

# IELTS Reading: Lesson 7



## ARTICLE: Jackie Robinson

Instructions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Class:

- 1) Skip to the questions. Do not read the article until you fully understand what the questions are asking.
  - 2) Look for key words. Find key words in the questions that you can reference to navigate the article.
  - 3) Scan the article for clues and answer as many easy questions as you can first. It is still recommended not to skip between question sections as it is easy to miss questions and lose easy points.
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- A. On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson, age 28, becomes the first African American player in Major League Baseball when he steps onto Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to compete for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson broke the color barrier in a sport that had been segregated for more than 50 years. Exactly 50 years later, on April 15, 1997, Robinson's groundbreaking career was honored and his uniform number, 42, was retired from Major League Baseball by Commissioner Bud Selig in a ceremony attended by over 50,000 fans at New York City's Shea Stadium. Robinson's was the first-ever number retired by all teams in the league.
  - B. Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, to a family of sharecroppers. Growing up, he excelled at sports and attended the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was the first athlete to letter in four varsity sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. After financial difficulties forced Robinson to drop out of UCLA, he joined the army in 1942 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.
  - C. After protesting instances of racial discrimination during his military service, Robinson was court-martialed in 1944. Ultimately, though, he was honorably discharged. After the army, Robinson played for a season in the Negro American League. In 1946, he spent one season with the Canadian minor league team the Montreal Royals.
  - D. In 1947, Robinson was called up to the Majors and soon became a star infielder and outfielder for the Dodgers, as well as the National League's Rookie of the Year. In 1949, the right-hander was named the National League's Most Valuable Player and league batting champ.
  - E. Robinson played on the National League All-Star team from 1949 through 1954 and led the Dodgers to six National League pennants and one World Series, in 1955. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962, his first year of eligibility.
  - F. Despite his talent and success as a player, Robinson faced tremendous racial discrimination throughout his career, from baseball fans and some fellow players. Additionally, Jim Crow laws prevented Robinson from using the same hotels and restaurants as his teammates while playing in the South. After retiring from baseball in 1957, Robinson became a businessman and civil rights activist. He died October 24, 1972, at age 53, in Stamford, Connecticut.

Read the rest of this article at: <<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jackie-robinson-breaks-color-barrier>>

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### VOCABULARY & PHRASES

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protesting  
ultimately  
court-martialed  
honorably discharged  
Rookie of the Year

Racial discrimination  
Major league  
Minor league  
African American  
sharecroppers

varsity sports  
to letter in sports  
financial difficulties  
tremendous  
Jim Crow Laws

# IELTS Speaking: Lesson 7



## QUESTIONS: Jackie Robinson

### Questions 1-6

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in the spaces for 1-6 below.

1. where he was the first athlete to letter in \_\_\_\_\_: baseball, basketball, football and track.
2. Robinson was called up to the Majors and soon became a star infielder and outfielder for the Dodgers, as well as the National League's Rookie \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He was inducted into the Baseball \_\_\_\_\_ in 1962, his first year of eligibility.
4. Despite his talent and success as a player, Robinson faced \_\_\_\_\_ throughout his career
5. After retiring from baseball in 1957, Robinson became a businessman and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Robinson's was the \_\_\_\_\_ retired by all teams in the league.

### Questions 7-11

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Lesson 4?

Answer the questions with one of the below options

- TRUE                      if the statement agrees with the information  
FALSE                     if the statement contradicts the information  
NOT GIVEN              if there is no information on this

7. Today, number 42 is very popular for players on Major League teams.
8. Jackie Robinson was the first African American player in Major League Baseball.
9. When playing in the southern states, Jackie Robinson could not use the same facilities as his teammates.
10. At one point, Jackie Robinson played baseball in Canada.
11. Since 1972, there have been 24 other notable Major League baseball players.

### Questions 12

Choose the correct letter A, B, C, or D.

12. This word does NOT describe the life of Jackie Robinson
- A. Inspirational
  - B. Discouraging
  - C. Meaningful
  - D. Difficult

### Answers:

- |                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. four varsity sports              | 10. True      |
| 2. of the Year                      | 11. Not Given |
| 3. Hall of Fame                     | 12. B         |
| 4. tremendous racial discrimination |               |
| 5. civil rights activist            |               |
| 6. first-ever number                |               |
| 7. False                            |               |
| 8. True                             |               |
| 9. True                             |               |