

# Sports Phrases You'll Hear in the Business World

## Exercise 1

### Warm-up

Have a short conversation based on the questions below.

1. Do you play any sports? How often do you play them?
2. What are the most popular sports in your country?

## Exercise 2

### Vocabulary

#### 1. take action

Phrase

**teɪk** 'ækjən

to do something significant to achieve something, solve a problem, etc.

We must **take** immediate **action** to protect the environment.

#### 2. court

Noun

**kɔːrt**

a four-sided area where games such as basketball, tennis, etc. are played

The school only has one tennis **court**.

#### 3. championship

Noun

**'tʃæmpi:ən** .ʃɪp

a competition to decide the best player or team in a sport or game

Thanks to a great team effort, they won the **championship**.

#### 4.set up

Phrasal Verb

set **ʌp**

to arrange for something to happen

I'll **set up** a meeting for next Tuesday, so please let me know if that works for you.

#### 5.injury

Noun

**ˈɪndʒəri**:

harm or damage done to the body of a human or animal

She had to withdraw from the race because of a leg **injury**.

### Exercise 3

## Reading Practice

Take turns reading each paragraph of the article

### Sports Phrases You'll Hear in the Business World

Working for a big company can be like playing in a team, and trying to succeed in the business world can feel like fighting for a **championship**. And the connections between business and sport don't stop there: phrases from sports are often used in business.

Here are some sports-based phrases to help you succeed in business.

You can't just "**watch from the sidelines**" in business. In sports, this means watching the game from the side of the field instead of playing in it, for example because of an **injury**. So the phrase is used to talk about waiting to see what happens instead of taking action.

So if there was someone you really want as a customer, you might say, "We can't just watch from the sidelines; we need to get this client before she goes to another company."

In baseball, players need to run and touch each of three bases before they can reach home base and score a point. But to "**touch base**" also means to contact someone, usually just for a short conversation.

So your workmate might say, "I'll touch base with the client and see if we can **set up** a meeting."

When the "**ball is in your court**," it means it's time for you to **take action**, and nothing else can happen until you do. This phrase comes from tennis: when the ball is in your side of the **court**, you have to be the one to hit it to keep the game going.

After a meeting with your potential client, you might say, "We've shown her everything we can offer. The ball is in her court now."

## Exercise 4

# Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

1. We should \_\_\_ next week to discuss the contract a bit further.
2. I'd like to \_\_\_ a meeting in person to talk about our partnership.
3. Our final offer is \$100,000 so \_\_\_ now.
4. We need everyone's help with this project and I don't want anyone to \_\_\_\_.
5. If we keep going at this pace, we'll get at least ten more \_\_\_ by the end of the year.

## Answer Pool (Questions 1-5)

- touch base
- the ball is in your court
- watch from the sidelines
- set up
- clients

## Exercise 5

# Discussion

Have a discussion based on the following questions.

1. Which of the phrases in the article did you find interesting?
2. Are there many expressions in your language that come from sports?
3. What sports do you follow? When did you first get into them?
4. Do you prefer individual or team sports? Why?
5. Do you work better alone or as part of a team?
6. Have you ever worked for a big company? What did you enjoy most about it?
7. How long do you plan to keep working for your current employer?