

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Level: Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

Age: Teenagers / Young adults

Duration: Approx. 60 minutes

Aims: In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Brazilian football and legendary player Pelé;
2. learn a range of vocabulary related to football;
3. practise extensive and intensive listening and a range of listening sub-skills, including listening for specific information and gist;
4. complete a memory recall gap-fill task to consolidate the story and new language;
5. talk about a sporting hero.

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student; Track 1 (introduction) and Track 2 (remaining audio) - all downloaded from onestopenglish

Summary: Journey forwards in time with time-travelling teenager Amber Adams as she heads to the opening ceremony of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil to meet legendary football player Pelé.

Warmer

Aim: to introduce students to the character of Amber and the secret watch

1. Play Track 1 (introduction). At this stage, don't worry about pre-teaching vocabulary; encourage your students to simply listen for enjoyment. Stress that they don't need to write anything down.

2. After listening to the introduction, discuss the following questions with the whole class:

- *Who is Amber Adams?*
- *Why does she go forwards in time?*

Reading task

Aims: to give students a little background about the history of football in Brazil; to engage them with the subject of famous Brazilian players and Pelé.

Write *football* and *soccer* on the board. Elicit the difference (one is British English and the other American English).

Direct your students to the true or false questions and, in pairs, ask them to decide which sentences they think are correct. Ask them to do this before they read the excerpt taken from *Brazil – A Macmillan Cultural Reader*

by Alberta White and Susan Holden. Ask students to correct the sentences they think are false, if they can. When students have finished, they can check their answers in the text. Did they guess right?

Key: 1. T; 2. F. *Charles Miller brought football to Brazil after learning to play football in England;* 3. T; 4. F. *It was by the 1920s;* 5. T; 6. T

Finally, direct students to the discussion questions below the excerpt. Students should answer the questions in pairs to see how much they know about Pelé and the other players mentioned in the text. Then conduct a feedback session with the whole class.

Vocabulary task

Aim: to pre-teach vocabulary related to football from the listening passage

Direct students to the vocabulary task and ask them to reorganize the words in bold by matching each word to the correct sentence. Be prepared to explain any vocabulary that students may not be familiar with.

Key: 1. *ceremony;* 2. *sporting hero;* 3. *hat trick;* 4. *goalscorer;* 5. *club;* 6. *match;* 7. *stadium;* 8. *season;* 9. *pitch;* 10. *chanting*

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Listening task

Aim: to practise listening for gist

1. Direct students to the listening task on the worksheet and explain that they need to listen for the answers to the questions.
2. Play Track 2 (remaining audio).

Key: 1. to his home town and to the World Cup final in 1958; 2. He realizes that he misses playing.

Memory task

Aim: to allow students to fully consolidate what they have heard

Direct students to Amber's homework assignment about Pelé. Put students into pairs and ask them to work together to fill in the gaps in the text with the correct figures taken from the box.

Key:

Pelé was a footballing legend and, according to my Grandad, he was simply the best player ever and his record says it all! Not only was he a brilliant player, he was a great guy too and I should know!

*At the age of **17** he became the youngest ever player to score in a World Cup final in **1958**. He has **3** World-Cup-winner medals and in his career he amazingly scored a total of **1281** goals. He also scored **5** goals in a game on six occasions, **4** goals 30 times and **92** hat tricks.*

*Pelé was born to play football and he promised his Dad that he would help Brazil win the World Cup after they lost the final in **1950** against Uruguay **2 - 1**. It was the first time Pelé saw his father cry and Pelé was only **9** years old. His promise to his father came true just **8** years later, when Pelé was **17**!*

*Of all his goals, his favourite was the **1000**th goal he scored, when he played for Santos. He won a penalty against Vasco da Gama at the famous Maracanã stadium. When he scored the goal, fans from both teams ran onto the pitch and picked up Pelé on their shoulders. It shows just how popular Pelé was!*

Note: After your students have completed the task, go through the answers and consider modelling and drilling the pronunciation of each number and / or date.

