

Triumph and disaster

Language

Tennis vocabulary, adverbs

Level

Pre-intermediate (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1)

Comment

This lesson is about a record-breaking match at this year's Wimbledon tennis championship. You can end the lesson with a YouTube video of a poem by Rudyard Kipling read by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the following words on the board: *ball, court, game, match, net, players, racket, set*. Ask students what the words all have in common (they are all related to the game of tennis). Can the students explain what each word means? Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to do exercise 1 in pairs. Check answers.
- 2 Write the name *Wimbledon* on the board. What can students tell you about Wimbledon? Explain that they're going to read a news story about a historic match that was played at this year's tennis championship. Ask students to read the article and find the answers to exercise 2.
- 3 Students now have to read the article again and find the information to complete the fact file in exercise 3. Encourage them to read the article more carefully this time and underline any problem vocabulary. Remind them to consult the Glossary in case a new word is listed there. Check answers and then go through any problem vocabulary. Write the match score on the board and make sure students know that when a set ends with a 6–6 score, a tiebreak is played to decide the winner. However, in the final set at Wimbledon, players continue playing until one player has a two-game advantage over the other. This explains the high number of games in the final set.
- 4 Ask students to try completing exercise 4 without looking back at the text. When they have answered all the questions they can, allow them to check the article to complete any remaining questions and to check answers.
- 5 Students work in pairs to complete exercise 5. Check answers and then give each student pair one of the words in the box and ask them to write another sentence using the word correctly. Students write their sentences. Invite some students to read their sentence to the rest of the class.
- 6 Divide the class into small groups and ask them to read through the questions in exercise 6 together. The students should first discuss the answers in their groups and then share their answers with the rest of the class. Ask students to help you make a list of other sports that are performed by individuals and could be classified as 'lonely'.
- 7 Invite students to share their knowledge of this year's Wimbledon championship. Did anyone from the students' countries take part? Who won the championship? Who's the best tennis player in the world?

Reading eLesson

Week starting 5 July 2010

- 8** If you have access to the internet, show students the video listed below in which Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal read out the complete poem by Kipling. Ask students to tell you to stop the video when they hear the words that are quoted at the start of the article. You can also follow another of the links below to see the complete poem.

Answer key

1

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 court | 3 net | 5 ball | 7 set |
| 2 players | 4 racket | 6 game | 8 match |

- 2** John Isner, Nicholas Mahut, Andy Roddick, Andre Agassi

3

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| 1 11 hours, 5 minutes | 3 70–68 | 5 3 |
| 2 183 | 4 3 | 6 Open |

4

- 1 True
- 2 False. They played on court 18.
- 3 False. They had hardly ever spoken to each other before.
- 4 False. They had different playing styles.
- 5 False. The writer thought Mahut was in better physical condition.
- 6 True

5

- 1 hardly
- 2 still
- 3 evenly
- 4 eventually
- 5 extremely
- 6 even

- 6** Students' own answers.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.wimbledon.org> (official Wimbledon website)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is-JCJCUy18> (BBC Video of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal reading Kipling's poem)

http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems_if.htm (complete version of Kipling's poem)