How many unsuccessful attempts did Mendoza make before becoming Champion of all England?

Boxing matches were very popular in England two hundred years ago.

In those days, boxers fought with bare fists for prize money.

Because of this, they were known as 'prizefighters'.

However, boxing was very crude, for there were no rules and a prizefighter could be seriously injured or even killed during a match.

One of the most colorful figures in boxing history was Daniel Mendoza, who was born in 1764.

The use of gloves was not introduced until 1860, when the Marquis of Queensberry drew up the first set of rules.

Though he was technically a prizefighter, Mendoza did much to change crude prizefighting into a sport, for he brought science to the game.

In his day, Mendoza enjoyed tremendous popularity.

He was adored by the rich and poor alike.

Mendoza rose to fame swiftly after a boxing match when he was only fourteen years old.

This attracted the attention of Richard Humphries, who was then the most eminent boxer in England.

He offered to train Mendoza, and his young pupil was quick to learn.

In fact, Mendoza soon became so successful that Humphries turned against him.

The two men quarrelled bitterly and it was clear that the argument could only be settled by a fight.

A match was held at Stilton, where both men fought for an hour.

The public bet a great deal of money on Mendoza, but he was defeated.

Mendoza met Humphries in the ring on a later occasion and he lost for a second time.

It was not until his third match in 1790 that he finally beat Humphries and became Champion of England.

Meanwhile, he founded a highly successful Academy and even Lord Byron became one of his pupils.

He earned enormous sums of money and was paid as much as £100 for a single appearance.

Despite this, he was so extravagant that he was always in debt.

After he was defeated by a boxer called Gentleman Jackson, he was quickly forgotten.

He was sent to prison for failing to pay his debts and died in poverty in 1836.

When the two men quarreled, they settled the argument by a fight.

This took place at Stilton.

It lasted an hour and Humphries won.

When they met again, Mendoza lost again, but in their third match in 1790, Mendoza finally beat Humphries to become Champion of England.

He founded a successful boxing Academy and earned a lot of money, but was so extravagant he was always in debt.

He was finally sent to prison and died in poverty in 1836.

The first fight between Humphries and his pupil Mendoza, after a quarrel, was held at Stilton and attracted a lot of attention.

At the time, Richard Humphries was the most eminent boxer in England and had many supporters.

But the young Mendoza had his supporters, too.

The atmosphere before the fight was electric.

Half of the people there made bets on Humphries, the other half bet on Mendoza.

When the two fighters entered the ring, there was a lot of shouting and cheering.

The referee called both fighters to the middle of the ring, spoke to them, and the fight started.

At first, both men were very wary.

After all, this was a fight between teacher and pupil, so they knew very well what the other could do-and they were fighting with bare fists.

Each of the boxers fought well for most of the match, but in the end, Humphries was too strong and too experienced for the young Mendoza.

He knocked him down once: Mendoza got up.

He knocked him down again, and although Mendoza tried to get up, he just couldn't.

The referee counted ten, and that was the end of the match.

When Mendoza got up, he was very angry, but eventually congratulated Humphries.

However, his defeat made him determined to go on and fight his teacher again so that he could finally become champion.

I went to the cinema three days ago.

I had been to see the same film two days before that.

We could not see the game very well.

We were able to see it when we stood on a bench.

He did not go abroad until he was twenty.

She was praised by the newspapers for her work with poor people.

He was arrested by the police.

When the actor came on stage, the whole audience rose to cheer him.

The girl raised her hand to ask a question.

We were pleased to hear your news.

I was sorry to learn that you had been ill.

It is clear to me that they are not interested in the subject.

When we set off, it was a beautiful, clear day.

When the road was clear, he crossed.

She always keeps the kitchen very clean.

I am afraid of flying.

He did the exercise without looking anything up in a dictionary.

I must apologize for sending you the wrong book.

They congratulated her on passing her exam.

Richard Humphries offered to train Mendoza because, for one so young, Mendoza had displayed an unusual grasp of the game.

At the match between Humphries and Mendoza at Stilton, the argument between the two men was settled in favor of Humphries.

Apart from the money he earned at matches, Mendoza greatly supplemented his income by teaching the art of boxing.

In those days, they called boxers 'prizefighters' because they fought with bare fists for prize money.

Mendoza did a great deal to change boxing into a sport.

He was so extravagant that he always owed people money.

Mendoza's rise to fame was noted by Richard Humphries.

Humphries soon became jealous of Mendoza's success.

Mendoza finally beat Humphries and became Champion of England.