

Unit 9 The history of football. Advanced

Start thinking

1 Answer the questions.

- 1 How popular is football in your country? Which teams have the most supporters?
.....
- 2 How successful is your national football team? Has it ever won any important competitions? If so, which ones? If not, why not?
.....
- 3 How often do you personally watch football? Do you prefer to watch it on television or live? Why?
.....

Comprehension check

2 Watch the video. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Football is played in more than ... countries and territories.
a 200 b 265 c 300
- 2 The ball game *Kemari* is an old ... game.
a British b Chinese c Japanese
- 3 Most people like football because it's such a ... sport.
a complex b simple c disciplined

3 Watch the video again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Approximately how many people play football the world over?
It's played by about
- 2 Who makes a huge annual profit out of people's obsession with football?
A huge annual profit is made by
- 3 What kind of ball did the Chinese use in an ancient ball game?
The Chinese used a ball
- 4 Which values did public schools hope to teach pupils through sport in the past?
They hoped to teach pupils
- 5 Where was the meeting at which the rules of association football were set?
It was held in a
- 6 When was the first league championship established?
It was established
- 7 Which three countries set up their own football associations soon after England?
After England, set up football associations.
- 8 Which rule has not changed since the foundation of association football?
Football teams still have each.

4 Complete the summary. Write a word or a number in each gap.

While kicking a ball may not be anything new, modern football has only been around for about ¹ years. The sport was developed in ² during the 19th century, when ³ tried to regulate the primitive game that existed at the time. These measures were not entirely successful, as each institution had its own rules, which in some cases permitted players to use their ⁴ A meeting was held in the year ⁵ to decide on a common set of rules for the game, the outcome of which was the establishment of association football, also known as ⁶ The clubs that didn't agree with the rules went on to play ⁷ After the foundation of the English ⁸, other countries quickly followed suit and soon football became a phenomenon all over the world.

5 Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 Apart from the reasons given in the DVD, why else do you think football is so popular?
- 2 To what extent do you agree with the view that modern football is a business? Justify your opinion.
- 3 What is your view of sports coverage in general in your country? Which other sports would you like to see on TV?

Vocabulary

6 Complete the sentences with the verbs below and the correct prepositions.

■ agree ■ border ■ capitalize ■ deal ■ spring ■ turn

- 1 Pep Guardiola helped Barcelona Football Club..... a first-class team, guiding his players to win La Liga, the Copa de Rey and the UEFA Champions League in 2008–09.
- 2 Rafa Nadal failed to his early lead and went on to lose the match.
- 3 Sports officials are being increasingly required to cases of doping in the world of sport.
- 4 Families rarely which football team to support.
- 5 When the physical fitness system Pilates became popular, classes began to in many British towns and villages.
- 6 Some people's efforts to keep fit can an obsession to the extent that they need to do some form of exercise at least once a day.

7 Complete the text with the noun or adjective form of the words in brackets. In some cases, it may be necessary to use a prefix AND a suffix.

The history of rugby

Rugby football stems from a ¹..... (vary) of football that originated in Rugby School, a ²..... (prestige) public school in the West Midlands of England. The story goes that in 1823, an ³..... (rule) pupil caught the ball during a match and ran with it towards the opponent's goal, though there may be no truth in this. What is certain, however, is that three pupils from Rugby, tired of the ⁴..... (organize) nature of the game, were responsible for publishing the first written set of rules. Among these were two of the ⁵..... (fundament) elements of the game: provision for players to carry the ball and for the opposing team to obstruct them. It is these two rules that led to ⁶..... (agree) at the London pub meeting in 1863 and caused a number of clubs to leave the Football Association to form the Rugby Football Union. In 1871, the first ⁷..... (nation) match was played in Edinburgh between the countries of England and Scotland. A further division in the sport occurred in 1895 when the clubs in northern England broke away to administer their own ⁸..... (compete) after a dispute over pay. As a result, a different type of rugby football evolved in the north known as Rugby League.

Extension

Work in groups. You are going to have a debate on the following motion: 'Hosting the FIFA World Cup is more trouble than it's worth'. One group will be for the motion and the other will be against the motion.

- 1 Choose one person in your group to take notes. In your group, think of as many arguments as possible and write them down.
- 2 Now choose the five best arguments. Give examples where possible.
- 3 Your teacher or chairperson will start the debate. One person in your group will give a speech, presenting your arguments. He / She should talk for about three minutes.
- 4 When both groups have finished their speeches, you can respond to each other's arguments.
- 5 At the end of the debate, the teacher or chairperson will hold a vote.

Useful expressions: Predicting consequences

... can be a way to gain ...
... can be mitigated by ...
... has potential for ...
... have to implement ...
... will have a legacy of ...
... will see a surge in ...