Sports

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Welcome

This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. The stories in the e-books are from The Westcoast Reader. It is a newspaper for adults who are improving their English reading skills.

To the reader

✔ You can use this book in a classroom, with a tutor, or on your own.

✔ Each story has exercises to go with it. These exercises can help you improve your English and reading skills.

✔ You can check your answers at the end of the book.

Three reading levels

There are three reading levels in this book. Here are the symbols for each level:

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

To the teacher

Learners can read the articles and do the exercises individually, in pairs, or in groups.

The topics can be explored further through discussion or follow-up activities.

Teachers’ Guide

The Teachers’ Guide on this website has ideas on how to use the e-books with students.

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Capilano University for this project.

A special thank you to the learners and teachers who helped choose the articles for this book.

All of the material in this book first appeared in The Westcoast Reader (1982 to 2009). Some of the articles have been updated. Most of the exercises and activities for learners are based on material from The Westcoast Reader Teachers’ Notes (1982 to 2009).

Credits

Photos
Front cover—Chantal: AP (Mark Baker), Sedins: The Vancouver Sun, Olga: The Province
Page 5—top: The Vancouver Sun, bottom: The Province; Page 6: The Province;
Page 7: Mathias Family; Page 8—Joanne: The Vancouver Sun; Page 10: The Vancouver Sun; Page 12—top: The Vancouver Sun, bottom: The Province; Page 14—Carol: AP (Ed Wray), Chantal: AP (Mark Baker); Page 16—Kaká: Fotopollex, Marta: The Vancouver Sun; Page 17—left: ; right: Agencia Brasil Wikimedia Commons; right: The Vancouver Sun; Page 20—left: Northshore News (Paul McGrath), right: The Province; Page 22—left: The Province, right: Steve Nash Foundation; Page 24: Basketball Canada
Illustrations
Page 12, 14: Nola Johnston; Page 8, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21: Guy Parsons
Swedish twins are hockey players

Daniel and Henrik Sedin are hockey players. They played for the Vancouver Canucks from 2000 to 2018. The Sedins are twins. They were born in Sweden.

Daniel (left) and Henrik in 2000

Played in the Olympics
The Sedin twins also played for Sweden. They won a gold medal at the 2006 Olympic Games.

Henrik (left) and Daniel in 2014

Sweden

Sweden is in northern Europe.

■ Henrik was voted the most valuable player in the National Hockey League (NHL) in 2010.

■ Henrik and Daniel retired from hockey in 2018.

The Westcoast Reader 3/2006, updated 2018
What’s the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Daniel and Henrik Sedin are __________________ players.
   yekcoh

2. They played for the __________________ Canucks.
   cavuVoren

3. The Sedins are __________________.
   sitnw

4. They are from __________________.
   deenwS

5. The Sedins were 19 ________________ old in 2000.
   sarey

Canada’s NHL teams

The National Hockey League (NHL) has 31 teams. There are 24 teams in the U.S. and seven in Canada. Match the Canadian cities with the teams.

___ 1. Edmonton       a. Jets
___ 2. Montreal       b. Flames
___ 3. Winnipeg       c. Canadiens
___ 4. Toronto        d. Oilers
___ 5. Vancouver      e. Senators
___ 6. Calgary        f. Canucks
___ 7. Ottawa         g. Maple Leafs
**Babies**

Sometimes a woman gives birth to more than one baby at a time. What do we call these babies? Match the five words with their meanings.

1. twins ___  a. three babies at one time
2. triplets ___  b. five babies at one time
3. quadruplets ___  c. six babies at one time
4. quintuplets ___  d. two babies at one time
5. sextuplets ___  e. four babies at one time

6. These four sisters are ___ ___  ___  ___  ___  ___  ___.
Joannie is an Olympic athlete

**Joannie won a medal**

Many people will remember Joannie. Her mother died during the Olympics. Joannie was brave. She skated and won a bronze medal.

Joannie Rochette is 23 years old. She is from Quebec. Joannie is a figure skater. She says, “My dream is to win a gold medal at the 2010 Olympics.”

*How do you say it?*

Joannie (say: zho-ann-ee)
Rochette (say: roh-shet)

*Did you know?*

- The 2010 Winter Olympics were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
- The 2022 Winter Olympics will be in Beijing, China.
What’s the sport?

Write the name of the Winter Olympic sport on the lines under the clue.

1. Athletes wear helmets in these four sports.

2. Four athletes slide down a course together in this sport.

3. In this sport, athletes stand with both feet on a board.

4. Athletes wear skates in these three sports.
Josh is a Paralympic athlete

Josh Dueck is 28 years old. He is from British Columbia.


How do you say it?
Dueck (say: DEW-ik)

The 2010 Paralympic Games were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.

More than 500 athletes with disabilities competed in five sports. For example:

- alpine skiing
- wheelchair curling

Update

- Josh won a silver medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.
- He won a gold medal and a silver medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.
What’s the sport?

Write the names of the Paralympic sports on the lines under the clues.

1. Athletes throw a rock and use a broom in this sport.

2. In this sport, athletes use a curved stick to pass and shoot a puck.

3. Athletes wear helmets in these two sports.

4. Athletes cross-country ski and shoot a rifle in this sport.

5. This sport has short, medium, and long ski races.

Canada won eight gold, four silver, and 16 bronze medals at the 2018 Paralympic Games.
Grey Cup

A football player runs with the ball.

