

Learning and Teaching Resources for Learning English through Sports Communication

The resources presented here are meant to be examples to show the types of activities/materials that can be designed and developed to help students to work on the various focuses of the module in the *Suggested Schemes of Work for the Elective Part of the Three-year Senior Secondary English Language Curriculum (Secondary 4-6) (2007)* (hereafter referred to as “SoWs”). Teachers are encouraged to adapt, modify and develop their own resources or make use of other relevant materials to suit the needs and interests of their students.

Lessons 1-2: Sports vocabulary (please refer to SoWs pp.58-59)

Activity

1. Bring some English sports magazines or the sports pages of some English newspapers to class. Scan the magazines or newspapers for sports vocabulary related to the following:
 - types of sports and competitions
 - participants and spectators
 - equipment and facilities
 - skills and actions
 - performance
 - rules and regulations
 - results and records
 - victories and losses
 - awards and honours
 - sports conduct
2. You may use a dictionary to help you, but before you do that, try to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words by making use of some of the cues in the articles from which the words appear, such as the headings, the pictures and the surrounding sentences. Share your words with the class.

Teachers' notes

**Teachers may use their discretion as to what categories of sports vocabulary they would like the students to work on.*

**Discuss the meaning of the unfamiliar words shared by students.*

**Teachers might like to introduce other vocabulary items they consider useful. A list of sports vocabulary is provided on the next page. Teachers might like to select relevant items to the sport and context that students focus on.*

List of sports vocabulary

boo breakpoint buzzer-beater championship cheer clinch clinical coach comeback commentator cushioning defeat draw dribble durable equaliser error-ridden fair play fencing flawless fluke foul	Grand Prix gymnastics home and away hoop humbled in-form/out-of-form injury knockout linesman lopsided offside on fire overpower penalty performance pitch playoff racket rebound referee relegation rink	rookie scoreboard sensational skateboarding stadium substitute sumo suspension tackle titleholder topspin tournament track trophy winning/losing streak wrestling
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Lessons 3-6: Fan talk (please refer to SoWs pp.58-59)

Activity 1

Study the following texts and discuss the following with a partner:

1. For what purpose(s) do you think the texts are written?
2. Do you like reading them? Why or why not?
3. How do the writers try to make the texts interesting?
4. Where can you find texts like these in real life?

Text 1

Leon Gruber – some interesting facts

- *Leon was born in the same house as the great footballer Guy Rainer*
- *Leon's first word, according to his mother, was 'ball'*
- *Leon won his first football award at the age of 6*
- *Leon's nickname at school was Pele*
- *Leon's favourite food is frankfurters*
- *As a teenager Leon would only play in one special pair of football boots that he said brought him luck – eventually they fell to pieces, but he still went on winning*
- *Leon has been Footballer of the Year four times, a record*

Text 2

When was the team founded?

Abacus United first played in 1936. They were started by a group of school friends who did not know they were starting one of the greatest clubs in the world.

How many times have they won championships?

More than we can count, including eight European championships and twenty national ones.

Who has been their greatest player?

Well, you can definitely argue about that as there have been so many great ones, but the fans of the club have voted Giovanni Luigi as the all-time greatest.

Why is there an apple on their badge?

The area they come from is famous for its apples.

Text 3

Amin Patel is probably the greatest cricketer of our time. He has attracted thousands of fans to the game with his star quality and good sportsmanship. He has used his fame to help improve the world. His foundation has given an education to many children who would not have received one except for Amin. He is a great bowler and one of the greatest batsmen of all time. He even catches with incredible skill. For all these reasons I deeply admire Amin and dedicate this website to him.

Text 4

Welcome to my fan site. If my fans are genuine in following me, I hope they will listen to some words of advice from me. Basketball should be a clean game. There should be no drugs involved. Players should keep themselves healthy and never smoke. We play to win and being competitive is good, but we lose with grace. Anger and violence have nothing to do with sport. I had a hard childhood and have met a lot of racism, but that's not going to make me behave badly. I respect myself and by my hard work and training I now have the respect of many others. And one last thing: make sure you always enjoy yourself when you play the great game of basketball!

