
e-lesson

Week starting: May 25, 2009

1. Basketball

This week's lesson is about basketball, which some claim to be the world's most popular sport – ahead of soccer – in terms of the number of people who play it regularly.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above).

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what sports they particularly like (or dislike), and why? What do they think of basketball? How popular is it in their country? What famous basketball teams/players have they heard of?
2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that a few of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together. In Exercise 1 they have to find the words to match the definitions, and in Exercise 2 they must answer the true/false/doesn't determine questions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Divide the students into two teams, A and B, and give each team the corresponding part of Worksheet C. The students have to refer back to Worksheet A and formulate 10 questions based on the information, using the words in the boxes. They will then ask the other team these questions as part of a quiz.

The teams must use the exact words in the boxes, and avoid asking the same question more than once. The words in most of the boxes can be used to create more than one question, and words such as "When" and "Why" obviously offer various possibilities. If one team asks a question the other team was going to ask, the other team has to think quickly to formulate an alternative question. Impose a time limit in which the teams have to formulate their questions. If a team is unable to create 10 questions, the other team should receive a point for each missing question – so for instance, if Team A can only create eight questions, Team B gets two points.

6. When the quiz begins, make it clear that the teams can no longer refer back to Worksheet A. The two teams take turns asking and answering questions. Award one point for each grammatically correct question and for each correct answer. Award zero points for questions containing mistakes, repeated questions, and incorrect answers. When both teams have asked all their questions, the team with the most points wins.

Answers:

Exercise 1 (definitions)

1. popular 2. court 3. Star 4. audience 5. Bounce 6. team
7. medal 8. Indoors

Exercise 2 (true/false/doesn't determine)

1. D 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. D 8. T

Exercise 3

Students' own answers.

2. Related Websites

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

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball>

The entry for basketball in *Simple English Wikipedia*. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.nba.com/playoffs2009/>

The official website of the NBA. Intermediate level and above.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3ROv_MsNs

A video "mixtape" of US President Barack Obama playing basketball, with clips from his high school through to election days. Accessible to all levels.