

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

Contents

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| The Article | 2 |
| Warm-ups | 3 |
| Before Reading / Listening | 4 |
| While Reading / Listening | 5 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 6 |
| After Reading / Listening | 7 |
| Student Survey | 8 |
| Discussion | 9 |
| Language Work | 10 |
| Writing | 11 |
| Homework | 12 |
| Answers | 13 |

23rd September, 2010

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

India is working against the clock to try and save the 2010 Commonwealth Games after a series of PR disasters. The sporting event is behind the Olympics and World Championships in terms of status. India is holding it for the first time but is struggling to satisfy competing national teams. Several well-known athletes, including Jamaica's Olympic 100-metre champion and world record holder Usain Bolt have already pulled out, some because they have security concerns. More athletes were worried about their safety after two Taiwanese tourists were shot in Delhi last week. Other countries are worried about health and safety. The Scottish and South African teams are among many who described the athletes' village as "unfit for human habitation."

The Commonwealth Games are attended by countries who have strong links with the British monarchy. It is the second time for an Asian country to host the games, following Malaysia in 1998. This year has seen the Games dogged by problems. A majority of Indians believe they are a waste of money. They are already more than 500 per cent over budget. This week has seen several embarrassing accidents with the Games' facilities; a footbridge leading to the main stadium collapsed, injuring 28 people, four critically; and part of the ceiling in the weightlifting venue fell down. Many athletes say they are worried about diseases and terrorism. The Games' organizers are confident everything will be ready on time and that Western nations are worrying too much.

WARM-UPS

1. SPORTING EVENTS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about sporting events. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

working against the clock / PR disasters / status / struggling / world record / safety / strong links / monarchy / waste of money / embarrassing / accidents / confident

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. THE GAMES: What can India do to keep all nations attending the Commonwealth Games happy? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

| About the... | How big a problem? | What India can do |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| security issues | | |
| athlete housing | | |
| finishing the facilities | | |
| the threat of disease | | |
| public relations | | |
| athletes pulling out | | |

4. SUCCESS: Students A **strongly** believe the Commonwealth Games in India will be a huge success; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SPORTS: What are your favourites? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Ones you play well
- Ones your country is good at
- Men's sports
- Winter sports
- Water sports
- Extreme sports
- Women's sports
- Combat sports

6. GAMES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'games'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. India has limited time to finish preparing to host a major sports event. | T / F |
| b. India is holding the Commonwealth Games for the first time. | T / F |
| c. Usain Bolt, the 100-metre champion, is the biggest star at the Games. | T / F |
| d. All athletes are very happy with the housing India is providing. | T / F |
| e. Only countries that have a king or queen can compete at the Games. | T / F |
| f. One other Asian country has hosted the Commonwealth Games. | T / F |
| g. Several weightlifters fell down at a weightlifting venue. | T / F |
| h. The Games' organizers think Western countries should worry less. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. series | a. fell down |
| 2. holding | b. worries |
| 3. pulled out | c. hold |
| 4. concerns | d. sequence |
| 5. habitation | e. positive |
| 6. links | f. hosting |
| 7. host | g. bulk |
| 8. majority | h. living |
| 9. collapsed | i. connections |
| 10. confident | j. withdrawn |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. working against | a. by problems |
| 2. a series of | b. habitation |
| 3. India is holding it | c. PR disasters |
| 4. athletes were worried about | d. budget |
| 5. unfit for human | e. the British monarchy |
| 6. strong links with | f. ready on time |
| 7. dogged | g. the clock |
| 8. a waste of | h. for the first time |
| 9. more than 500 per cent over | i. money |
| 10. confident everything will be | j. their safety |

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games – 23rd September, 2010

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

India is working against the _____ to try and save the 2010 Commonwealth Games after a series of PR _____. The sporting event is behind the Olympics and World Championships in terms of _____. India is holding it for the first time but is struggling to satisfy _____ national teams. Several well-known athletes, including Jamaica's Olympic 100-metre champion and world record holder Usain Bolt, have already _____ out, some because they have security concerns. More athletes were worried about their _____ after two Taiwanese tourists were shot in Delhi last week. Other countries are worried about _____ and safety. The Scottish and South African teams are _____ many who described the athletes' village as "unfit for human habitation."

