READING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

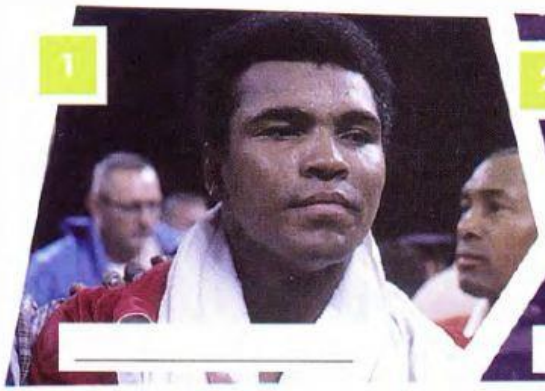
- identify questions which ask for factual information and questions which ask for the writer's opinion
- skim and scan to arrive at the correct answers quickly
- understand the whole text to answer questions about global understanding
- use the past simple and past continuous correctly.

LEAD-IN

0 1 Match the names with photos 1–5.

Serena Williams	Jack Nicklaus	David Beckham
Muhammad Ali	Michael Jordan	

1



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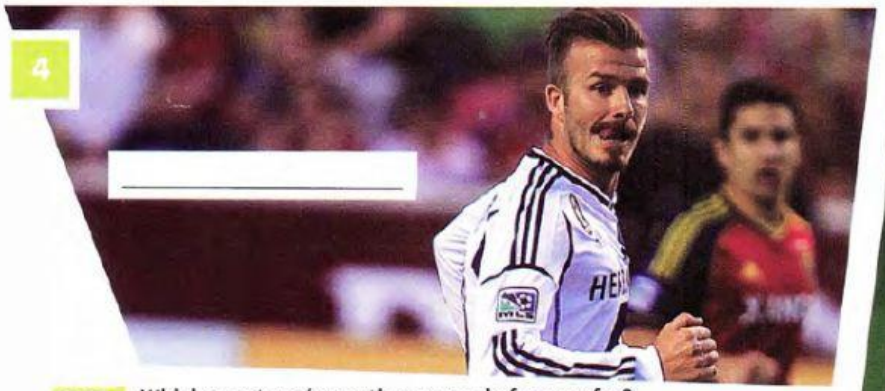

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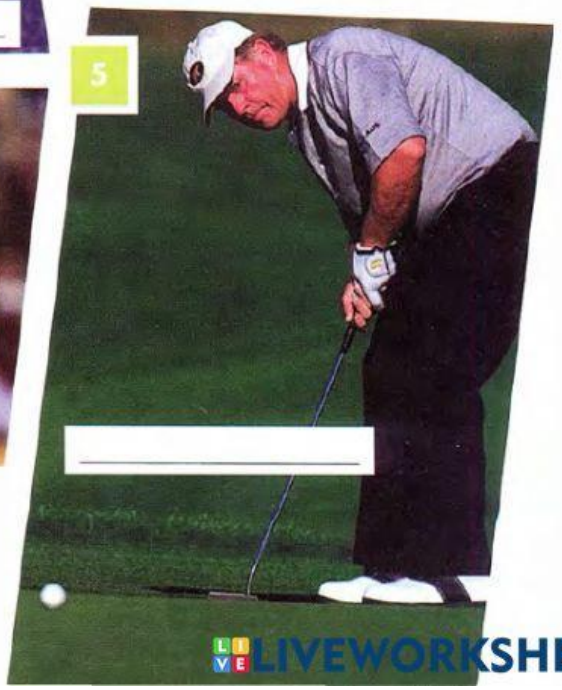


0 2 Which sport are/were these people famous for?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

03 With a partner, try and answer the multiple-choice quiz. What else do you know about these sports stars?

In the Reading test you may be presented with this type of multiple-choice question. The answers, however, will all be located in the text and will **not** test your general knowledge on any subject.

SPORTING LEGENDS

1 In what year did Serena Williams first become World Number 1?
A 1995 B 2002 C 2007

2 How many major championships did Jack Nicklaus win during his career?
A 18 B 21 C 12

3 How old was Muhammad Ali when he started training?
A 21 B 12 C 8

4 How long was David Beckham captain of the England team?
A 3 years B 10 years C 6 years

5 How tall is Michael Jordan?
A 1.98 m B 1.70 m C 1.82 m

FACTS AND OPINIONS

There are two types of question:

- those which ask for **factual information**
- those which ask for the **writer's opinion.**

04 Read these paragraphs and answer the questions which follow. Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

TIP 04 The answers are in the same order as the text.

