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Beach Soccer World Cup opens in Dubai

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

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16th November, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is on in Dubai. It will last for a week. The hosts are the United Arab Emirates, who are the Asian champions. They hope they can win the tournament because they are playing in their own country. However, they have very tough competition. The favourite to win the final is Brazil. The Brazilians have won thirteen of the 15 previous finals. The five-a-side championship is played in more than 170 countries. It is one of the fastest growing games in the world. Up to 40,000 people will watch the games.

Beach soccer is much more exciting than regular football. It's a lot faster and there are more goals. Each match lasts 36 minutes and is divided into three 12-minute periods. There is always a winner because of extra time and penalties. It will never become more popular than soccer played on grass. Football is the most popular sport in the world. Billions of people watch the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Not many people can play beach soccer. You have to live near the sea. Anyone can play normal football. You can play that anywhere.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. It will last for | a. own country |
| 2. The hosts are the | b. games in the world |
| 3. they are playing in their | c. a week |
| 4. The favourite to | d. previous finals |
| 5. thirteen of the 15 | e. United Arab Emirates |
| 6. one of the fastest growing | f. win the final |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. much more exciting than | a. minute periods |
| 2. Each match lasts | b. sport in the world |
| 3. divided into three 12- | c. 36 minutes |
| 4. more popular | d. regular football |
| 5. the most popular | e. near the sea |
| 6. You have to live | f. than soccer |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup _____ Dubai. It will last for a week. The hosts are the United Arab Emirates, _____ Asian champions. They hope they _____ tournament because they are playing in their own country. However, they have _____ competition. The favourite _____ final is Brazil. The Brazilians have won thirteen of the _____ finals. The _____ championship is played in more than 170 countries. It is one of the fastest growing games in the world. _____ people will watch the games.

Beach soccer _____ exciting than regular football. It's a lot faster and there are more goals. Each match _____ and is divided _____-minute periods. There is always a winner because _____ and penalties. It will never become more popular than soccer _____. Football is the most popular sport in the world. _____ watch the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Not many people can play beach soccer. You _____ near the sea. Anyone can play normal football. You _____ anywhere.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is (1) _____ in Dubai. It will last for a week. The (2) _____ are the United Arab Emirates, who are the Asian champions. They hope they can win the tournament because they are playing in their own country. However, they have very (3) _____ competition. The favourite to win the final is Brazil. The Brazilians have won thirteen of the 15 (4) _____ finals. The five-a-side championship is played in more than 170 countries. It is one of the fastest (5) _____ games in the world. Up to 40,000 people will watch the games.

Beach soccer is much more exciting than (6) _____ football. It's a lot faster and there are more goals. Each match lasts 36 minutes and is (7) _____ into three 12-minute periods. There is always a winner because of extra time and penalties. It will never become more popular than soccer (8) _____ on grass. Football is the most popular sport in the world. Billions of people watch the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Not many people can play beach soccer. You (9) _____ to live near the sea. Anyone can play (10) _____ football. You can play that anywhere.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) on |
| 2. | (a) hosts | (b) hostess | (c) hosting |
| 3. | (a) through | (b) tough | (c) though |
| 4. | (a) previous | (b) previously | (c) previews |
| 5. | (a) growth | (b) growing | (c) grown |
| 6. | (a) regularly | (b) regulars | (c) regular |
| 7. | (a) division | (b) divides | (c) divided |
| 8. | (a) plays | (b) played | (c) playing |
| 9. | (a) have | (b) must | (c) should |
| 10. | (a) normally | (b) normality | (c) normal |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. alst for a week
2. The sthso
3. very ughto competition
4. the 15 previous asnfil
5. the fastest inrgowg games
6. watch the gmase

Paragraph 2

7. luraegr football
8. Each htcam
9. taxre time
10. played on sgsra
11. iislbonl of people
12. play that yneaerhw

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is on in Dubai. It will last for a week. The hosts are the United Arab Emirates,
- () beach soccer. You have to live near the sea. Anyone can play normal football. You can play that anywhere.
- () thirteen of the 15 previous finals. The five-a-side championship is played in more than 170
- () match lasts 36 minutes and is divided into three 12-minute periods. There is always a winner because of extra
- () countries. It is one of the fastest growing games in the world. Up to 40,000 people will watch the games.
- () time and penalties. It will never become more popular than soccer played on grass. Football is the most
- () popular sport in the world. Billions of people watch the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Not many people can play
- () country. However, they have very tough competition. The favourite to win the final is Brazil. The Brazilians have won
- () Beach soccer is much more exciting than regular football. It's a lot faster and there are more goals. Each
- () who are the Asian champions. They hope they can win the tournament because they are playing in their own

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. a for last will It week.

2. playing in their own country They . are

3. is to Brazil win the The final favourite.

4. in countries Played 170 than . more

5. watch the games Up to 40,000 people will.

6. exciting regular more than football Much.

7. a of always because time is winner extra There.

8. most is in popular the the sport Football world.

9. beach can many soccer play people Not.

10. that play can You anywhere.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091115-beach_soccer.html

Write about beach soccer for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about beach soccer. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about beach soccer. Include imaginary interviews with one person who thinks beach soccer is better than real soccer, and another person who thinks real soccer is best. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the best beach soccer player in the world. Ask him three questions about beach soccer. Give him three of your opinions on beach soccer. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.