

## Topics: Sport by Adrian Tennant

**LEVEL:** Intermediate +  
**AGE:** Teenagers / Adults  
**TIME NEEDED:** 90 minutes + project  
**LANGUAGE FOCUS:** Phrasal verbs, understanding vocabulary in context, topic words

### LEAD-IN

Ask students to look at the pictures. Then put students in pairs and ask them to answer the question. Check the answers together.

**Key a** \_\_\_\_\_  
*A. volleyball / beach volleyball; B. rugby; C. baseball; D. golf*

Next, ask the pairs to match the words to the correct sports. Tell them that two words go with each sport and it is easiest to do this by process of elimination. Put the pairs in groups of four and ask them to compare their ideas together before checking as a class.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
*A. volleyball: block, spike; B. rugby: scrum, try; C. baseball: first base, strike; D. golf: bunker, putt*

### READING 1: HEADLINES

Ask students to read the headlines and discuss what they think happened in each of the situations in pairs. Elicit ideas from students as a whole class but don't confirm anything at this stage.

### READING 2: NEWS IN BRIEF

Ask students to read through the stories and match the headlines to the correct one. Tell them they don't need to understand every word (if you want you can give a short time limit, e.g. two minutes). Get students to check their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

**Key a** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. A two-horse race as rest fall at fences; 2. All washed up as beach not fit for game; 3. Hole in one! Well, not quite; 4. Trophy finally brought home; 5. Nine innings not enough*

Next, ask students to read the five comprehension questions and answer each one. Again, get pairs to check their answers together before checking as a class.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. two; 2. two (the heavy rain and the threat of a boycott); 3. He aimed at the wrong flag / hole.; 4. in the clubhouse; 5. We don't know exactly but it must have been a tie / both teams got the same number of runs.*

### WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

#### Focus 1: Understanding meaning

Do the first question as a whole class. Get students to read the question and try to find the answer. Elicit a few ideas, writing them up on the board and then tell them the correct answer. Check they understand why and explain if necessary.

Put students in pairs to answer the four remaining questions. Monitor and help where necessary before checking as a class.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. the punters (people who betted on the horses); 2. the World Beach Volleyball Championships; 3. the hole in one; 4. Little Vale Rugby Club; 5. the number of innings usually played in a game of baseball*

#### Focus 2: Language use

Ask students to look back at the texts and circle the phrasal verbs – there is one in each newspaper article. Then ask them to match the phrasal verbs to the definitions. Check the answers as a class.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. make off with (story 4); 2. work out (story 1); 3. come out on top (story 5); 4. take away (story 3); 5. put on (story 2)*

### WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Ask students to look back at the newspaper stories, from the Reading 2: News in brief exercise, and find words that match the definitions. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas as they look at the texts. If students are struggling, tell them that the words appear in the order of the newspaper stories.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. farce; 2. punter; 3. scheduled; 4. boycott; 5. rue(ing); 6. devastating; 7. confirmed; 8. recover; 9. scenario; 10. regulation*

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Next, ask students to work together and complete the sentences with the correct words. Explain that all the words are featured in the newspaper stories. Check the answers as a class.

### Key

1. competitors; 2. clubhouse; 3. innings; 4. trophy;  
5. officials; 6. tournaments / competitions

### LISTENING

Ask students to listen to a short radio news report. Play the report and ask students which of the newspaper stories, from the Reading 2: News in brief exercise, it is about. Ask students to read that newspaper story again and circle any differences they can remember between it and the radio report. Put students in pairs and ask them to discuss their answers together. Monitor and help where necessary. Play the recording again, if necessary, and check the answers as a class.

### Transcript:

Spectators and organizers got a shock at the recent Beach Volleyball World Championship when the Australian men's team all turned up to their quarter-final match against Japan wearing skirts!

The players were supporting their female counterparts who had earlier been thrown out of the competition for not wearing the regulation skirts. On a more serious note, the playing surface was absolutely perfect after complaints in the earlier rounds.

### Key

1. story 2  
2. The Australian men's team wore skirts / support from the men's team not mentioned; the Australian women were thrown out of the competition / threatened to boycott the competition; the playing surface was perfect / heavy rain made conditions far from perfect

### SPEAKING

Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions together.

Afterwards, ask a few groups to report back on their discussion. You might want to open this out to the whole class.

### PROJECT

Ask students to carry out the project for homework and follow it up in the next lesson. Get students to give / make presentations. These could be verbal or displayed as posters.

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LEAD-IN

a. Look at these pictures. What does each one show?

A.



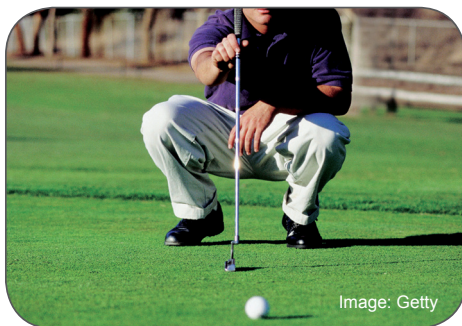
B.



C.



D.



b. Now match the words in the box to the pictures.

