

4 Sports

PREVIEW

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Additional vocabulary

fan: a person who is very much interested in a sports team or entertainer
pro: short for *professional*; a person who receives money for playing a sport
victor: the winner of a competition
worth: deserving of; valued at

Additional activity

Bring in some baseball cards (or other types of sports cards or stickers). Pass them around, and ask students if they've heard of the players on the cards. Find out if anyone in the class has ever collected sports cards. Have the students discuss why people like to collect and trade sports cards, and why someone would pay a lot of money for a rare card. Assign a student to search the Internet to find out how much people are willing to pay for a rare sports card.

READING 1

Pages 26-27

Do pro athletes make too much money?

This reading focuses on whether professional athletes deserve so much money.

Additional vocabulary

event: a set of races or competitions
fraction: a very small part or amount of something
rate: an amount or level of payment
reflect: show, express, or be a sign of something
start out: begin one's career
willing: ready or eager to do something

Reading skill

Distinguishing arguments

Students sometimes confuse their own ideas with those presented in a text. To help them understand the difference between their own ideas and those of the writer, ask them to underline the sentences in the text that contain arguments.

STRATEGY: Encourage students to underline the sentences in the text that contain arguments. Then, if they make a mistake, you can ask them to tell you what they underlined in the text. They should realize they are wrong when they are unable to point to a sentence that contains their incorrect answer.

ANSWERS

Reading

1. a basketball player
2. a baseball player
3. a hockey player
4. a football player
5. the president of the United States
6. a firefighter
7. a teacher
8. a new police officer

After you read

A

3. The article begins with facts. Then it explains the opinions of different groups of people.

B

1. b (a. Top athletes believe they are worth a lot of money because they make millions of dollars for team owners. c. Some also say that athletes are paid fairly when compared with others in the entertainment industry. It is not unusual for movie stars to make between \$15 million and \$20 million per movie. d. Sports fans are willing to pay increasingly high ticket prices and watch TV sports events in large numbers.)
2. a, d (b. Police officers, firefighters, and doctors save lives — sometimes while risking their own — for a fraction of what sports stars make. c. People who think pro athletes are overpaid say other, more important professions are more worthy.)

Cultural notes

Sports agents In the United States, professional athletes and others in the entertainment industry often hire agents to represent them in contract negotiations. It is a sports agent's job to get the best deal possible for an athlete (for example, salary, benefits, and length of contract). Agents are usually paid a percentage of the contract amount.

American football versus soccer What is known as football in most countries is called soccer in North America. In the United States, football is an entirely different game. Two teams of eleven players each move an oval ball along the field by running with it or throwing it. Points are scored by moving the ball across the line at the end of the field or by kicking it between two posts.

Extreme sports

This reading explains the reasons for the increasing popularity of extreme sports.

Additional vocabulary

absence: lack of existence

affluence: the condition of having a lot of money or possessions

courage: the ability to control fear and deal with something dangerous, difficult, or unpleasant

display: show

ease: freedom from difficulty, effort, or pain

fit: in good physical condition, especially as a result of exercise

going rate: the amount that people are willing to pay for something at a particular time

have to do with: be related to

high-tech: short for *high technology*; using the most advanced machines and methods

relative: compared with something else

take part: participate

take up: begin to do something, especially a hobby or sport

Reading skill

Making inferences

Remind students to be careful when making inferences. A good example is exercise B, item 3: *People who have difficult lives are not interested in extreme sports.* In this text, the writer states that one of the reasons for the popularity of extreme sports is that people today live lives of “relative ease.” Based on that information, it’s reasonable to infer that people whose lives are *not difficult* might do extreme sports to add excitement to their lives. However, it’s not valid to conclude that all people who have *difficult* lives *do not* take part in extreme sports.

