

3

Sport

3.1 FAIR PLAY

IN THIS UNIT

GRAMMAR

- quantifiers
- definite and zero articles

VOCABULARY

- idioms
- self- abstract nouns

SCENARIO

- using emphasis and comparison
- giving a presentation

STUDY SKILLS

- understanding essay questions

WRITING SKILLS

- a for and against essay



Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. George Orwell, 1903–1950, British author

SPEAKING

1a Work with a partner. You have three minutes to think of a different sport for each of these categories.

Name a sport where:

- 1 people often get injured
- 2 people wear special clothes
- 3 people have physical contact
- 4 you can only do it indoors
- 5 you can only do it outdoors
- 6 you usually compete as an individual
- 7 you are part of a team
- 8 you compete against the clock
- 9 animals are involved
- 10 men and women compete together

1b Work with a different partner to compare your ideas.

2 Discuss the questions about the sports you listed in Exercise 1a. Give reasons for your answers.

- 1 Which sport is the most competitive?
- 2 Which is the most dangerous?
- 3 Which has the most complicated rules?
- 4 Which is the most difficult to be good at?
- 5 Which is the most exciting to watch?
- 6 Which would you like to take up?

READING

3 Read the article about football quickly and match headings a–h with paragraphs 1–6. There are two extra headings.

- a More than a player
- b Breaking the rules
- c Taking football further
- d A football education
- e A final honour
- f The world's favourite sport
- g The best player in the world
- h Only for pleasure

4 Read the article again. Are these statements true, false or not given?

- 1 Miller played football professionally.
- 2 Miller was educated in England.
- 3 Miller scored a lot of goals.
- 4 Brazil first played against England in 1914.
- 5 Miller played for several teams in England.
- 6 Brazil has won the World Cup four times.
- 7 Miller has a football move named after him.
- 8 Miller started a football club in Brazil.

5 Underline all the words in the article which refer to people in sport. Match the words with these people.

Someone who:

- 1 watches sport
- 2 loves sport
- 3 teaches sport
- 4 makes sure rules are followed
- 5 plays a sport without being paid

6 Justifying opinions Work with a partner to discuss these questions.

- 1 Do you think football is 'the beautiful game'? Why?/Why not?
- 2 Which other sports do you think are beautiful? Why?
- 3 Miller felt football is about participation and doing your best, not money. Do you think this is still true today?

VOCABULARY

IDIOMS

7a Many idioms are based on sport, and on football in particular. Complete the idioms with the words in the box.

ball eye field game goal goalposts

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 be on the _____ | 5 a whole new ball _____ |
| 2 move the _____ | 6 score an own _____ |
| 3 take your _____ off the ball | 7 start the _____ rolling |
| 4 a level playing _____ | |

7b Match the idioms with their meanings.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a | a completely new or different situation |
| b | able to think or react very quickly |
| c | start something happening |
| d | change the rules/limits, making something more difficult |
| e | lose concentration |
| f | do or say something which has the opposite result to your intention |
| g | a fair situation |

8 Work in groups of three. Pick two or three idioms from Exercise 7 to talk about experiences you have had.

I remember a time when someone moved the goalposts on me. A lecturer gave me an essay title and I did a lot of work on it. Then two weeks later he completely changed the title!

Charles Miller Father of the beautiful game



1 _____
Football is the most popular spectator sport in the world – possibly the only global sport – and Brazil is arguably the greatest footballing nation in the world, having won the World Cup more times than any other country. Even people who are not keen on football have heard of Pelé, often considered the world's greatest player. However, how many football fans are familiar with the name of Charles Miller and his contribution to what Pelé called 'the beautiful game'?

2 _____
Known as the father of Brazilian football, Charles William Miller was born on 24 November 1874 in São Paulo to a Scottish father and Brazilian mother. In 1884, young Charles was sent to school in England, where he learned to play both football and cricket. Miller became skilled in running with the ball, heading and taking free kicks.

3 _____
In 1894, Miller returned to Brazil with two footballs and a copy of the rules of football. The São Paulo Athletic Club (SPAC) had been formed in 1888 by a group of British men who played mainly cricket. Miller persuaded them to take up football. He was also instrumental in setting up the Liga Paulista, the first football league in Brazil. Over the first twenty years of the next century, state championships were formed throughout Brazil and in 1914 the first national side played against Argentina.

4 _____
Miller was not only a great player, but also an excellent coach and administrator. In Brazil, he spent a lot of time and effort teaching and coaching Brazilians. After retiring as a player, he continued to be a referee until the age of fifty.

5 _____
When football became professional in Brazil in 1933, Miller was disappointed and decided to have no more contact with the game. He felt that sportspeople should be amateurs – he didn't like the introduction of money and business into sport. For Miller, football was a game, and about participation and doing your best, not money.

6 _____
Charles Miller's memory lives on in the skilful individual game which is Brazilian football. It is also kept alive in another way. When the São Paulo sports writers association brought out a dictionary of football terms in Portuguese, only one word survived from the vocabulary of the past: the charles or chaleira. Named after Charles Miller, it is a clever pass with the heel of the foot. The exciting ball skills of all the great Brazilian players, including Pelé, owe something to the pioneering spirit of Charles Miller and his passion for the game of football.

