

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Tour de France sabotaged

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

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**16th July, 2012**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

The Tour de France bicycle race was sabotaged yesterday by someone who threw small nails onto the road. Several riders had to change their tyres because of punctures. Defending champion Cadel Evans had a flat tyre three times. Race leader Bradley Wiggins also had to change his back tyre but he did not say if it was because of the tacks on the road. Race director Jean-Francois Pecheux has asked the police to find out who scattered the tacks on the road, but said it would be "difficult" because there are thousands of spectators.

Race leader Bradley Wiggins slowed down when he heard the news. He wanted to give Evans enough time to catch up with the leading pack. The rules of the race say no rider should take advantage of another rider's bad luck. Cadel later thanked Wiggins for his sportsmanship. When the stage finished, Wiggins said: "What can you do? It's something we can't control....It's sad. Those are the type of things we have to put up with as cyclists." Wiggins is hoping to become the first British rider ever to win the Tour de France.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

## Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Several riders had to            | a. tacks on the road  |
| 2. a flat                           | b. of the tacks       |
| 3. Wiggins also had to change       | c. of spectators      |
| 4. he did not say if it was because | d. tyre               |
| 5. find out who scattered the       | e. his back tyre      |
| 6. there are thousands              | f. change their tyres |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. slowed down when                  | a. up with the leading pack |
| 2. enough time to catch              | b. another rider's bad luck |
| 3. The rules                         | c. for his sportsmanship    |
| 4. no rider should take advantage of | d. he heard the news        |
| 5. Cadel later thanked Wiggins       | e. have to put up with      |
| 6. the type of things we             | f. of the race              |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

The Tour de France bicycle (1) \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday by someone who threw small nails onto the road. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ change their tyres because of punctures. Defending champion Cadel Evans had a flat tyre three times. Race leader Bradley Wiggins (3) \_\_\_\_\_ his back tyre but he did not say (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the tacks on the road. Race director Jean-Francois Pecheux has asked the police to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the tacks on the road, but said it would be "difficult" (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of spectators.

Race leader Bradley Wiggins (7) \_\_\_\_\_ heard the news. He wanted to give Evans (8) \_\_\_\_\_ up with the leading pack. The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ no rider should (10) \_\_\_\_\_ another rider's bad luck. Cadel later thanked Wiggins for his sportsmanship. When the stage finished, Wiggins said: "What can you do? It's something we can't control....It's sad. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of things we have to put up with as cyclists." Wiggins (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the first British rider ever to win the Tour de France.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

The Tour de France bicycle race was sabotaged yesterday (1) \_\_\_\_\_ someone who threw small nails onto the road. Several riders (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to change their tyres because of punctures. Defending champion Cadel Evans had a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ tyre three times. Race (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Bradley Wiggins also had to change his back tyre but he did not say if it was because of the tacks on the road. Race director Jean-Francois Pecheux has asked the police to find (5) \_\_\_\_\_ who scattered the tacks on the road, but said it would be "difficult" because there are thousands of (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Race leader Bradley Wiggins slowed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ when he heard the news. He wanted to give Evans enough time to catch (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with the leading pack. The rules of the race say no rider should (9) \_\_\_\_\_ advantage of another rider's bad luck. Cadel later thanked Wiggins for his sportsmanship. When the stage (10) \_\_\_\_\_, Wiggins said: "What can you do? It's something we can't control....It's sad. Those are the type of things we have to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ up with as cyclists." Wiggins is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to become the first British rider ever to win the Tour de France.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |                |               |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) at         | (b) for        | (c) by        |
| 2.  | (a) has        | (b) had        | (c) having    |
| 3.  | (a) flat       | (b) level      | (c) even      |
| 4.  | (a) leadership | (b) leading    | (c) leader    |
| 5.  | (a) out        | (b) in         | (c) who       |
| 6.  | (a) spectacles | (b) spectators | (c) specifics |
| 7.  | (a) down       | (b) up         | (c) on        |
| 8.  | (a) diwn       | (b) on         | (c) up        |
| 9.  | (a) have       | (b) take       | (c) be        |
| 10. | (a) finished   | (b) finishes   | (c) finishing |
| 11. | (a) use        | (b) finish     | (c) put       |
| 12. | (a) hopping    | (b) hoping     | (c) heaping   |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. eraSlev riders had to change their tyres
2. Defending cpomhina Cadel Evans
3. Race adeerl Bradley Wiggins
4. Race tedcorri Jean-Francois Pecheux
5. who estdrceta the tacks on the road
6. thousands of cstspetoar

## Paragraph 2

7. Wiggins odsewl down
8. catch up with the ndealgi pack
9. take tdvaaenag of
10. the stage iihfndes
11. something we can't orlontc
12. the first British eidrr

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour\\_de\\_france.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120716-tour_de_france.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) on the road, but said it would be "difficult" because there are thousands of spectators.
- ( **1** ) The Tour de France bicycle race was sabotaged yesterday by someone who
- ( ) had to change his back tyre but he did not say if it was because of the tacks on the road. Race
- ( ) cyclists." Wiggins is hoping to become the first British rider ever to win the Tour de France.
- ( ) sportsmanship. When the stage finished, Wiggins said: "What can you do? It's something we can't
- ( ) Race leader Bradley Wiggins slowed down when he heard the news. He wanted to give Evans enough
- ( ) advantage of another rider's bad luck. Cadel later thanked Wiggins for his
- ( ) time to catch up with the leading pack. The rules of the race say no rider should take
- ( ) control....It's sad. Those are the type of things we have to put up with as
- ( ) threw small nails onto the road. Several riders had to change their tyres because of
- ( ) director Jean-Francois Pecheux has asked the police to find out who scattered the tacks
- ( ) punctures. Defending champion Cadel Evans had a flat tyre three times. Race leader Bradley Wiggins also

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. The race Tour was de sabotaged France bicycle.

---

2. had riders Several tyres their change to.

---

3. tyre flat a had Evans times three.

---

4. if say not did He tacks the of because was it.

---

5. spectators of thousands are there because Difficult.

---

6. news when he Wiggins heard slowed the down.

---

7. up leading Enough catch the to with pack time.

---

8. advantage Take luck bad rider's another of.

---

9. have to put up with The type of things we.

---

10. to ever rider British first The Tour the win.

---



## **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. \_\_\_\_\_



# 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. TOUR DE FRANCE:** Search the Internet and find more information about the Tour de France. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the Tour de France. Include imaginary interviews with the top riders. 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 a Tour de France expert. Ask him/her three questions about the race. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.