

WHAT'S NEW!

Communication Objectives: Ss will be able to:
 - express reservations and correctly use the passive verb form.
 - use competitiveness-related vocabulary, phrases and idioms.

Educational Objectives: Ss will explore various examples, roles and effects of competition in society.

Connected Topics:

- The Olympics	- Reality TV
- Artistic competition	- Men versus Women sports
- Intellectual competition of man and machine	- Hierarchical structures
- US athletes and sportsmanship	- Extreme sports
- Beauty contests	- Nationalism and team spirit
	- World records

Grammar: Passive verbs

Key Vocabulary:

beauty contest / pageant	drop-out rate	rub someone the wrong way
blister	etiquette	ruthlessly
blunder	flaunt v	sportsmanship
boast v	heat exhaustion	stakes were high, the stem from
boorish	hierarchy	sunstroke
brute force	implement	team spirit
cap v	landslide victory	triathlon
capitalise	motto	underdog
dehydration	odds on	walkover
draw / tie n	reservation (doubt)	win hands down
	rivalry	

The BIG question: HOW IMPORTANT IS WINNING?

The question here is framed to make students think about what motivates people in the search of success, and whether the end always justifies the means.

VIEWPOINT

Facts: The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science has about 6,000 members most of whom are actors. The Academy Awards, or the Oscars, were first handed out in May 16, 1929.

EQ: *Do you think the Oscars represent the best movies of the year? Is it really possible to compare films or acting performances? What criteria should be used?*

Quotes: Vince Lombardi (1913–1970) was one of the most successful coaches in the NFL, the American football league. From 1959 to 1967, his Green Bay Packers won five championship titles.

EQ: *What do you think of the quote? What kinds of values would be associated with this statement?*

Dwight Whitney Morrow (1873–1931) was a US politician. He began as an investment banker with JP Morgan and Co, but World War II led him into political life.

EQ: *Do you agree with the quote? Is hard work always given credit? Do winners always deserve to win? Do losers always deserve to lose?*

1 WORD POWER

A gets students to think about some key ideas about competitiveness in terms of how these apply to competitors, and how sometimes apparently negative qualities can be useful for success in sport.

1 WORD POWER A						Answers
2 h	3 g	4 f	5 a	6 e	7 b	8 b

B gets students to practise expressing reservations. At the same time, it introduces new vocabulary and idioms relating to competition.

1 WORD POWER B**Answers**

- B 1** There will be a *landslide victory* in the election. **I'm not entirely sure about that. The opposition seems to be doing better in the polls.**
- 2** The Czechs will *win hands down* in ice hockey. **I know what you're saying, but I think they may still face some serious competition from the Canadians.**
- 3** Estonia *is odds on to win* the next song festival. **You have a point there, but I wouldn't discount Britain's or Sweden's entry.**
- 4** It was a *walkover* for our team; the score was 5-0. **That might be true, but they were missing their three best players.**
- 5** New Zealand will *come first* in the race. **That might be true (they have a strong team), but I wouldn't rule out the Australians.**

ARTICLES**Man Versus Machine Chess Match Drawn**

This article discusses the continuing intellectual competition between man and machine. As chess is considered one of the most mentally challenging games, it was a natural choice for IBM's computer team to ask arguably the world's greatest chess player, Garry Kasparov. Kasparov was the world chess champion from 1985 to 2000. The X3D Fritz match was one in a series of matches between IBM supercomputers and Kasparov. The first match was with IBM's Deep Blue in 1986 which Kasparov won 3, drew 2 and lost 1. The second match with an updated Deep Blue ended with Kasparov losing 3.5 to 2.5. (Half points mean a draw.)

EQ: *'A chess genius is a human being who focuses vast, little-understood mental gifts and labors on an ultimately trivial human enterprise.'* (George Steiner) *Do board games like chess prove intelligence? Are these games worthwhile? Why / Why not?*

USOC: Be Good Sports

This article discusses the importance of sportsmanship in international sporting events. In recent years, the boisterous nature of American athletics has developed

a rather bad reputation for the country abroad. The article discusses how the US Olympic Committee is trying to address the situation. It should be noted that much of this phenomena originated in basketball. 'Court talk' as it is known in the US is the very aggressive, almost violent banter between players on the basketball court. It is in some ways a psychological technique to intimidate opponents. Court talk has spread to other popular US sports and has become part of the American sporting experience.

EQ: *Is sportsmanship outdated? Does an athlete represent the values of a country? Why / Why? Are American athletes confident or arrogant?*

2 READING

A is a gap completion activity that will help students with Part 2 of the Reading section of the CAE exam.

2 READING A**Answers**

A 1 D 2 B 3 E 4 A

B gives students the chance to express personal feelings and beliefs about competitors and competition.