WHY IS THE FORMER BOXER MUHAMMAD ALI STILL CONSIDERED A LEGEND?

Although Muhammad Ali was responsible for many legendary moments in the boxing ring, there was much more to this man's appeal. Not only was he a successful athlete, but he was also well known for his strong work ethic and fearless approach to standing up for his beliefs.

Born as Cassius Clay in 1942, Muhammad Ali began training at just 12 years old and, at the age of 22, won the world heavyweight championship in 1964. It was a title he went on to win again, in 1974 and 1978. He referred to himself as 'The Greatest', and was famous for boasting about his ability to 'float like a butterfly and sting like a bee'.

1 Why does the writer think that Muhammad Ali is still considered a legend?
A because he is a successful athlete
B because of several factors, not just his abilities as a boxer
C because he has great appeal

2 What name did Muhammad Ali give himself during his career?
A Cassius Clay B The Greatest C The Champion

LIVEWORKSHEETS

05 **Now answer these questions.**

1 Which question is factual and which asks for the writer's opinion?
2 Look at question 1 again. Are all the answers possible? Why did you choose one particular answer?
3 Do any of the words in the first paragraph match the words in question 1? Do matching words give you the correct answer?
4 What phrase is used to mean 'give himself the name' in the second paragraph?

APPROACHING THE QUESTION

06 **Complete the flow-chart showing one approach with words from the box.**

instructions ~~understand~~ key questions scan wrong

In the Reading test, the texts are much longer than in exercise 4, so it is important to develop a strategy which allows you to **get the correct answer quickly**.

Read the **1** _____ and _____ carefully.	Read the text to **2** understand the general meaning.	Read the questions again and underline **3** _____ words, e.g dates, names etc.	**4** _____ the text for the key words or synonyms.	Read around the key words in the text.	Re-read the questions and choose an answer.	Quickly check the other options are **5** _____ and make your final choices.

07 **Use this approach to answer questions about the text. Choose TWO letters, A–D.**

TIP 07

It is important to read the instructions very carefully as the number of letters you need to choose can vary.

Serena Williams has dominated women's professional tennis since the late 1990s, when she and her sister, Venus, became global tennis superstars. Serena in particular has become known for her determination, powerful game and unique fashion sense.

Serena was born on 26 September 1981 in Saginaw, Michigan. When she was just a baby, her family moved to California, and it was there she started playing tennis at the age of four. She was coached by her father, Richard Williams, until she was 12. Although Mr Williams was determined that his daughters would succeed in the tennis world, he was also focused on giving them a good education.

In fact, whilst they were training to be tennis stars, he also took responsibility for their home-schooling.

Serena is so successful on the tennis court because of her rapid movement, speed of thought and powerful shots. Indeed, whilst she was playing a match in the 2013 Australian Open, Serena hit a serve* at a speed of just under 207 km per hour, the third fastest recorded among female players. This powerful serve helps put her opponents under pressure from the very start of the game.

During her career, she has won 56 singles championships, 22 doubles championships and was also a gold medallist at the 2000, 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

*to serve (v) – to hit the ball to the other player as a way of starting the game

1 According to the writer, Serena has become so famous because …
A she is aggressive.
B she has a strong tennis game.
C she is very good at fashion.
D she has self-belief.

2 During Serena's upbringing, what did her father consider to be important?
A staying at home
B tennis training
C her studies
D training her to be a star

3 Her tennis game is so successful because …
A she thinks quickly.
B she can hit the ball hard.
C she is the third fastest player in the world.
D her opponents are nervous of her.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

08 **Answer these questions.**

1 Which questions ask you to complete the sentence and which ask you to answer the question?
2 How many synonyms from words in the text are used in the questions?
3 Do any answers match the wording in the text?
4 Are these answers the correct ones?

