

23 sierpnia 2016
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Sport

A Emails about a sports camp

Hi Greg,
How are things with you? I'm having a great time here at this sports camp in New Zealand. I'm taking the opportunity to **do**¹ several **extreme sports** like white-water rafting and rock climbing. At the weekend we went to the mountains and I've **acquired** quite a **taste for**² snowboarding. I didn't like it much at first – I found it really hard to **keep my balance**. But my instructor said she was sure I'd **get the hang of it**³ in a couple of hours. I thought there was **precious little chance**⁴ of that happening but I decided to **take up the challenge** and, sure enough, I mastered it. I thought I was **pretty fit**⁵ but I'm really having to **push myself to the limits**⁶ to be able to cope. I'm so shattered at night that it takes me about two seconds to fall into a deep sleep. Anyway, despite the tiredness, I'm **having a whale of a time**⁷. Hope you are too.
Philippe

¹ NOT ~~make~~

² begun to enjoy

³ (informal) become able to do something

⁴ (informal) very little chance

⁵ (informal) fairly fit

⁶ make a considerable effort

⁷ (informal) having a fantastic time

It sounds like you are having a fantastic time! I'd **jump at the chance**⁸ to try out some of those sports. The only sport I'm doing at the moment is running for the bus. But I am sharing your exhaustion. We're so busy at work that I can't **summon up the energy** to do anything in the evenings to **keep in shape**⁹.
Greg

⁸ (informal) really like to do something ⁹ stay in good physical condition

B Sports news

The mood amongst the crowd reached **fever pitch**¹ at yesterday's match between India and Pakistan. In the last few minutes of the game Khan played a **blinder**² and secured a **convincing victory** for Pakistan.



In the cricket match between Australia and South Africa the score currently **stands at** 65 for 3 wickets. We'll bring you the **latest scores** on the hour, every hour.

¹ became very excited/agitated ² (informal) performed brilliantly, usually in sport

C Match reports

The teams **took the field**¹ to the applause of 5,000 spectators. Despite **putting up** a determined **performance**, the England team seemed unable to **break through** the formidable Australian **defence**. After some impressive tackles, Australia was **awarded a penalty** just before half time. The **penalty was missed**, much to the delight of ...

Yesterday's match was full of excitement with three players being **given yellow cards** and some controversial **free kicks**. The game was lost when the Blues **scored an own goal**² in the last two minutes. The crowd **went wild**³.

¹ went on the pitch ² scored a goal in error against their own team ³ became crazy with excitement (can also be used for other emotions, such as rage)

TIP

Listen to commentaries in English relating to a sport that interests you and find a website dedicated to that sport. Note down any collocations about that sport that you notice being frequently used. You may find this website useful: www.bbc.co.uk/fivelive/sport.

Exercises

27.1 Look at A. Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 I'm finding it hard to *summon up* / *acquire* / *reach* the energy to do anything much in the evenings these days.
- 2 Have you ever tried any *formidable* / *fever* / *extreme* sports?
- 3 I didn't realise how difficult the marathon would be when I originally *took* / *had* / *got up* the challenge.
- 4 I don't think I could ever *acquire* / *educate* / *achieve* a taste for bungee jumping.
- 5 I'd *rise* / *jump* / *take* at the chance of a trip to Venice if I were offered one!
- 6 It won't take you long to get the *balance* / *taste* / *hang* of cross-country skiing as you're such an experienced downhill skier.

27.2 Complete each sentence using a word from the page opposite.

- 1 Don't yourself to the limits now. Conserve some strength for later on.
- 2 I'm having a of a time learning how to surf, though I find it almost impossible to my balance.
- 3 There's precious little of your getting her to go for a long walk today.
- 4 I've just heard the scores. Italy's winning and excitement's reaching fever
- 5 The score in the rugby match currently at 27 to 5 and France looks set to win a convincing
- 6 You must try harder to keep in over the winter. You could walk to work instead of going by bus, for example.
- 7 John Shane was given a yellow for performing an illegal tackle on an opponent.
- 8 The captain took the free and it reached Jobbs, who instantly scored.
- 9 Fortunately for Wales, Scotland every penalty that they were during the match.
- 10 When the headteacher offered a prize to the pupils who built the best raft over the holidays, children from every class decided to take up the

27.3 Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets.

- 1 I'd love to meet Johnny Depp, wouldn't you? (JUMP)
- 2 The spectators stood and clapped as the teams went on to the pitch. (TOOK)
- 3 You should only attempt this climb if you have a reasonable level of fitness. (PRETTY)
- 4 The crowd was extremely excited at the end of the match. (WILD)
- 5 We very much enjoyed our time in Australia. (WHALE)
- 6 I decided to be brave and start my own business. (CHALLENGE)
- 7 The little boy soon learnt how to ride his bike without stabilisers. (HANG)
- 8 The team captain felt dreadful when he kicked the ball into his own team's goal. (OWN)

27.4 Complete each sentence using the word in brackets in the appropriate form.

- 1 I get the football scores sent through to my mobile. (LATE)
- 2 The home team won a victory. (CONVINCE)
- 3 Our team put up an excellent (PERFORM)
- 4 It took some time before our team succeeded in breaking through the Reds' and scoring our first goal. (DEFEND)
- 5 The team captain helped to win the game by playing a (BLIND)