

## Lesson 03: Starting a New Sport

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*Joey is telling his brother, Brent, about the new sport he wants to try. Listen to their conversation and do your best to answer the comprehension questions below.*

### **Listening Comprehension:**

- 1. What sport does Joey want to try?**
  - a. American football
  - b. ice hockey
  - c. rugby
- 2. Brent discourages him because...**
  - a. the other players are big and tough
  - b. the sport will take up a lot of his time
  - c. he doesn't think Joey will enjoy it
- 3. Joey says his strong point is that he's...**
  - a. strong
  - b. fast
  - c. a quick learner
- 4. Brent advises him to try out for...**
  - a. a different sport
  - b. the college team
  - c. the high school team
- 5. Brent suggests this because Joey...**
  - a. needs to gain experience
  - b. will have a better future in the sport
  - c. isn't very competitive
- 6. What do they decide to do at the end of the dialogue?**
  - a. sign up for the sport together
  - b. go exercise to prepare Joey for the tryout
  - c. buy some equipment for the sport

## Conversation Text

**Joey:** I think I'm gonna **try out for** the city hockey team this year.

**Brent:** You might want to **think twice** about that. This isn't field hockey – it's ice hockey, and **brawls** are part of the game. Those players **eat guys like you for breakfast**.

**Joey:** Oh, you're as bad as mom.

**Brent:** I'm your older brother; it's my job to **look out for you**.

**Joey:** It's not like I'm joining the Army. It's just the local hockey **league**.

**Brent:** Joey, have you seen the size of the guys on those teams? They eat, sleep, and breathe hockey. If you step out onto the ice with them, they'll **pulverize** you.

**Joey:** They will not. I may be small, but I'm fast. I'm not a **wimp**. And last year I led the school's field hockey team to the national championship. I can handle it.

**Brent:** Oh, really? Have you ever put on a pair of hockey skates?

**Joey:** Well... I go skating with Amy all the time. I'm sure there isn't much difference.

### Vocabulary

**try out for** = try to get on the team

**think twice** = reconsider

**brawls** = fights

**eat guys like you for breakfast** = a slang way to say the players are much tougher and stronger than you

**look out for you** = take care of your safety and best interests

**league** = a group of sports teams that compete against each other

**pulverize** = break into small pieces

**wimp** = (slang) a weak and fearful person

**Brent:** Hockey skates are different from the ones you wear when you take Amy out on a date. And have you ever tried to **dodge** an angry player **charging** at you on ice skates?

**Joey:** Can't say I have... but how hard can it be? I mean, I'm pretty **agile** – and I've got good **reflexes**.

**Brent:** **No offense**, Joey, I've seen you skate and **you're not exactly a pro**.

**Joey:** So I'll practice... maybe even take some private lessons to **get up to speed**.

**Brent:** I'm telling you, the high school hockey team is the best place for you to learn to skate and learn the game.

**Joey:** They don't take it seriously, though. The city league is **the real deal**. Sometimes **scouts** from the NHL come and watch the games.

**Brent:** Right... and you're likely to have your butt firmly planted **on the bench**. You'd be the least experienced guy on the team, so what makes you think you'll even get any playing time?

## Vocabulary

**dodge** = move out of the way of something in motion

**charging** = rushing forward in attack

**agile** = able to move quickly and easily

**reflexes** = ability to react quickly

**No offense** = Don't be offended by what I'm going to say

**you're not exactly a pro** = you're not very good at it

**get up to speed** = function at a normal or expected level

**the real deal** = authentic or serious, very good, lives up to expectations

**scouts** = people who recruit athletes for professional teams

**on the bench** = sitting with the reserve players, not playing

**Joey:** Hmm, yeah, I guess **it would suck** to train and train and then watch most of the game from the **sidelines**. Maybe the high school hockey team would be the best place for me to **get a piece of the action**.

**Brent:** Now you're **using your head**. Hey, the first thing we need to do is get you some real skates. Let's **head over** to the **rink** and see if they have a pair for sale in the shop.

## Vocabulary

**it would suck** = (slang)  
it would be  
disappointing /  
terrible / unfortunate

**sidelines** = the place  
outside where the  
game or action is

**get a piece of the  
action** = participate in  
an activity

**using your head** =  
thinking clearly and  
intelligently

**head over** = go

**rink** = the place where  
you can go ice skating

## Vocabulary Quiz

agile	dodged	on the bench	think twice
brawl	get up to speed	reflexes	try out for
charged	no offense	sidelines	wimp

1. If I hadn't \_\_\_\_\_, the ball would have hit me right in the stomach.
2. I've been away from work for the past few days; can you help me \_\_\_\_\_ on the latest projects?
3. Many people were injured in the \_\_\_\_\_ that broke out between fans of the rival teams.
4. My husband wants our son to \_\_\_\_\_ a very competitive youth baseball team.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, but if you trust the government to take care of you, you're an idiot.
6. She twisted her ankle and spent the next three weeks \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The coach shouted instructions to the team from the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ towards the enemy stronghold.
9. Tim was afraid to jump off the cliff into the lake, but he didn't want to look like a \_\_\_\_\_ in front of his friends.
10. When you're drunk, your \_\_\_\_\_ are much slower.
11. You should try gymnastics. That will definitely make you more \_\_\_\_\_.
12. If I were you, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ before signing a 5-year contract. That's a major commitment.

## **Speaking Task**

Have you ever played a sport? Talk about your experience, and tell me about a memorable event. If you've never played sports, then you can talk about which sports you like/dislike watching and why.

Record your story at [www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish](http://www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish) - or you can e-mail me your MP3 at [homework@espressoenglish.net](mailto:homework@espressoenglish.net) for feedback on your spoken English.

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. c

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. dodged
2. get up to speed
3. brawl
4. try out for
5. no offense
6. on the bench
7. sidelines
8. charged
9. wimp
10. reflexes
11. agile
12. think twice