TIP 08

Both types of question may be in the Reading test, so it is important to read the questions carefully.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: PAST SIMPLE / PAST CONTINUOUS

09 **Say which past tenses are used in the text.**

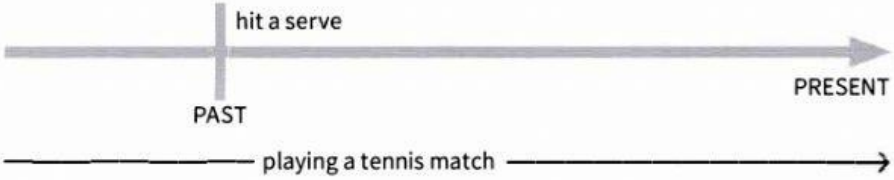
10 **Study this sentence, then answer the questions.**

... whilst she was playing a match in the 2013 Australian Open, Serena hit a serve at a speed of just under 207 km per hour ...

1 Underline the two past tenses in the sentence.
2 Which actions (verbs) were happening in the past at the same time?
3 Which is the long, continued action? Which is the short, finished action?
4 Are both actions finished now?

You will not be given any grammar exercises in IELTS. However, it is important that you can recognise which tenses are used and what they mean.

11 **Study this diagram and answer the questions which follow.**



1 Are there any other examples of the past continuous in the text?
2 Complete this rule:
When we use the simple past and the past continuous in the same sentence, we use the _____ _____ to talk about the 'background action' and the _____ _____ to talk about the shorter, completed action.

12 **Complete the sentences by putting the verb in brackets in the correct form of the past continuous or past simple.**

1 Whilst she _____ **(play)** basketball, her phone _____ **(ring)**.
2 He _____ **(fall)**, while _____ **(run)** for the ball.
3 It _____ **(start)** to rain in the middle of the race.
4 It _____ **(rain)** during the race.

13 **Complete the sentences with your own ideas.**

1 Whilst Michael Jordan was running down the court, _____ .
2 David Beckham injured his knee whilst _____ .
3 Jack Nicklaus was taking a shot when _____ .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

14 This section focuses on questions which check your understanding of the text *as a whole*. Read the text and choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

TIP 14

For this question type, do not choose an answer based just on one paragraph. You need to read the whole text in order to choose the correct summary.

Despite Beckham's good looks and famous marriage to Victoria Beckham, he was actually an exceptionally good footballer. His professional career began with Manchester United in 1992, at the age of 17. With United he won the Premier League title six times, the FA Cup twice and the UEFA Champions League in 1999. He later went on to play for Real Madrid and LA Galaxy.

In international football, he made his England debut in 1996 at the age of 21.

He was also made captain in 2002 and had short spells at AC Milan and Paris St Germain. His former boss, Alex Ferguson, praised David for always trying hard, playing with supreme confidence and scoring important goals.

His football career was not always easy, however. During the 1998 World Cup, in a game against Argentina, he was fouled by the player Diego Simeone. In retaliation, Beckham kicked Simeone and was given a red card. Consequently, when England went on to lose the game and go out of the World Cup, Beckham became hated by football fans and was portrayed very negatively by the media.

It took three years before Beckham was allowed to play for England again and in 2002 he redeemed himself by scoring a penalty in a 1–0 victory against Argentina.

In 2013 Beckham retired from professional football and played the last game of his 20-year career. Although he is now retired from football, reports claim that he earns more money now than he did as a successful footballer. In 2014 it was documented that he earned £50.5 million, a large portion of which came from brand endorsements for companies such as Adidas, Sky Sports and Samsung.

What is the best title for this article?

A What has Beckham achieved during his career?

B Despite all the media attention, was Beckham a good football player?

C What problems did Beckham have during his football career?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXAM SKILLS

15 **Using all the skills you have learnt in this lesson, read the text and complete the multiple-choice task which follows.**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FOOTBALL

There is no clear evidence stating where and when football was actually invented, but most historians agree that some type of ball game had been played centuries before the modern game developed in England. Football has a long and interesting history and origins of the game are present in sports played thousands of years ago in China, Egypt, Japan and Greece. Aspects of the game can be traced as early as the second and third centuries BC in China. Their game, originally named 'Tsu Chu', involved kicking a leather ball into a small hole.

