

WORDS
IN THE
NEWS

Teacher's pack



BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH



Words in the News

England win the Ashes – 14 September 2005

(story link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/09/050914_050914_ashes.shtml)

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Words in the News – England win the Ashes – Intermediate Reading Skills
Core materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork								
P R E R E A D I N G T E X T		5	Generate interest about today's topic by asking students what words or expressions they know about cricket (or other sport, if they're not familiar with cricket) Write their suggestions on the board. (Expected responses: runs, bat, wickets, fans, spectators, umpire, game etc.)	For example: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>runs</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>bat</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>wickets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>fans</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	runs		bat		wickets		fans	
	runs											
bat												
wickets												
fans												
	Pre-teach essential vocabulary	10	Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below). You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down this lesson plan. Have students working in small groups together and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge. When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they were not sure of. If not, check their answers and give them help with any words they aren't sure of. Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you.									



Words in the News – England win the Ashes – Intermediate Reading Skills
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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
			<p>a close and enthralling finish a tight and exciting end</p> <p>the grounds have been packed lots of people have watched the matches at the stadium</p> <p>the result is in the balance it's unclear which team will win</p> <p>every available vantage point was occupied all good viewing spots were taken</p> <p>spectators perched precariously people watched the game from quite dangerous places</p> <p>to hold the advantage to be in a stronger position</p> <p>brutal innings very strong batting performance in a cricket match</p> <p>a century one hundred runs</p> <p>to swing the game to a position where England couldn't lose to change the balance of the game so that England would definitely win</p>	

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	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
			to underline the improvement to emphasise the advances	
	Written record	5 - 10	Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate. Give students some time to copy your boardwork into their notebooks.	a close and enthr<u>all</u>ing finish the grounds have been packed
W H I L E R E A D I N G T E X T	Set skimming question. Students read text the first time	2 - 3	Tell the students they are going to read a text about a famous sports competition, the Ashes. Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question on the board: How many of our words and phrases on the board are mentioned in the text? It's not important that the students predict every cricketing term that's mentioned in the text (it's unlikely that they could). The point of this task is to get them interested in the text by predicting what they are going to read about and to get them to skim the whole text.	the <u>re</u>sult is in the <u>ba</u>lance every <u>av</u>ailable <u>va</u>ntage point was <u>oc</u>cupied spec<u>t</u>ators <u>pe</u>rched prec<u>ar</u>iously to hold the <u>adv</u>antage br<u>u</u>tal <u>in</u>nings a <u>ce</u>n<u>tu</u>ry (n) to swing the game to a <u>po</u>sition where England couldn't lose to <u>u</u>nder<u>li</u>ne the <u>im</u>provement

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runs												
bat												
wickets												
fans	✓											
	Check gist answer	1	Check students' answers. Elicit answer from students (and mark the correct answers on the board). Cricket vocabulary mentioned includes: games, grounds, test, result, spectators, fans, innings, century, the game, series,									
	Set specific information questions	5	Use worksheet A or the online quiz to help students understand the text in more detail. Give students a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text again in more detail and to answer the questions.									
	Check specific information answers	2	Elicit answers True or False. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong, to try to elicit correct answer (see worksheet A and answer key).									
POST READING	Vocabulary consolidation/ building	5	Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheet B so that there is 1 worksheet for every 4 – 5 students. Cut up the vocabulary and explanations. In class, tell students to match the correct word with the right definition.									
	Check answers	2	Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer.									

Words in the News – England win the Ashes – Intermediate Reading Skills
Core materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
Total Time Approx		45 mins		