Speaking task – My sporting hero

Aim: to practise preparing and delivering an extended piece of speaking

Place students in small groups and give each group ten minutes to make notes to prepare for their mini-presentations. Go round the class and help with vocabulary. Encourage students to consider their pace, pronunciation and intonation. Tell each student to think of at least one question to ask if they are listening.

Extension activity

For homework or in class and using Amber's article as a model, ask students to write a short magazine article or blog about their favourite sporting hero. The following link could be a good starting point for your students to research sporting heroes: <http://www.sporting-heroes.net>

To find out more about Brazil with your students why not explore Macmillan's Cultural Reader, *Brazil*: <http://www.macmillanreaders.com/macmillan-cultural-readers>

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Reading task

Look at the statements below and, in pairs, decide whether you think they are true or false. Correct the sentences you think are false.

1. Brazilians sometimes call themselves 'the country of soccer'.
2. Charles Miller brought football to Brazil after learning to play football in Germany.
3. He returned to Brazil in 1894.
4. By the 1900s, football had spread across Brazil.
5. Boys from poor families played football on the beach and in the street.
6. The Brazilian national team played its first game in 1914.

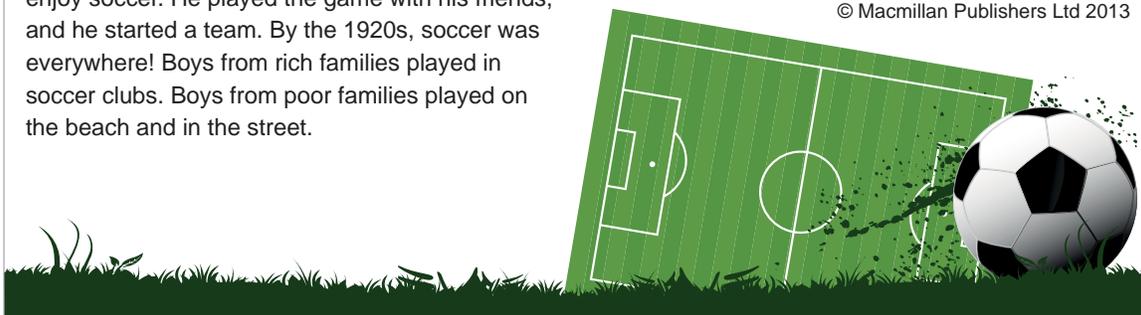
To check your answers, read the text below.

Soccer is the most popular sport in Brazil. Brazilians sometimes call themselves 'o pais do futebol' which means 'the country of soccer.' But how did it begin? In 1884, a boy from São Paulo was sent to school in England. His name was Charles Miller. While he was in England, he learned to play soccer.

In 1894, he went back to Brazil, and he took some soccer balls with him. He wanted everyone to enjoy soccer. He played the game with his friends, and he started a team. By the 1920s, soccer was everywhere! Boys from rich families played in soccer clubs. Boys from poor families played on the beach and in the street.

The Brazilian team played its first game in 1914. Now, Brazilian players are world famous. Everyone knows Pelé but there are many other talented players. These include Ronaldinho, Zico, Tostão, Dunga, Rivaldo, Garincha, Taffarel, Ronaldo, Sócrates, Romário, Cafu and Bebeto. Nearly six hundred Brazilians play for clubs in Europe.

Extract from *Brazil*
(Macmillan Cultural Readers, American English)
by Susan Holden and Alberta White
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In pairs, look at the list of famous Brazilian players at the end of the text and discuss the questions below.

Do you recognize any of the names?

Do you know anything about these players?

What do you know about Pelé?

Who is the most famous football player from your country?

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Vocabulary task

Read the sentences below. In each sentence there is a word in bold which is incorrect. Reorganize the words to make the sentences correct.