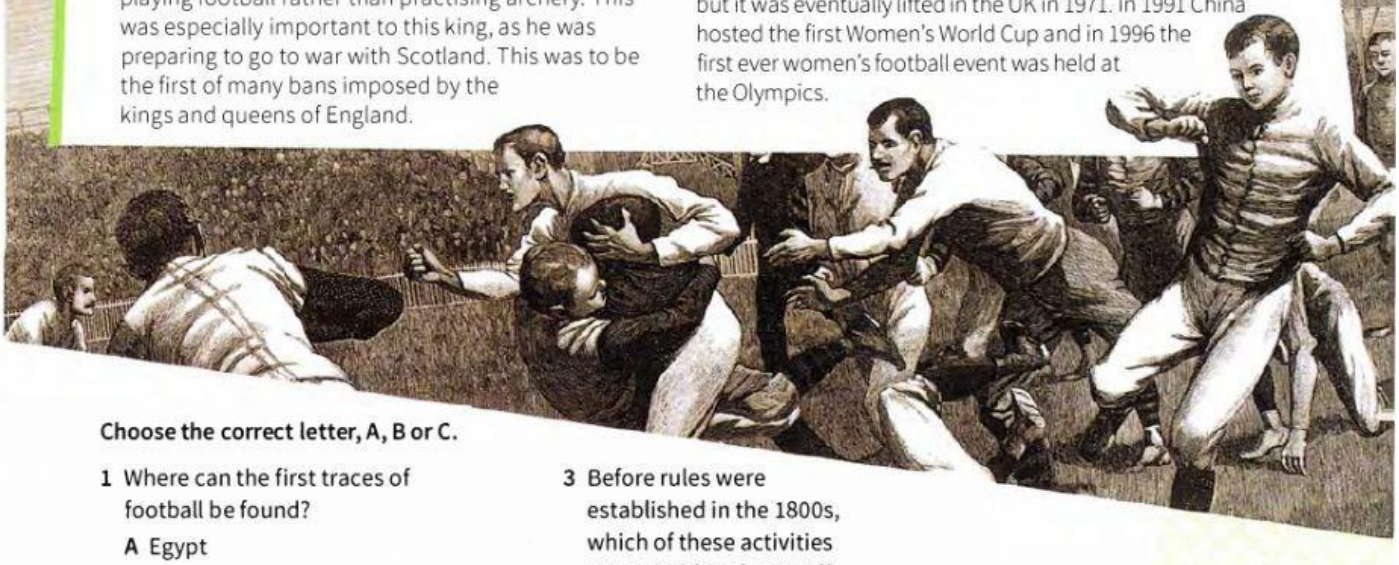
The first football games played in Britain were in the 700s and the English equivalent of a football was made using an animal bladder. Games were violent and injury and death were common. Despite the violence, however, they were still very popular. The game had become so popular that in the 1300s Edward II banned the sport because people were playing football rather than practising archery. This was especially important to this king, as he was preparing to go to war with Scotland. This was to be the first of many bans imposed by the kings and queens of England.

In 1605 football became legal and once again the sport grew in popularity.

In the 1800s it became particularly common in private schools such as Eton, and it was only then that a set of rules was established. Until then, the game had continued to be violent, as it had had limited rules and no referees. Before the 1800s, for example, it was considered normal to hit players on the opposite team and to damage their possessions. In 1848, on Parker's Piece in Cambridge, these rules were developed further and a new version called the 'Cambridge Rules' was used by all schools, colleges and universities.

Though football could be considered a male sport, women also play it.

An increase in women playing the sport began during the First World War, when women did jobs traditionally done by men. Those working in places like factories regularly met to play. Unfortunately, a ban was imposed when the war ended, but it was eventually lifted in the UK in 1971. In 1991 China hosted the first Women's World Cup and in 1996 the first ever women's football event was held at the Olympics.



Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

1 Where can the first traces of football be found?
   - A Egypt
   - B China
   - C England

2 Why did Edward II ban football in the 1300s?
   - A because it was too violent and death was common
   - B because he was preparing to go to war with China
   - C because people weren't practising archery

3 Before rules were established in the 1800s, which of these activities was considered normal?
   - A stealing from opponents
   - B destroying players' property
   - C being violent towards the referee

4 Women started playing football because
   - A the ban was lifted in 1971.
   - B they started to work during the First World War.
   - C in 1991 there was the first Women's World Cup.

LIVEWORKSHEETS