health
competing
among
disasters
pulled
clock
safety
status

The Commonwealth Games are _____ by countries who have strong links with the British monarchy. It is the second time for an Asian country to _____ the games, following Malaysia in 1998. This year has seen the Games _____ by problems. A _____ of Indians believe they are a waste of money. They are already more than 500 per cent over budget. This week has seen several embarrassing accidents with the Games' _____; a footbridge leading to the main stadium collapsed, injuring 28 people, four critically; and part of the ceiling in the weightlifting venue _____ down. Many athletes say they are worried about diseases and terrorism. The Games' organizers are _____ everything will be ready on time and that Western nations are _____ too much.

facilities
dogged
confident
attended
worrying
host
fell
majority

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

India is _____ to try and save the 2010 Commonwealth Games after _____. The sporting event is behind the Olympics and World Championships in terms of status. India is holding it for the first time but _____ competing national teams. Several well-known athletes, including Jamaica's Olympic 100-metre champion and world record holder Usain Bolt, have already pulled out, some because _____. More athletes were worried about their safety after two Taiwanese tourists were shot in Delhi last week. Other countries are worried about health and safety. The Scottish and South African _____ who described the athletes' village as "_____."

The Commonwealth Games _____ who have strong links with the British monarchy. It is the second time for an Asian country to host the games, following Malaysia in 1998. This year has seen the Games _____. A majority of Indians believe they are a waste of money. They are already more than 500 per cent over budget. This week has seen _____ with the Games' facilities; a footbridge leading to the _____, injuring 28 people, four critically; and part of the ceiling in the weightlifting venue fell down. Many athletes say they are worried about _____. The Games' organizers are confident everything _____ and that Western nations are worrying too much.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'sporting' and 'event'.

| sporting | event |
|----------|-------|
| | |

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• against• behind• status• holder• shot• human | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• links• host• budget• main• fell• worrying |
|---|--|

STUDENT SPORTING EVENTS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

Write five GOOD questions about sporting events in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SPORTING EVENTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'sport'?
- c) What do you know about the Commonwealth Games?
- d) What are your favourite sporting events?
- e) Why do you think India is having to rush to get everything ready for the Commonwealth Games?
- f) What are the PR disasters mentioned in the article and are they such big disasters?
- g) How much damage does Usain Bolt pulling out cause a sporting event?
- h) Aren't security issues and fears of terrorism something every host country has to worry about?
- i) In what way do you think the accommodation might be "unfit for human habitation"?
- j) What kind of accommodation should India provide world athletes?

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games – 23rd September, 2010
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

SPORTING EVENTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think non-Commonwealth countries should be allowed to take part?
- c) What could India do to make Indians support the Games?
- d) How is it possible such projects can be 500% over budget?
- e) Do you think the Games should be cancelled?
- f) Are athletes over-reacting by worrying about disease and terrorism?
- g) Do you think Western nations are worrying too much?
- h) What sporting event would you like to win a gold medal in?
- i) Do you think poorer nations are as worried as the richer ones?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the Games' organizer?

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games – 23rd September, 2010
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright Sean Banville 2010

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1009/100923-commonwealth_games.html

India is working against the (1) _____ to try and save the 2010 Commonwealth Games after a series of PR disasters. The sporting event is behind the Olympics and World Championships in (2) _____ of status. India is holding it for the first time but is struggling (3) _____ satisfy competing national teams. Several well-known athletes, including Jamaica's Olympic 100-metre champion and world record holder Usain Bolt, have already pulled (4) _____, some because they have security concerns. More athletes were worried about their safety (5) _____ two Taiwanese tourists were shot in Delhi last week. Other countries are worried about health and safety. The Scottish and South African teams are among many who described the athletes' village as "(6) _____ for human habitation."

