
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Review

Nike-Kaepernick partnership controversy



BBC World Service

The story

The sports giant Nike has said its latest advertising campaign will feature Colin Kaepernick, the former American football player, who led a protest against police brutality toward African Americans.

Kaepernick was a quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers for six years, but stirred a controversy in 2016 when he knelt down during the playing of the US national anthem before matches.

Vocabulary

provocative

causing a reaction of anger, desire or thought

- After a provocative debate, both candidates waited to see the result of the vote.
- The television show was considered too provocative, and was cancelled.

exiled

forced out of a place or group, often for political reasons

- Napoleon was exiled to Elba after his defeat by the Allies.
- I lived for 20 years as an exile before I was allowed to return to my country.

litmus test

action that shows someone's real thoughts or opinions

- The by-election was widely seen as a litmus test for the national elections.
- His behaviour towards Annie is a litmus test of his attitudes to women in general.

Language challenge

A synonym of 'controversial' is:

- a) contentious
- b) agreeable
- c) unbiased

Answer

a) contentious