ANSWERS

Reading

1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11

After you read

A

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. don't fear | 4. high |
| 2. you are born with | 5. different from |
| 3. an exciting | 6. more |

B

1, 5, 6

(Statement 2 might be true, but it is just as probable that high-tech equipment simply makes extreme sports more comfortable. Statement 3 makes an assumption that may or may not be true. Statement 4 is incorrect because although young people do extreme sports, so do many older people.)

Cultural note

Sports psychology There are psychologists who specialize in very specific types of problems. Sports psychology is one specialization that is becoming popular. Some famous athletes who are having performance problems visit sports psychologists to get help. They hope that their performance will improve as a result.

READING 3

Pages 30-31

Frequently asked questions about the ancient Olympic Games

This reading presents information about the early Olympic Games.

Additional vocabulary

chariot: a two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse, used in ancient times

equestrian: connected with horseback riding

fine: make someone pay money as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law

free-born: not a slave

gym: short for *gymnasium*; a large room designed and equipped for doing sports, physical training, and exercise

rivalries: serious and often continuing competitions

set up: place something in an upright position

wrestling: a sport in which two competitors try to force each other to the ground

Reading skill

Understanding meaning from related forms

This type of exercise offers an opportunity to teach some basic word-form patterns. One pattern that appears in this exercise is shown below. Write this table on the board, and ask students to supply the missing information. All of the words appear in this unit. Explain that this rule will not work for all adjectives.

Word formation pattern	Rule	Example adjective	Example noun
Adjective into noun	add <i>-ness</i> to the end of some common adjectives to form nouns	fair	fairness
		bold	?
		fit	?
		courageous	?
		?	self-centeredness
		competitive	?
		rebellious	?

ANSWERS

Reading

1. Any free-born male Greek in the world could compete.
2. All of the judges came from Elis, the local region that included Olympia.
3. The Olympic winners received a crown made from olive leaves, and they could have a statue of themselves set up in Olympia.
4. The penalty for cheating was a fine.
5. Unmarried women could attend the Games, but married women could not. Women were not allowed to compete in the Games, but they could enter equestrian events as the owner of a chariot team or an individual horse.

After you read

A

1. athletic, d
2. division, f
3. strength, e
4. fame, b
5. expense, c
6. fairness, a

B

1. Religion and politics were part of the ancient Olympics.
2. Women did not compete in the ancient Olympics.
3. Married women were forbidden to attend the ancient Olympics, but unmarried women were allowed to attend.
4. Winners in the ancient Olympics received olive crowns as prizes.
5. Judges in the ancient Olympics came from the local region of Elis.
6. Anyone who cheated in the ancient Olympics had to pay a fine.

WRAP-UP

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Additional vocabulary

club: a long, thin stick used to hit a golf ball

court: a rectangular area used for playing sports such as tennis

homerun: in baseball, when a player hits the ball and scores, usually by hitting the ball a long way

inning: one of nine periods of play in a baseball game

lane: a narrow section in a running track marked to keep the competitors apart

official: a person who is responsible for determining the winner in certain sports events

racket: an object consisting of a net fixed tightly to an oval frame with a long handle, used in sports such as tennis for hitting a ball

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referee: a person who controls a game and makes sure the rules are followed

swing: cause something to move from one side to the other

tee: the place where you begin to hit a golf ball, or the small stick that holds the ball up so that you can hit it easily

track: the sport of competitive running or a wide circular path used for this sport

umpire: a person who controls a game and makes sure that the rules are followed

ANSWERS

A

1. baseball
2. basketball
3. golf
4. soccer (football in all countries except the United States)
5. tennis
6. track

B

1. ballpark, court, course, field, track
2. bat, basket, club, ball, tee, racket, net, running shoes
3. umpire, referee, official
4. homerun, point, basket, goal
5. catch, shoot, swing, kick, run
6. inning, game, hole, match, race

Additional activity

Bring in the sports section of an English-language newspaper before students complete the *Sports and you* activity. Ask students to compare sports news with that in their countries. Have them work in small groups to come up with a list of similarities and differences.