

1. Rugby

This week's lesson is about a sport that is hardly played at all in some countries but is enormously popular in others: rugby.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of rugby. If it is not widely played in your students' country, ask them if they have ever seen it on TV, and if so, what they thought of it. Do they know the differences between rugby and football, where in the world rugby is most popular, or where rugby was invented?
2. Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A along with the corresponding part of Worksheet C, and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B with the corresponding part of Worksheet C.
3. Tell your students they have the same text on rugby but that different information is missing from each worksheet. Explain that they are going to ask a member of the other group some questions to help them complete the text, but first they need to prepare the questions.
4. Give the students at least ten minutes to read through the text and check any new vocabulary, then give them at least another ten minutes to work together in their groups to prepare and write down the questions they need to ask in order to complete the text. Monitor this activity to make sure that the students are formulating the questions correctly (see suggestions below) and provide prompts if necessary.
5. When all the students have prepared their questions, divide them into pairs so that each student from Group A is working with a student from Group B. They should take it in turns to ask and answer the questions they have prepared and write the answers in the spaces in the text. Tell students not to look at their partner's text.
6. When both students have finished asking and answering, allow them to compare worksheets. Then check answers in open class.
7. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over their copies of Worksheet A/B, or to hand them back to you temporarily. Then ask them to attempt Exercise 2 on Worksheet D, which contains the text from Worksheet A/B but with 25 mistakes: their task is to identify and correct these mistakes. Point out that no line of text contains more than one mistake, that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
8. Check answers in open class. You could also hand out copies of Worksheet E, which contains the full text with the 25 corrections in bold.

Answers:

Exercise 1 (questions/answers)

1. How many fans does rugby have around the world? (many millions)
2. What is the old saying about rugby? ('a ruffians' game played by gentlemen')
3. What kind of game is rugby? (physically tough and occasionally violent)
4. What kind of environment was rugby developed in? (an 'upper-class' environment)
5. Where is rugby said to have been invented? (on the playing fields of Rugby school)
6. When is rugby said to have been invented? (in the 1820s)
7. How many main forms of rugby are there? (two)
8. How many players are there in a rugby team (in the more widespread form of the game)? (fifteen)
9. About how long is a rugby pitch (in the more widespread form of the game)? (100 metres)
10. About how wide is a rugby pitch (in the more widespread form of the game)? (70 metres)
11. What might someone watching rugby for the first time find difficult to understand? (what's going on)
12. What shape is a rugby ball? (oval)
13. What can rugby players do as well as kicking the ball? (pick up, carry and throw the ball)
14. How are the opposing players allowed to stop a player who is carrying the ball forwards? (by pulling him to the ground)
15. How many points are there / do rugby teams get for a 'try'? (five)
16. Where does the attacking player put the ball for a 'try'? (down on the ground, behind the line at the end of the pitch.)
17. Whose national teams are always among the best in the world? (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa)
18. What does rugby have every four years? (a World Cup competition)
19. Who did South Africa beat in the 2007 World Cup final? (England)
20. Why are New Zealand known as the 'All Blacks'? (because of their black shirts, shorts and socks)

Exercise 2 (correcting the 25 mistakes)

See Worksheet E.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/rugby_union/default.stm

The rugby union section of the BBC Sport website. Intermediate level and above.

http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugby_union

The rugby entry in *Simple English Wikipedia*. Appropriate for intermediate level.

<http://www.iloverugby.com/>

A website describing itself as 'the complete guide to rugby'. Intermediate level and above.