

The
Difference In
Taekwon-do
and
Karate
by
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The Difference In Taekwon-do and Karate

Taekwon-do is a form of martial arts which was founded in Korea around one thousand- three hundred years ago. What Taekwon-do means in Korean is 'The way of the foot and the hand'. It is one of many forms of self defense, yet it is not the same as any other form of martial art in the world. Every martial art is unique in its own way, and Taekwon-do is too.

Many people think that Taekwon-do and Karate are generally the same form of martial art. Actually, they are very different. Karate uses mostly the upper body and focuses more on power more than technique, while taekwon-do uses mostly the lower body and focuses on both power and technique about the same. Also, Taekwon-do was created long before Karate, so it is more of a pure martial art, while Karate is more of a mixture of many martial arts. Even though both Taekwon-do and Karate were both founded in Korea, Taekwon-do has been and still is the main fom of martial arts in Korea.

Many people think that learning a martial art is quite simple. People think that if they know how to punch and kick and yell loud, they will have a black belt in no time. However, this is far from true. A person could have all these qualitys and might drop out of class after a month or so. Someone really devoted to a martial art must have a lot of respect, the will to learn and the will to take orders from higher ranks, he must be able to take criticism well, he must take the class seriously and give respect to higher and lower ranks, and much, much more. not having these qualities could result to many problems. A student might drop out of class, or begin to misuse the martial art. The student might begin to use the martial art at school or at parties because he lost control over the situation. Many people misuse martial arts like this, and find themselves in trouble with the law, or loosing friends, when martial arts wern't designed for this purpose at all. Martial arts were designed for the use of selfe defense. This was originally the only purpose. Now it

is being used for destructive reasons, which is wrong. I'm not saying that learning a martial art is bad, it can be very helpful, when it is not misused. If someone is very serious and excited about learning a martial art, he may accomplish very high standards.

There is a lot more to Taekwon-do, Karate, or any martial art, than just fighting. Martial arts also teaches a person how to prevent having to fight. I mean if there's no real reason to fight, why fight? A few simple but important pointers for anybody to prevent fighting are:

1. Try to walk in groups, and never alone.
2. Have good posture. It makes you look strong.
3. Don't walk outside after dark.

These pointers can help anybody just a little bit from being attacked. Everything I have just explained says that taekwon-do or any martial arts is a very effective sport, and this is very true. A martial art can change your life for ever, or it can do nothing for you, depending on just how interested and how serious you are about learning a martial art.

Something else that people are mistaken on is the movie world of martial arts. Many people believe that all actors/martial artists know Karate. This is very wrong in many cases. Actors such as Chuck Norris and Bruce Lee—who dies very young, knew Taekwon-do. However the newest actor/martial artist in the film-making business, Jean-Claude Van Damme know Karate which he learned in China as he was growing up. As I was doing this report, a little boy named Braiden asked me what form of martial arts The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles know. For a very long time this puzzled me, so for many weeks I watched the Turtles' series, and if the story told by the Turtles' master-Splinter, then the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles know Ninjitsu, the martial art learned to become a Ninja.

As I was preparing this report for you, I learned many things not only about Taekwon-do, but about martial arts in general. I hope you enjoyed my thesis. The end.