The Commonwealth Games are attended by countries who have strong links with the British monarchy. It is the second time for an Asian country to (7) _____ the games, (8) _____ Malaysia in 1998. This year has seen the Games dogged by problems. A majority of Indians believe they are a waste of money. They are already more than 500 per cent (9) _____ budget. This week has seen (10) _____ embarrassing accidents with the Games' facilities; a footbridge leading to the main stadium collapsed, injuring 28 people, four (11) _____; and part of the ceiling in the weightlifting venue fell down. Many athletes say they are worried about diseases and terrorism. The Games' organizers are confident everything will be ready on time and that (12) _____ nations are worrying too much.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) time | (b) hour | (c) seconds | (d) clock |
| 2. | (a) teams | (b) terms | (c) times | (d) teems |
| 3. | (a) to | (b) by | (c) at | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) off | (b) up | (c) out | (d) in |
| 5. | (a) post | (b) then | (c) after | (d) following |
| 6. | (a) fitness | (b) unfit | (c) fits | (d) unfittingly |
| 7. | (a) host | (b) heist | (c) haste | (d) ghost |
| 8. | (a) follows | (b) followed | (c) follower | (d) following |
| 9. | (a) without | (b) over | (c) up | (d) on |
| 10. | (a) ordeal | (b) numeral | (c) surreal | (d) several |
| 11. | (a) critical | (b) criticality | (c) critically | (d) criticalness |
| 12. | (a) Western | (b) westerly | (c) west | (d) westernize |

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games – 23rd September, 2010

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the Commonwealth Games. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SPORTING EVENTS: Make a poster about sporting events in your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. COMMONWEALTH GAMES: Write a magazine article about the problems the Commonwealth Games are having. Include imaginary interviews with athletes and organizers.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the organizer of the Commonwealth Games in India. Ask him/her three questions about the Games. Give him/her three pieces of advice on how to make them a success. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. T c. F d. F e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. series | a. sequence |
| 2. holding | b. hosting |
| 3. pulled out | c. withdrawn |
| 4. concerns | d. worries |
| 5. habitation | e. living |
| 6. links | f. connections |
| 7. host | g. hold |
| 8. majority | h. bulk |
| 9. collapsed | i. fell down |
| 10. confident | j. positive |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. working against | a. the clock |
| 2. a series of | b. PR disasters |
| 3. India is holding it | c. for the first time |
| 4. athletes were worried about | d. their safety |
| 5. unfit for human | e. habitation |
| 6. strong links with | f. the British monarchy |
| 7. dogged | g. by problems |
| 8. a waste of | h. money |
| 9. more than 500 per cent over | i. budget |
| 10. confident everything will be | j. ready on time |

GAP FILL:

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games

India is working against the **clock** to try and save the 2010 Commonwealth Games after a series of PR **disasters**. The sporting event is behind the Olympics and World Championships in terms of **status**. India is holding it for the first time but is struggling to satisfy **competing** national teams. Several well-known athletes, including Jamaica's Olympic 100-metre champion and world record holder Usain Bolt, have already **pulled** out, some because they have security concerns. More athletes were worried about their **safety** after two Taiwanese tourists were shot in Delhi last week. Other countries are worried about **health** and safety. The Scottish and South African teams are **among** many who described the athletes' village as "unfit for human habitation."

The Commonwealth Games are **attended** by countries who have strong links with the British monarchy. It is the second time for an Asian country to **host** the games, following Malaysia in 1998. This year has seen the Games **dogged** by problems. A **majority** of Indians believe they are a waste of money. They are already more than 500 per cent over budget. This week has seen several embarrassing accidents with the Games' **facilities**; a footbridge leading to the main stadium collapsed, injuring 28 people, four critically; and part of the ceiling in the weightlifting venue **fell** down. Many athletes say they are worried about diseases and terrorism. The Games' organizers are **confident** everything will be ready on time and that Western nations are **worrying** too much.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a

India rushing to save Commonwealth Games – 23rd September, 2010

More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright Sean Banville 2010