- |       |        |            |      |
|-------|--------|------------|------|
| block | bunker | first base | putt |
| scrum | spike  | strike     | try  |

READING 1: HEADLINES

Read the headlines. What do you think happened in each of the situations?

NINE INNINGS NOT ENOUGH

TROPHY FINALLY BROUGHT HOME

ALL WASHED UP AS BEACH NOT FIT FOR GAME

A TWO-HORSE RACE AS REST FALL AT FENCES

HOLE IN ONE! WELL, NOT QUITE

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### READING 2: NEWS IN BRIEF

a. Read the newspaper stories below and match the headlines from the previous exercise to the correct story.

1.

This year's Grand National race at Aintree was a complete farce as all but two horses fell during the race. Nothing like this has ever happened before and race officials are still trying to work out what went wrong. However, punters are happy – especially those who backed the winning horse, Gold Mine, which was a 100/1 outsider.

2.

Organizers of this year's World Beach Volleyball Championships are facing a race to put on the event. Heavy rain has meant that conditions on the beach are far from perfect. Extra sand has been shipped in in an attempt to get the event started as scheduled. This is the second setback in a few months, after female competitors threatened to boycott the event if forced to wear skirts.

3.

Anders Stevenson is rueing a missed opportunity. He thought he'd got the perfect hole in one at a golf tournament in Florida, only to learn that he'd actually been aiming at the wrong flag. After learning about the mistake, he said, "I've never had a hole in one before, and to have it taken away like that is devastating. Maybe next time I can aim at the right place!"

4.

Two years ago, Little Vale Rugby Club won their first and only trophy. Unfortunately, when they went to collect their prize, they discovered that thieves had made off with it after breaking into the clubhouse. However, last night the police confirmed that the trophy had been recovered and can now be presented almost 23 months after the team first won it.

5.

Followers of baseball will be used to the scenario of an extra innings to find a winner when a game is tied after the regulation nine. However, nobody expects a game to go to twenty-four before a winner is declared, but that's exactly what happened in a game between San Diego and Orange County. It wasn't until the bottom of the twenty-fourth innings that San Diego scored a home run to come out on top.

b. Read the texts again and answer these questions.

1. How many horses finished the race at Aintree?
2. How many problems have the organizers of the World Beach Volleyball Championships faced?
3. Why didn't the golfer's shot count as a hole in one?
4. Where was the trophy being kept when it was stolen?
5. What was the score at the end of nine innings in the baseball game between San Diego and Orange County?



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### WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

#### Focus 1: Understanding meaning

Answer these questions.

1. In story 1, what does the word *those* refer to in this sentence? ... *especially those who backed the winning horse* ...
2. In story 2, what is *the event* being referred to in the final sentence?
3. In story 3, what does the word *it* refer to in this sentence? ... *and to have it taken away like that is devastating*.
4. In story 4, the word *they* is used twice in this sentence: *when they went to collect their prize, they discovered that* ... In both instances, what does it refer to?
5. In story 5, what does the word *nine* refer to in this sentence? ... *when a game is tied after the regulation nine*.

#### Focus 2: Language use

A phrasal verb is used in each newspaper article. Look back at the texts and circle the phrasal verbs. Then match each one to the correct definition below.

1. to escape with something, especially something you have stolen
2. to understand something
3. to be the best or the winner
4. to remove something
5. to organize an event, show, performance, etc.

### WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

#### Focus 1: Meaning

Find words and phrases in the newspaper stories that match the definitions below.

1. a situation or event that is silly because it is very badly organized, unsuccessful or unfair
2. someone who bets on the result of a sporting event
3. planned to happen at a particular time or on a particular day
4. to not take part in an event as a protest
5. to be sorry about something and wish that it had not happened
6. very shocking or upsetting
7. to say that something is definitely true because it is known about
8. to get something again that you lost or that someone stole from you
9. a situation that could possibly happen
10. according to rules or customs

#### Focus 2: Topic-related words

Complete these sentences with words from the newspaper stories.

1. Graham entered the race as one of the leading \_\_\_\_\_.
2. After her round of 63, nine below par, Michelle must wait in the \_\_\_\_\_ to see if she has won.
3. In rounders, each team usually has two \_\_\_\_\_ in which to score their runs.
4. "It was so funny! He lifted the \_\_\_\_\_ he had won above his head and then the top fell off!"
5. It's important that both teams respect the match \_\_\_\_\_ as they are the ones who have to make important decisions during a game.
6. She's entered three \_\_\_\_\_ this year and won them all.

### LISTENING

Listen to the radio news report and answer the questions below.

1. Which newspaper story is about the same topic?
2. What are the differences between the newspaper story and the radio news report?

### SPEAKING

Discuss these questions in groups.

1. What's your favourite sport to watch? Why?
2. What's your favourite sport to play? Why?
3. What equipment do you need to play your favourite sport?
4. What are the rules of the sport?
5. If you could try any sport, what would it be and why would you like to try it?

### PROJECT

Choose one of the sports from the box below and carry out some internet research. Try and find out as much as you can about it so you can give a presentation to your classmates.

rugby	golf	volleyball	baseball
lacrosse	water polo	skydiving	surfing