

# EXTRA READING 1

Ex. Read the passage and answer True or False.

## American Football

American football is very different from European football. But when and how did American football start?



In the 19th century, people played football in England. Like modern football, there were two teams and the players kicked the ball to score goals. Then, one day, a player picked up the ball and ran with it to the goal. It became a new sport and they called it rugby. Both football and rugby spread across to the United States and became popular there. After some time, the Americans used both these sports to invent American football.

In modern American football there are eleven players on a team. There are sixty minutes of play, but a game can last four hours because they stop the timing when there is no play. The teams use an oval ball and they have to run with it to the other team's goal.

When they get to the goal, they can score a touchdown and get six points. American football players are usually very big and very strong because they have to stop the other team. The game is more dangerous than rugby, so the players wear helmets and special clothes.

Today American football is the United States's most popular sport. The most important games are in the Super Bowl. They play these games in January. Thousands of families in America watch them on TV or at the stadium. Some of the most popular teams are *The New York Giants* and *The Dallas Cowboys*. Every year teams look for new players. The best players become very famous in America.



**Name:** Tyson Jackson  
**Birthday:** June 6 1986  
**Birth place:** New Orleans  
**Height:** 195cm  
**Position:** Defensive End  
**Team:** Kansas City Chiefs



**Name:** Matthew Stafford  
**Birthday:** February 7 1988  
**Birth place:** Florida  
**Height:** 188cm  
**Position:** Quarterback  
**Team:** Detroit Lions

1. American football started in Europe in the 19th century. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Rugby was invented when a player picked up the ball and ran with it. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Each American football team has eleven players. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The ball used in American football is oval-shaped. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A touchdown is worth six points. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Players wear helmets because the game is less dangerous than rugby. \_\_\_\_\_

7. The Super Bowl is played in January. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tyson Jackson was born in Florida. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Matthew Stafford is taller than Tyson Jackson. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Matthew Stafford is a Quarterback for the Detroit Lions. \_\_\_\_\_