

## Topics: Sport by Adrian Tennant

**LEVEL:** Pre-intermediate  
**AGE:** Teenagers / Adults  
**TIME NEEDED:** 90 minutes + project  
**LANGUAGE FOCUS:** Past forms, understanding vocabulary in context, topic words

### LEAD-IN

Ask students to look at the pictures and match the sports in the box to the correct picture. Put students in pairs and get them to compare their answers together before checking as a class.

**Key a** \_\_\_\_\_  
*A. 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 the easiest way to do this is by a process of elimination. Put the pairs in groups of four and ask them to compare their ideas together before checking as a class. At this stage, you could also see if the students know anything else about the other three sports mentioned in this section.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
*A. volleyball: block, spike; B. rugby: scrum, try; C. baseball: first base, strike; D. golf: tee, 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 (you could 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. Only two horses finish race; 2. Rain not the only problem for competition; 3 Hole in one doesn't count; 4. Stolen trophy found; 5. Extra innings as teams tied*

Next, ask students to read the five comprehension questions and decide if each one is true (T) or false (F). Again, get pairs to check their answers together before checking as a class.

**Key b** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F*

### WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Ask the students to look at the fifteen verbs and write the past form for each one. Tell them NOT to look back at the newspaper articles yet. Ask them to check their answers in pairs, then get them to look back at the articles and check their answers.

You could do this in groups of three with each person looking at five of the verbs and then checking together.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. allowed; 2. broke into; 3. confirmed; 4. found; 5. finished; 6. forced; 7. got; 8. went; 9. had; 10. presented; 11. put; 12. recovered; 13. stole; 14. thought; 15. won*

### WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

#### Focus 1: Meaning

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.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. official; 2. odds; 3. disastrous; 4. boycott; 5. allow; 6. straight; 7. display; 8. recover; 9. recent; 10. regulation*

#### Focus 2: Topic-related words

Ask students to work together and complete the sentences by choosing the correct word. Check the answers as a class.

**Key** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1. competitors; 2. clubhouse; 3. innings; 4. officials; 5. tournaments*

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### 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:

Officials at this year's World Beach Volleyball Championships are very happy after a perfect start to the competition. Last year's competition was a disaster after heavy rain led to flooding. There was also no repeat of last year's boycott when teams in the men's competition were unhappy with the amount of prize money.

#### Key

1. story 2
2. *This year's event has got off to a perfect start / disastrous start; flooding last year / no mention of flooding; men's teams / women's teams; boycott last year / this year; boycott about prize money / wearing skirts*

### 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. Match the sports in the box to the correct picture. Be careful! There are three extra sports.

- |                   |           |          |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| American football | badminton | baseball |
| golf              | handball  | rugby    |
| volleyball        |           |          |

A.



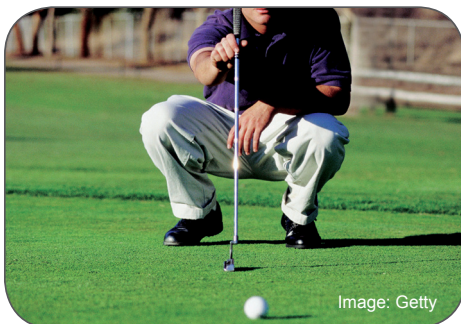
B.



C.



D.



b. Now match the words in the box to the pictures. Use a dictionary to help you.

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

READING 1: HEADLINES

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

EXTRA INNINGS  
AS TEAMS TIED

STOLEN TROPHY FOUND

Rain not the only problem  
for competition

ONLY TWO HORSES  
FINISH RACE

HOLE IN ONE  
DOESN'T COUNT

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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.

Only two horses finished this year's Grand National race at Aintree as all the others fell during the race. This was the first time something like this has happened in over 100 years and race officials are still trying to work out what went wrong. However, those who put money on the horse that won are very happy. Gold Mine won at odds of 100/1.

2.

This year's World Beach Volleyball Championships have got off to a disastrous start. First a number of the women's teams threatened to boycott the event if they were forced to wear skirts. Then there was heavy rain and conditions on the beach were very bad for the early rounds of the competition.

3.

Golfer Anders Stevenson was feeling a bit upset after the hole in one he thought he got at the 17th wasn't allowed. He hit the ball from the tee and it went straight into the hole but, unfortunately, it wasn't the right one. After learning about the mistake he said, "I've never had a hole in one before so when I found out I wasn't too happy".

4.

Two years ago, Little Vale Rugby Club won their first ever trophy. Unfortunately, before they were presented with it, thieves broke into the clubhouse where the trophy was on display and stole it. However, last night the police confirmed that the trophy had been recovered and would be presented to the team.

5.

In a recent baseball game between San Diego and Orange County, the two teams finished the regulation nine innings with their scores tied. The two teams then batted for fifteen more innings before San Diego were able to score a winning run. The record books show that this was the longest league game ever – and there could be more to come, as the two teams meet again next week!

b. Read the texts again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. At the start of the race at Aintree, there were only two horses.
2. Some of the women's volleyball teams didn't want to wear skirts to play.
3. Anders Stevenson knew he had made a mistake as soon as he hit the ball.
4. There was only one trophy on display when thieves broke into the clubhouse.
5. San Diego and Orange County have to meet again to see who can win the game.

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### WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

What are the past forms of these words?

1. allow \_\_\_\_\_
2. break into \_\_\_\_\_
3. confirm \_\_\_\_\_
4. find \_\_\_\_\_
5. finish \_\_\_\_\_
6. force \_\_\_\_\_
7. get \_\_\_\_\_
8. go \_\_\_\_\_
9. have \_\_\_\_\_
10. present \_\_\_\_\_
11. put \_\_\_\_\_
12. recover \_\_\_\_\_
13. steal \_\_\_\_\_
14. think \_\_\_\_\_
15. win \_\_\_\_\_

Look back at the newspaper articles and check your answers.

### WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

#### Focus 1: Meaning

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

1. someone with an important position in an event (story 1)
2. the chances that are used for calculating how much money you will get if the person or thing you bet on wins a race or competition (story 1)
3. very bad, harmful or unsuccessful (story 2)
4. to protest about something by not taking part in an event (story 2)
5. to give someone permission to do something (story 3)
6. directly and immediately (story 3)
7. to put something in a place so that people can see it (story 4)
8. to get something back that has been lost or stolen (story 4)
9. happening or starting a short time ago (story 5)
10. an official rule that controls the way things are done (story 5)

#### Focus 2: Topic-related words

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Graham entered the race as one of the leading *competitors / officials*.
2. After her round of 63, nine below par, Michelle must wait in the *clubhouse / tournament* to see if she has won.
3. In the game of rounders, each team usually has two *halves / innings* in which to score their runs.
4. It's important that both teams respect the match *competitors / officials* as they are the ones who have to make important decisions during a game.
5. She's entered three *clubhouses / tournaments* 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 research using the internet. Try and find out as much as you can about it so you can give a presentation to your classmates.

rugby	golf	volleyball	baseball
water polo	surfing	sumo wrestling	