







## Topics: Sport by Adrian Tennant

### 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?

## Topics: Sport by Adrian Tennant

### 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