Words in the News – England win the Ashes – Intermediate Reading Skills
Supplementary materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
P O S T R E A D I N G T E X T	Sports vocabulary	5 - 10	Use worksheet C to focus on sports vocabulary. Tell students to put the words or phrases into the correct sport column.	
	Check answers	3	If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer. (see worksheet C and answer key)	
	Follow-up activity speaking	15	Spilt the class into small groups of 3 or 4 students. Tell each student to write down 4 or 5 sports without showing anyone. Each person in the group takes it in turn to describe some of the rules of one of their sports, without saying the name of the sport. For example: It's played in teams. You use a ball and play on a court. The aim of the game is to score as many goals as you can. You throw the ball from one player to another. You can't run with the ball but you can take one step, after you catch the ball..... (netball). The others in the group try and guess the sport. When a student calls out the correct sport, s/he gets a point and the next student then describes her/his sport. The winner it the student with the most points at the end While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Make a note of any errors you hear.	
	Feedback	5	Give praise for content (who was good at explaining the rules). Give praise for correct examples you heard. Give feedback on incorrect examples you heard. Elicit corrections.	Examples: You're not allowed to drop the ball. (✓) It can individual or team sport. (✗)
Total Approximate Time		30		

Words in the News – Example Worksheet A

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Are the following questions true or false? Read the text again and circle the correct answer:

1.	The first four games in the series were easy victories for England.	T/F
2.	People found unusual ways to see into the cricket ground for the final match.	T/F
3.	By the mid-afternoon it was difficult to predict who would win the match.	T/F
4.	Kevin Pieterston scored a hundred runs while playing very powerfully during the match.	T/F
5.	While Pieterston was playing, Australia became the favourites to win	T/F
6.	A lot of people think this set of matches emphasises how much English cricket will improve in the next couple of years.	T/F

This quiz is available online. Go to:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2005/09/050914_050914_ashes.shtml

At the bottom of the page (Words in the News), follow the link Do a comprehension test about this story



Words in the News – Example Worksheet B

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Cut up the following vocabulary items. Ask students to match them correctly with the definitions.

1.	a close and enthralling finish
2.	the grounds have been packed
3.	the result is in the balance
4.	every available vantage point was occupied
5.	spectators perched precariously
6.	to hold the advantage
7.	brutal innings
8.	a century
9.	to swing the game to a position where England couldn't lose
10.	to underline the improvement

Words in the News – Example Worksheet B

England win the Ashes – 14 September 2005

Cut up the following definitions. Ask students to match them correctly with the vocabulary items.

A.	to be in a stronger position
B.	all good viewing spots were taken
C.	to change the balance of the game so that England would definitely win
D.	lots of people have watched the matches at the stadium
E.	it's unclear which team will win
F.	to emphasise the advances
G.	a tight and exciting end
H.	one hundred runs
I.	people watched the game from quite dangerous places
J.	very strong batting performance in a cricket match



Words in the News – Worksheet C

England win the Ashes – 14 September 2005

Put the following words and phrases about different sports into the correct columns:

(a) a court	(b) you score a goal	(c) a tennis ball
(d) a bat	(e) you have a batting collapse	(f) a pitch (x2)
(g) a cricket ball	(h) a diamond	(i) a net (x2)
(j) you get a red card	(l) you serve an ace	(m) a racquet
(n) a baseball	(o) you strike out	(p) a football
(q) a catcher's mitt	(r) you hit a boundary	(s) you hit a home run
(t) you serve a double-fault		

	Cricket	Football	Tennis	Baseball
Equipment you use				
Where you play				
When things go well				
When things go badly				

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Answers

<p>Worksheet A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. False – Paragraph 1 says 'Every one of the last four games has produced a close and enthralling finish.' 2. True - Paragraph 1 says 'for the ... final Test ... every available vantage point was occupied. Some spectators perched precariously on the roofs of adjoining buildings.' 3. True – Paragraph 2 says 'Midway through the afternoon ... Australia began to hold the advantage.' 4. True – Paragraph 2 says 'But a brutal innings from Kevin Pieteron, who hit his first century.' 5. False – Paragraph 2 says 'Kevin Pieteron ... swung the game to a position where England couldn't lose.' 6. False – Paragraph 3 says 'Many observers regard the series as the greatest ever played and underlines the improvement English cricket has shown over the past few years.' 	<p>Worksheet B</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>1.</td><td>G</td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td>B</td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>6.</td><td>A</td></tr> <tr><td>7.</td><td>J</td></tr> <tr><td>8.</td><td>H</td></tr> <tr><td>9.</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td>10.</td><td>F</td></tr> </table>	1.	G	2.	D	3.	E	4.	B	5.	I	6.	A	7.	J	8.	H	9.	C	10.	F					
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