

LISTENING TAPESCRIPT
(Please read twice.)

Football, or soccer as the game is also known, is the most popular game all over the world. In Europe it's at least the number one sport and, in some countries, almost a religion. Because of its beauty, simplicity and unpredictability, it attracts people and stirs deep emotions. What about in the United States?

On American soil soccer has had a hard time for many years. From the very beginning, soccer has always been portrayed as a culturally alien game, where there is little physical contact, too few goals and too little spectacle. American people are accustomed to their 'tribal' contact games such as American football, which best appealed to their instincts, and so did not want to accept a 'stranger' from Europe.

Soccer in the USA was viewed badly because of some untrue stereotypes promoted by the media. First of all, Americans were persuaded to believe that soccer was a boring game, consisting of useless running, where hardly anything interesting ever happened and an incredibly small number of goals were scored. Soccer matches requiring one's undivided attention for 45 minutes were considered strange, as Americans were used to frequent timeouts, during which they could enjoy side-line entertainment, as well as eat and drink.

This unpopularity of soccer would probably still be present in America if FIFA had not charged the United States with a very big responsibility – the organization of the World Cup in 1994. The decision, made in 1988, was part of a strategy aimed at popularizing soccer in those parts of the world where the game was neither well-known, nor particularly liked, and offered a positive image of the game to these countries. Many Americans worked hard to popularize the game, to prepare the championships as well as possible, and to attract the richest sponsors. The campaign turned out to be a real success. As many as 27 cities wanted to host the World Cup games. Out of these, nine stadiums were chosen. The speed of the sale of the tickets was also impressive. The only thing that was lacking was a good performance from the U.S. team.

Did it help to promote soccer?

The World Cup came and went like a passing storm. It left a profit of about sixty million dollars as all 3.5 million tickets had been sold. Soccer definitely became a less alien sport. The victory of Columbia and the match with Brazil electrified America for a while and the players became heroes overnight.

They were invited to TV shows and the highlights of their games were shown over and over again. After the storm had passed over, soccer began to be forgotten. Popular papers started writing about other sports, giving soccer the go-by. The most talented players in the American team started job-shopping in Europe. Some of them even changed their profession.

*Adapted from "Soccer in the United States",
by M.Mazurkiewicz, Anglorama 2/2005 (30)*

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– riešenia a úlohy

S P E A K I N G - P I C T U R E S

Talk about the fashion in the pictures (clothes, materials, patterns, occasions...).

Compare and contrast the pictures.

Talk about your attitude to fashion.

Choose one picture and make up a story about the person or people in the picture.



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ROLEPLAY

STUDENT

You have a birthday coming up soon and you hope you will get a new mobile phone because you have lost your old one. Your parents have been angry with you because it was not the first time and they have claimed they will not buy you a new one again. Give some reasons why you need a new mobile phone and try to persuade your parents to buy one for you. You even promise to get a part-time job to earn some money and contribute some money. Your parents want to buy you something else.

You start:

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ROLEPLAY

TEACHER

Your son's/daughter's birthday is coming up soon and you know that he/she would like to get a new quality mobile phone. He/She has lost several previous mobiles and you are not willing to buy him/her a new one unless he/she contributes some money. You would like to buy him/her a book in English so that he/she can practice his/her English.

He/She starts:

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A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR – 15 points

1. I found the match rather unexciting.
2. This result was entirely unexpected.
3. This printer is completely useless.
4. I appreciate being taken to the station.
5. Jim says he'll be late because he is getting his hair cut.
6. Lucy used to have short hair.

6 pts

7. were called
8. had tried
9. was meant
10. were trapped
11. had hoped
12. were robbing
13. had never been
14. had been trying
15. were locked

9 pts

VOCABULARY – 10 points

1C 2D 3D 4A 5A 6B 7C 8C 9D 10C

5 pts (0.5 pt each)

11. learner 12. later 13. trainee 14. assessment 15. guidance
16. Education 17. debriefing 18. resemblance 19. monitoring 20. practice

5 pts (0.5 pt each)

READING COMPREHENSION – 10points

1E 2B 3A C and D are extra

3 pts

4C 5B 6D 7A 8D 9B 10C

7 pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5 points

1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 T 8 T 9 F 10 T

5pts (0.5 pt each)

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