Text 5

Profile of Kim Hyo-sok

Statistics:

Goals scored 86

Fouls 2

Yellow cards 4

Red cards 1

Kim Hyo-Sok is a midfield player with a powerful shot.

Kim Hyo-sok joined Incheon in 2002 and has become one of their most reliable and regular players.

His best goal was in the national final in 2004 when he headed the ball into the net at the last moment and gave his team victory.

Kim Hyo-sok is also a fine golf player and could have had a career as a professional. It is thought he may be made captain at Incheon next season.

Text 6

Cheryl Lam is one of our greatest tennis players. Her strokes are of incredible power, but she relies on her skill more than her strength. Her fans call her the Princess. Certainly she is a royal player, but Empress might be even more suitable as there is no one above her. She was coached from childhood to be a great player. Her parents devoted themselves to bringing her full potential out into the open. She admits it was hard spending so much time practising, but believes her parents had her best interests at heart. Cheryl has won almost every tennis championship there is, but is proudest of winning Wimbledon five years in a row. Her only fear is of injury as she has seen many tennis players suffer from serious muscle problems.

Activity 2

Choose a sports player or team you like and write a piece of fan material for him/her/ them like one of the examples above. You might like to take the following steps:

- Make a list of what you know about the player or team. Gather more information if necessary.
- Decide on the type of text you would like to produce. You may refer to the above examples or the list of websites on the next page.
- Write the fan material and show it to a classmate for feedback.

List of websites with fan material

1. The major sports clubs and leagues have large websites catering for fans:
 - www.manutd.com/home/default.sps
 - www.letour.fr/indexus.html
 - www.nba.com

2. A site for a sport and its stars:
 - www.soccer-corner.com/Players.htm

3. Sites for individual players:
 - www.shinji-ono.tv/eng/index.html
 - www.maria-sharapova.org
 - www.ianthorpe.aol7.com.au/fountainforyouth.php
 - [www.golfstaronline.com/W/Tiger Woods/Fan sites/](http://www.golfstaronline.com/W/Tiger_Woods/Fan_sites/)
 - liuxiang.sports.cn/english/index.html
 - www.yaomingfanclub.com/

Lessons 9-14: Presentation on sports (please refer to SoWs pp.60-61)

Activity

Form groups of three to four. From the list of sports on the next page, choose one that your group is interested in. Prepare a short presentation to introduce the sport to your classmates. You should collect the necessary information. This is a short presentation and you will not require a great deal of detail. Organise the material and concentrate on the most interesting points. Your presentation may include:

- a brief introduction
- basic information on the sport
- the sport's popularity
- the pleasures of the sport
- the dangers of the sport
- closing comments

Share out the points among your group mates.

(Before you make the presentation, you might like to refer to the suggested plan, the presentation guidelines and the presentation feedback form on pp.8-10 for the areas you would need to pay attention to.)

List of sports

1. badminton	21. marathon running
2. baseball	22. mountaineering
3. basketball	23. rugby
4. bowling	24. sailing
5. boxing	25. skateboarding
6. car racing	26. skiing
7. cricket	27. snooker
8. cycling	28. softball
9. diving	29. squash
10. fencing	30. sumo
11. field athletics	31. surfing
12. football	32. swimming
13. golf	33. table-tennis
14. gymnastics	34. tae kwon do
15. hockey	35. tennis
16. ice hockey	36. track athletics
17. ice skating	37. volleyball
18. judo	38. water-polo
19. kung fu	39. weightlifting
20. karate	40. wind surfing

You may select a sport from outside the list for presentation.

