you like to be in a viral video? Why or why not?
8. In which sports are people more likely to cheat?
9. What do you think about cheating? Is it always wrong?
10. What kind of competition would you like to try? Would you do well?