1. The opening **sporting hero** to the World Cup was wonderful, the costumes and music were fantastic!
2. My **stadium** has to be Roger Federer. I've never seen a better tennis player in my life!
3. If you score a **ceremony** you can normally keep the football after the game.
4. Lionel Messi was the top **club** last year in La Liga in Spain.
5. My favourite football **season** in Brazil is Santos!
6. It was an amazing **pitch** but unfortunately, in the end, we lost.
7. Last year I went to Barcelona to visit the Nou Camp. What a gigantic **goalscorer**!
8. Last **chanting** we were much stronger. We shouldn't have sold Gareth Bale to Real Madrid.
9. While we were watching the match a crazy fan ran on the **hat trick**. Luckily, the police managed to stop him hitting a player!
10. It must be an amazing feeling to score a goal for your country with everyone cheering and **match** your name!

Listening task

You are now going to listen to Amber as she goes to Brazil to find Pelé. As you listen, answer the questions below.

1. To which two places does Amber take Pelé?
2. What does Pelé realize in the second place she takes him?

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Memory task

Working in pairs, see what you can remember from the listening by filling in the gaps of Amber's homework below with the figures in the box.

2 3 1958 17 1000 92 1281 8 1950 9 4 5 17

Pelé was a footballing legend and, according to my Grandad, he was simply the best player ever and his record says it all! Not only was he a brilliant player, he was a great guy too and I should know!

At the age of ____ he became the youngest ever player to score in a World Cup final in _____. He has ____ World-Cup-winner medals and in his career he amazingly scored a total of ____ goals. He also scored ____ goals in a game on six occasions, ____ goals 30 times and ____ hat tricks.

Pelé was born to play football and he promised his Dad that he would help Brazil win the World Cup after they lost the final in ____ against Uruguay ____ - 1. It was the first time Pelé saw his father cry and Pelé was only ____ years old. His promise to his father came true just ____ years later, when Pelé was ____!

Of all his goals, his favourite was the ____th goal he scored, when he played for Santos. He won a penalty against Vasco da Gama at the famous Maracanã stadium. When he scored the goal, fans from both teams ran onto the pitch and picked up Pelé on their shoulders. It shows just how popular Pelé was!

Speaking task – My sporting hero

Read the questions below. Write notes in the space provided and prepare a short presentation on your sporting hero for the rest of the class.

What is the name of your sporting hero?

Which sport are they famous for?

Do they still play today or are they retired?

What are his or her achievements?

What do you know about their youth and early career?

What sporting moment are they most famous for?

Why do you admire about them?

What would you ask them if you could meet them in person?

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Commentator: And as Pelé steps up to take the penalty, will he score his 1000th goal?

Amber: Hi! I'm Amber, Amber Adams! Now keep this to yourself but I've got something amazing to show you! OK, it's a watch but it's not just any old watch – listen to what happens when I touch it! I can use it to travel through time to anywhere I want to go! So, what do you reckon? Are you ready to come on an adventure?

Amber: I don't know!

Grandad: What's wrong Amber?

Amber: Oh, it's my homework Grandad. I'm supposed to write about a famous sporting hero but I'm not sure who to do it on.

Grandad: How about a footballer?

Amber: A Footballer? From what I've seen on the news, I wouldn't really call them heroes...

Grandad: What about Pelé? He's a real hero. The best footballer of all time! Watching him play was like watching a great artist at work!

Amber: Pelé? Yeah, OK, why not? And I know exactly where to find him ...

Amber: It's 2014 and here we are at the opening ceremony of the Brazilian World Cup! We're in the Maracanã Stadium, the atmosphere is electric ... and I'm pretty sure that's Pelé just over there! *[Shouting]* Pelé! Oi, Pelé!

Pelé: Yes?

Amber: Would you mind signing my watch?

Pelé: Of course, what's your name?

Pelé: Wha ... What's happening? Where are we? Hang on, I know this place. This is the town where I grew up! How did we get here?