2 READING B**Answers**

- B 1** a) The 4 × 100 relay was won by the US team.
b) Victory was achieved by Kasparov's long-term strategy.
c) Things had been made difficult in 2000 by boastful behaviour.
d) In closed games long-term strategy can be used by humans.
- B 2** Up to a point Lloy Ball does support being modest, but he thinks boasting is just part of the American fighting spirit.

C asks students to infer about the situations posed in the articles.

1 It may be useful to have students discuss the significance of computers that may be smarter than humans.

EQ: *Is it a positive or negative development?*

2 It may be useful to generalise the question to all celebrities and discuss it.

EQ: *Can we know what kind of person a celebrity is based only on press reports?*

3 SPEAK YOUR MIND

This section covers the topics of competitiveness, favourite sports team, intellect versus athleticism and the Olympics.

A EQ: *Which sports do you play or watch? Is amateur sports less competitive than professional sports?*

B EQ: *Which teams are most popular in your country? How else does money affect competition?*

C EQ: *Will computers and machines be better than humans in the future? Why / Why not? Do you like playing board games like chess or Trivial Pursuit? Why / Why not?*

D EQ: *Are the Olympics the ultimate in human achievement? Why do countries worry about the number of medals won?*

4 LISTEN

DVD

The photos try to show views of beauty that may challenge cultural standards. These include muscular women and plastic surgery beauty contestants.

4 LISTEN B, D

Answers

B (Sample answers) Relationships are a negative thing in the Miss America competition. Contestants must be single, without children and must sign pledges not to date during their reign. Mrs America allows contestants to be married.

Plastic surgery is discussed as a counterpoint to the other rules about relationships. The Miss America contest does not have any rule against it. In addition, there was recently the Miss Artificial Beauty in China where all contestants had undergone plastic surgery.

American values are discussed briefly in terms of the rules governing the current Miss America contest. Contestants need to be very pure (for example, no marriage, dating or children).

- D**
- 1 a) in Atlantic City
 - 2 b) married c) two children
 - 3 d) plastic surgery
 - 4 e) the acceptance

5 TEAMWORK

This activity is designed to give students a chance to discuss both the most popular trend on television – reality TV and one of the most controversial shows on US TV. This activity is based on Celebrity Boxing 1 & 2, in which pairs of well-known, lesser celebrities are pitted against each other. The first show was watched by 15.5 million viewers and featured several matches including one between Tonya Harding (the US figure skater implicated in the assault of a rival US skater) and Paula Jones (a woman who claimed to have had an affair with former President Bill Clinton). The second event featured several matches including a match between Joey Buttafuoco (his young lover killed his wife) and professional female wrestler, Chyna. As reality show formats are often bought by other countries, it is possible that this show will appear elsewhere.

EQ: *What kinds of reality TV shows are there in your country? How are reality TV shows different from other shows? What do reality TV shows say about its viewers, producers and contestants? Would you ever want to be on reality TV?*

6 CONTROVERSY

The debate over equality in funding for women's sports is an offshoot of the larger issue of equality and women's rights. Although you should try to keep the students on the topic of sports and competition, the discussion is likely to incorporate these larger issues of equality. You should therefore be prepared to field questions about women's rights. It may also be worth discussing the professional status of women in different sports; for example: tennis, football, basketball. Note also the way that sports leagues make a distinction between men's and women's sports by adding 'women's' or 'ladies'.

EQ: *Do you think women and men will ever be considered equal in sports? Should they be? Why don't men and women play in the same leagues?*

Sources:

Out of Bounds: Women, Sport and Sexuality, Helen Lenskyj
www.dol.gov/oasam/regs/statutes/titleix.htm

www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/missions/women/index_uk.asp

www.wta.com

www.lpga.com

www.nwhlhockey.com

7 PORTFOLIO WRITING

See the Introduction to the Teacher's Guide.

A Sources:

Athens to Athens: The Official History of the Olympic Games and the IOC, 1896-2004, David Miller

Tales of Gold, Patrick Collins

www.olympic.org

B Sources:

Pageant: The Beauty Contest, Keith Lovegrove

www.msgoldenamerica.com

8 PHYSIOLOGY in English [CLIL]

The triathlon was first created in Mission Bay, California in 1974. Since then, the triathlon has been the benchmark distance for creating ultra-sporting events. Today, there are double, triple, quadruple, quintuple and decatrilathlons from Finland to Mexico. The World Championship Decatrilathlon was first run in 1995. While it is rather difficult for the average person to understand fully the physical and mental anguish involved, you can get some kind of an idea by reading British ultra-athlete Bobby Brown's blog entry on his website: www.bobbysrun.co.uk/ironman.html. It took him two years to fully recover.