A suggested plan with guiding questions

When planning your presentation, you might like to consider the following:

1. **Introduction.** Interesting opening comments to attract the audience's attention.
2. **Basic information on the sport.** Is it an individual or team event? What equipment is needed? How and where is it played? What is the aim of the sport? Who controls its rules?
3. **The sport's popularity.** Is the sport played by a lot of people and in many countries? Where can the sport be watched? Who watches it? Who/What are some famous players/teams/events? What kind or amount of support do they get from the fans?
4. **The pleasures of the sport.** What makes it enjoyable? What skills does it call upon? If possible, be personal.
5. **The dangers of the sport.** What sort of injuries (if any) may be risked? What abuses take place in relation to the sport?
6. **Closing comments.** Encourage interest in the sport.

Presentation guidelines

1. Do not read from your script or it will sound unnatural. Put a few headings on cards you can hold easily and glance quickly at as you talk. e.g.
THE WILLIAMS SISTERS
WIMBLEDON
THE US OPEN
2. Practise your presentation. Make sure it is the right length and that you have time to cover all your points.
3. You will be given feedback under the following headings:
 - Content (Is the information suitable? Is the information interesting?)
 - Organisation (Are the ideas well-connected?)
 - Language (Are the words said correctly? Are the sentences well-formed with suitable tenses?)
 - Delivery strategies (Is the speech given in a natural way and without much hesitation? Can the words be heard clearly? Is there enough eye contact? Are suitable body movements used?)
 - Collaboration with group mates (How well do group mates cooperate in presenting the message?)

Presentation Feedback Form

Give feedback on your own and/or your classmates' performance by circling the appropriate number.

	<i>Needs improvement</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>
Content			
• The information is suitable	1	2	3
• The information is interesting	1	2	3
Organisation			
• The ideas are well-connected	1	2	3
Language			
• Words are said correctly	1	2	3
• Sentences are well-formed (e.g. with suitable tenses)	1	2	3
Delivery strategies			
• The speech is given in a natural way and without much hesitation	1	2	3
• Words can be heard clearly	1	2	3
• There is enough eye contact	1	2	3
• Suitable body movements are used	1	2	3
Collaboration with group mates			
• Group mates cooperate well in presenting the message	1	2	3
Other Comments:			

Teachers' notes

**Teachers are encouraged to adapt this form by making additions or deletions, where appropriate, to suit students' needs and level.*

Lessons 15-18: Sports advertising (please refer to SoWs pp.60-61)

Activity 1

Bring some advertising material for your favourite sports product to class. In small groups, briefly introduce your material to each other and then discuss the following:

1. What are the main features or selling points of the advertisements (e.g. endorsement by star players, health benefits, improved performance, physical perfection, 'coolness')?
2. Is the use of language effective? Why or why not? (You might like to consider the use of repetition, positive adjectives, slogans, rhetorical questions, etc.)

Activity 2

Choose a sports product (e.g. a new sports drink, a new pair of trainers, a new squash racquet) and produce an advertising leaflet for it. Try to make the leaflet as interesting and effective as possible through the use of language, sales techniques and artwork.

Lessons 19-22: Sports product review (please refer to SoWs pp.60-61)

Activity 1

Work with a partner. You read one of the following product reviews and your partner reads the other. Discuss the following after the reading:

1. What are the criteria for choosing the products?
2. How helpful are the articles to the consumers? Is one more helpful than the other? Give reasons to support your answers.

Article One

When you choose a skateboard there are a number of things you need to think about. You need to judge your own skill, the places you will use your board and the image you want. When you have thought about those things, you can start looking at some skateboards. First you must choose how wide you want it to be. If you are a beginner you may want a wider board than someone who likes to do sharp turns and tricks. The size and hardness of the wheels are important too. Bigger wheels go faster but you need smaller ones for flips and turns. Soft ones give you a smooth ride; hard ones are more stable. Boards are different heights above the ground. They have different strengths and shapes. They use different materials and come in different colours. Then finally there is the question of price.

I looked at the Ace 4 Board. This is a beautiful board for someone with access to real board parks. It is state of the art but far too expensive for the average boarder in Hong Kong. The Mark 13 is cheap and I am told breaks easily. I recommend for most Hong Kong boarders the Alpha Y – it is strong but light; it turns well and it moves fast. It falls in the medium-priced range and comes in a number of nice designs and colours. The Alpha Y won't let you down.

