

'Could be the next big thing': how pickleball is courting a new generation of players

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: Pickleball is appealing more and more to different age groups. It's rapidly growing, and finding courts is one of the latest challenges.

Time: 60–90 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking

Language focus: Collocations: prepositions

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. Ask students if anyone has seen or played a game of pickleball. Then, have them test their knowledge by completing the activity.

Key:

All statements are true.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to complete the activity in pairs. Once they have completed it, ask them to compare their answer to other pairs'. Check answers with the class and elicit any other information students might have about the words.

Key:

1. *hodgepodge (or hotchpotch)*
2. *anecdotal*
3. *obstacle*
4. *dedicated*
5. *unveil*
6. *Diplomacy*
7. *cede*
8. *pitch*
9. *Commercial*
10. *utilise*
11. *Retirement*
12. *Accessibility*

- b. Ask students to complete the activity individually. Check answers with the class and elicit any other examples students might have of the words in use.

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>anecdotal</i> | 7. <i>ceded</i> |
| 2. <i>hodgepodge</i> | 8. <i>obstacles</i> |
| 3. <i>retirement</i> | 9. <i>pitch</i> |
| 4. <i>accessibility</i> | 10. <i>commercial</i> |
| 5. <i>dedicated</i> | 11. <i>diplomacy</i> |
| 6. <i>unveil</i> | 12. <i>utilise</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to read the text and highlight the key information. Then, have them answer the questions by referring to what they highlighted. Ask students to compare answers in small groups before checking with the whole class.

Key:

1. *Pickleball is a mix of ping pong, tennis, and badminton.*
2. *Pickleboat is a term that refers to rowers who didn't make the official teams and rowed together.*
3. *in Australia*
4. *the need for dedicated pickleball courts is the biggest obstacle*
5. *Courts are converted by taping down lines and stringing nets across existing tennis, netball, or basketball courts.*
6. *The two main issues are tennis players unwilling to cede courts, and residents who live close to courts who complain about the noise.*
7. *They agreed to integrate pickleball at existing tennis facilities where courts are under-utilised.*
8. *Its accessibility has made it more popular: it's easier on the body than tennis.*
9. *He started playing with his parents.*

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise in pairs or individually. You can ask them to try completing the activity using their previous knowledge and then scan the article to find the prepositions and highlight the phrases in the article.

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Key:

1. *to*
2. *for*
3. *in, with*
4. *to (also into)*
5. *of, at*
6. *as*
7. *among*

Have students practise their speeches in pairs again, following feedback before regrouping them into larger groups or asking them to present their ideas to the whole class.

- b. Ask students to work individually to complete the questions. Then, have them ask and answer the questions in different pairs.

Key:

1. *Compared to*
2. *need for*
3. *potential as*
4. *popularity among*

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to read and reflect on each statement and note down their ideas. Encourage them to support their opinions with examples. Then, put students in pairs or small groups and have them discuss the statements using their notes.

6. In your own words

- a. Give students time to prepare and make notes using the questions to guide them.

Once students have written their notes, ask them to practise their speech in pairs and give each other feedback. You could ask the class to help you develop criteria to give each other feedback. For example:

- a range of effective vocabulary
- a range of correct grammar
- arguments are persuasive
- detail
- fluency
- pronunciation