The fastest time for a man was set by Fabrice Lucas in 1997 with a time of 8 days, 0 hours and 26 seconds. The fastest time for a woman was set by Silvia Andonie in 1992 with a time of 10 days, 9 hours, 14 minutes, 52 seconds.

EQ: *Imagine you just finished the event. What would it feel like? Could you see yourself ever competing in this sport?*

Sources:

Going Long: Training for Ironman-Distance Triathlons, Joe Friel

Triathlete magazine.

www.iutasport.com

9 FURTHER DISCUSSION

This section covers the topics of competition in artistic endeavours, the role of sports on the world stage, the value of sport versus intellect, and record keeping.

A This question picks up from the Oscars statistic and the question in **Viewpoint**.

EQ: *How do subjectivity and objectivity enter into competitions? Are contest judges ever unbiased? Why / Why not? Why do commercially successful authors like Stephen King or Danielle Steele never seem to win awards?*

B Try to discuss the relative values of sport and intellectual ability.

EQ: *How do time, money, energy and society change this relationship?*

C Try to discuss concrete aspects of nationalism.

EQ: *How do you show your nationalism? What are other examples of nationalism you have seen or heard of? Which of the following are acceptable and why: chanting 'We're number 1', painting your country's flag on your face, or booing the actions of other countries' competitors?*

D Try to get students to consider examples of national or world records for different sports.

EQ: *Which sports records have you heard about? Who holds the world record in...?*

10 Your answer: HOW IMPORTANT IS WINNING?

This question attempts to personalise the entire discussion. Here it would be helpful to get students to give concrete examples from school, work, sports, hobbies, computer games, or elsewhere. You can remind students about the winning paradigm that there is only one winner.

EQ: *If there can be only one winner, should everyone else feel like losers? Why / Why not? How do / should you feel when you lose? Does participation or 'giving it 110 per cent' have any effect on these feelings?*

WORKBOOK

1 WORD POWER

This activity will give students the opportunity to review some key unit vocabulary and further practice using the phrases in **Language Bank 6**.

1 WORD POWER

Sample answers

- 1 I think the opposition party is heading for another *landslide victory* in the polls. **I'm not sure about that...**
- 2 The Russian team will *win hands down* in this competition. **That might be true, but...**
- 3 I don't think you can expect rivals to be *good sports*. **You have a point there, but...**
- 4 The Australian swimmer was the *favourite*. **I'm not entirely sure about that.**
- 5 Any competition leads to *team spirit*. **You have a point there but...**
- 6 The game show proved to be a *walkover* for her. **That might be true, but...**

2 USE OF LANGUAGE: The passive

This activity introduces the students to some biographical information about Arnold Schwarzenegger and his strong competitive streak. It will also give further practice with the passive verb form.

2 USE OF LANGUAGE

Answers

- 1 He was thought to be a little crazy,
- 2 a year in the Austrian military had to be served.
- 3 he would not be given permission
- 4 Arnold was not deterred,
- 5 Although the contest was won,
- 6 Mr Europe, the Best Built Man in Europe and the International Powerlifting Championship would be entered and won by him.
- 7 the event would be dominated by Arnold.
- 8 This would be capped

3 WRITING

A Sources:

Drug Testing in Sports, David L. Black, ed.
Drug Testing: Issues and Options, Robert H Coombs, ed.
www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/commissions/medical/index_uk.asp
www.drugtestingnews.com

B Sources:

The Best American Sports Writing of the Century, David Halberstam, ed.
Associated Press Sports Writing Handbook, Steve Wilstein
www.news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/default.stm
www.espn.go.com

4 IDIOMS

See the Introduction to the Teacher's Guide.

4 IDIOMS

Answers

1 e 2 d 3 b 4 a 5 f 6 c

1 the name of the game = the most important thing / aim
 2 to play the game = to take part
 3 a sporting chance = a chance to win
 4 to give someone a run for their money = to make it difficult for someone to win
 5 a whole new ball game = the situation was completely changed
 6 to throw in the towel = to give up / in, admit defeat

Ask students to use the idioms when answering these questions orally. This can be done as pair work or as a class.

- *What would happen if your class played a football match against Real Madrid?*
 - I don't think we would *give them a run for their money*.
 - I am guessing that we'd have to *throw in the towel* after the first ten minutes.

- *What does it take to get ahead in ... (business / sport / school)?*
 - I think practice is *the name of the game*. The more practice you get, the better you'll be.
 - If you want to succeed, you have *to play the game*.
 - I think today *it's a whole new ball game*, a team needs lots of money to be the best.
- *Do you ever feel sorry for losers?*
 - I do, when I know they don't *have a sporting chance* like when too many players are injured.
 - I don't. You should know when *to throw in the towel* and accept defeat.