Article Two

When you choose a bicycle you need to ask yourself what you want to use it for. Someone carrying a lot of things on it will want a heavy, strong bike. If you are going to ride all over Hong Kong for sport and exercise, you will need a mountain bike with gears. Faster bicycles can be uncomfortable if you ride them for long. So are you road racing, touring or just enjoying yourself? When choosing a bike you need to look at its weight, its strength, its design, its saddle comfort, its accessories, its materials and its price. My favourite bicycle for someone in Hong Kong who is serious but not too serious about cycling is the Leopard U8. It is made from titanium and is strong and flexible, but does not need too much maintenance and cleaning. It moves smoothly and is very stable though it can be a bit slow to respond at times. I find it comfortable and you do not have to be a millionaire to buy one.

Activity 2

Think of a sports product (e.g. balls, sports shoes, racquets and bats for different sports, sportswear, goggles) you have purchased at some time or would like to buy in the near future. Think about why you favour a particular model. Make a list of as many criteria as possible on which to judge the product. Then, based on these criteria, write a consumer review for the product. You may compare one model with another if you think that will be more helpful to your readers.

You may use the articles above as examples, or browse the following websites for

more ideas:

www.reviewcentre.com/consumer_reviews6.html

www.tenniscompany.com/ABOUT7.html

www.thedietchannel.com/Energy-Bars.htm

Lessons 23-26: Films on sports (please refer to SoWs pp.60-61)

Suggested titles

- *Bagger Vance* [golf]
- *Bend it like Beckham* [football]
- *Chariots of Fire* [running]
- *Field of Dreams* [baseball]
- *Friday Night Lights* [American football]
- *Hoop Dreams* [basketball]
- *Hoosiers* [basketball]
- *Jerry McGuire* [American football]
- *A League of Their Own* [baseball]
- *One Million Dollar Baby* [boxing]
- *Remember the Titans* [American football]
- *The Rookie* [baseball]
- *Seabiscuit* [horse racing]
- *Searching for Bobby Fischer* [chess]
- *Swimming Upstream* [swimming]
- *Tin Cup* [golf]
- *Wimbledon* [tennis]

Lessons 27-28: Preparing for the final display (please refer to SoWs pp.62-63)

List of suggested topics

- Students' sports participation, preferences and consumption
- Sports records and achievements of the school/past students
- Major sports events or tournaments of the school
- Sports development of the school
- Individual teams and players

Suggested genres/formats

- Personal profiles
- Interview reports
- Match/tournament reviews
- Charts and tables
- Survey reports
- Captions of photographs and pictures
- Feature articles

Lessons 43-46: Major sports events (please refer to SoWs pp.64-65)

Activity

Think of a major sports event you are interested in – tournaments, cup competitions, Grand Prix races, etc. around the world. Gather information about the event as preparation for a short presentation. In the presentation you should:

- name the event and say which sport it relates to
- give a brief history of the event
- describe what it is like and what happens
- discuss its commercial impact – sectors of the community/society, associated business, etc.
- give some information about the last time it was held
- tell people how to learn more, and when and how they can enjoy the next one

Most major sports events have websites dedicated to them. You may refer to them for ideas. Here are some examples:

www.formula1.com

www.hksevens.com

www.premierleague.com

www.nba.com

www.nfl.com

www.australianopen.org

www.rolandgarros.org

www.usopen.org

www.wimbledon.org

www.americascup.com/en/

Presentation Feedback Form

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Delivery strategies			
• The speech is given in a natural way and without much hesitation	1	2	3
• Words can be heard clearly	1	2	3
• There is enough eye contact	1	2	3
• Suitable body movements are used	1	2	3
Collaboration with group mates			
• Group mates cooperate well in presenting the message	1	2	3

Other Comments:

Teachers' notes

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