Amber: Listen Pelé, there's nothing to worry about and it's perfectly safe. My name's Amber and I'm a time traveller and if it's OK, I'd really like to quickly interview you? You see I'm writing an article on a sporting hero for my school homework.

Pelé: School homework? Are you crazy?

Amber: No, no, no, no, no. I mean ... well ... yes, a little bit, but I'm not like crazy crazy.

Pelé: But I am part of the opening ceremony to the World Cup – I need to be on the pitch in a couple of minutes!

Amber: Don't worry, I can take you back to exactly the same time and place where we met and ...

Track 1

Track 2

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Pelé: Wait a minute! Over there – I think that’s ... Yes! It’s me when I was just a boy – playing football! I can’t believe it! Look – we used to use stuffed socks to practise with because we were too poor to buy a real football.

Amber: That’s amazing! OK, can I ask you some questions now? It won’t take long and I promise to take you straight back to the World Cup.

Pelé: This is ... crazy, but OK. Go ahead Amber.

Amber: Thank you! Hang on, let me get my pen and paper out.

Amber: OK, question 1: why do people say that you are the best player ever?

Pelé: Am I the best player ever?

Amber: My Grandad says you are and he’s right about most things.

Pelé: Well, let’s see. When I was 17, I was the youngest ever scorer in a World Cup final in Sweden in 1958. I have three World Cup winner’s medals and I scored 1281 goals in 1363 matches. I scored five goals in a game on six occasions, four goals 30 times and 92 hat tricks. I was also loyal – for most of my career I played for one club in Brazil called Santos. These days it feels like players change clubs every season!

Amber: Is that why you didn’t play for a European club?

Pelé: Quite simply – I love Santos. So much so, that when I signed the contract for my final season, I gave all of my salary to a children’s charity. When I was a boy we didn’t want to be rich and famous, we just wanted to play the beautiful game!

Amber: So did you always want to be a footballer?

Pelé: I was born to play football, just like Beethoven was born to write music and Michelangelo was born to paint!

Amber: Who inspired you to become a footballer?

Pelé: My father did. He taught me to play and to truly love the game. Before we had a television we used to listen to all the matches on the radio.

Pelé: I remember the 1950 Brazilian World Cup final like it was yesterday. We played Uruguay in the final and ... we lost 2-1. It was the first time I saw my father cry. I was only nine years old but at that moment I promised my father that I would one day help Brazil to win a World Cup. Eight years later, when I was 17 years old, I’m very glad to say that I did.

Amber: Wow, that’s incredible! Hey, let’s go there! Here, touch my watch.

Pelé: I cannot believe it! We are actually in the stadium. Look, there I am – watch Amber, I am about to score the winning goal!

Brazil: The Beautiful Game

Pelé: Amber, thank you! Being here, I realize how much I miss being on the pitch. I miss the World Cup and scoring for my country.

Amber: So was that your favourite goal ever?

Pelé: One of my favourites, yes, but if I had to choose one; it would be the 1,000th goal I ever scored. I was playing for my club Santos against Vasco da Gama in the Maracanã stadium, where, in fact, we just met! It was filled with 200,000 people who were chanting my name to score. My legs were actually shaking as I stepped up to take the penalty, but I scored the goal! I remember fans from both teams lifting me up and carrying me on their shoulders! It was a very special moment.

Amber: Thank you so much for answering my questions Pelé, come on I'll take you back now. Touch my watch.

Announcer: So please give a warm welcome to: PELÉ!

Amber: Goodbye Pelé, it's so nice to have met you, and listen! The crowd still loves you!

Pelé: Amber, before you go can I ask you a question?

Amber: Of course you can.

Pelé: If you have been to the future, then tell me – who wins the World Cup this year?

Amber: England! We beat Brazil four nil in the final!

Pelé: Seriously? England? Come on

Amber: Goodbye!