The Canadian Football League (CFL) has nine teams. The teams are divided into two divisions. Every November, the top team from each division plays in the Grey Cup championship game.

Grey Cup parties
Many Canadians have Grey Cup parties. They get together to eat snacks and watch the Grey Cup game on TV.

Grey Cup trophy
Every year, one CFL team wins the Grey Cup trophy.

kicker
referee
football

Grey Cup trophy

The Westcoast Reader 11/2007 • Update 2015

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Grey Cup

Fill in the blanks with words from the boxes.

The Canadian Football League (_______) has ____________ teams. The
teams are divided into two _______________. Every________________
the top _____________ from each division plays in the ______________ Cup
championship _____________.

Grey | team | CFL | divisions | November | game | nine

CFL teams

Fill in the name of the city or province that goes with each team’s name.
Use the words in the box.

1. _______________ Lions
2. _______________ Stampeders
3. _______________ Argonauts
4. _______________ Eskimos
5. _______________ Roughriders
6. _______________ Alouettes
7. _______________ Blue Bombers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>BC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gold medal winners

Carol Huynh

Carol Huynh won a gold medal in wrestling at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.
Carol is from Hazelton, B.C. Her parents came to Canada from Vietnam in the 1970s.

Bronze medal in 2012

Chantal Petitclerc

Chantal Petitclerc is from Montreal. She is a wheelchair athlete.
Chantal won five gold medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.
She won the medals in five different wheelchair races.

Chantal lost both her legs in an accident when she was 13 years old.
All about gold

Put a circle around the correct answers.

1. At the Olympic Games, athletes receive gold, silver, and ___ medals.
   a. copper
   b. bronze
   c. brass

2. If something is worth its weight in gold, it is ____
   a. valuable
   b. heavy
   c. unusual

3. The Golden Gate Bridge is in this city.
   a. Sidney
   b. Brooklyn
   c. San Francisco

4. Thousands of miners came to B.C. to look for gold in the ___.
   a. 1600s
   b. 1930s
   c. 1850s

5. If a person has a heart of gold it means he or she is ___.
   a. romantic
   b. kind
   c. dull

6. A golden wedding anniversary celebrates ___ years of marriage.
   a. 25
   b. 50
   c. 75

Silent letters

Many words in English have silent consonants. For example, the “w” in “wrestling” is silent. Write the silent consonant in each word on the line next to the word.

1. listen ____
2. salmon ____
3. whole ____
4. comb ____
5. half ____
6. island ____
7. hour ____
8. knife ____
9. wrap ____
10. answer ____
11. cupboard ____
12. scissors ____
Two Brazilian soccer players

Kaká (say: kah-KAH) and Marta are soccer players. They are from Brazil.

Kaká scored 32 goals for Brazil.

Marta

Marta uses only her first name. Her full name is Marta Vieira da Silva.

Marta is 32 years old. She has scored 100 goals for Brazil. She plays for the Orlando Pride, a women’s professional soccer team in the United States.

Marta has scored lots of goals.

Kaká won the FIFA Men’s Player of the Year in 2007.

Marta won the FIFA Women’s World Player of the Year five years in a row (2006 to 2010).

Kaká

Kaká’s full name is Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite. Kaká is a nickname. How did he get his nickname? Kaká’s little brother couldn’t pronounce “Ricardo.” He called his brother Kaká.

Kaká is 36 years old. He has played soccer for teams in Brazil, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

Kaka retired from soccer in 2017.
**FIFA World Cup**

Every four years, the top men’s soccer teams in the world meet in the FIFA World Cup.

The World Cup tournament lasts for about a month. There are 32 teams in the tournament. The teams play 64 games. Millions of people watch the games on TV.

**2018 World Cup**

The 2018 World Cup was in Russia. The final game was on July 15. France beat Croatia, 4-2.

The French team celebrates.

- The 2022 World Cup will be in Qatar.
- Brazil has won the World Cup five times.
- The Women’s World Cup will be in France in 2019.

**FIFA’s top10**

Here is FIFA’s list of the top 10 men’s soccer teams in June 2018.

1. Germany
2. Brazil
3. Belgium
4. Portugal
5. Argentina
6. Switzerland
7. France
8. Poland
9. Chile
10. Spain

- FIFA is the largest soccer association in the world.
- In many countries soccer is called football.

**Soccer in Canada**

There are more than 860,000 registered soccer players in Canada. About 47 per cent are females.

Christine Sinclair plays for Canada’s women’s team.

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**What’s the number?**

Finish the sentences. Use the numbers in the box.

1. Canada has more than _____________ registered soccer players.

2. The _____________ World Cup was in Russia.

3. The World Cup tournament lasts for about _____________ month.

4. Brazil has won the World Cup _____________ times.

5. There are _____________ games in the World Cup tournament.

6. The FIFA World Cup is every _____________ years.

7. About _____________ % of Canada’s soccer players are females.

**Correct the errors**

There is one error in each sentence. Correct the errors.

1. Christine Sinclair plays for the Canadian women’s hockey team.

2. Croatia won the 2018 World Cup.

3. In many countries soccer is called rugby.

4. Marta is from Argentina.

5. Kaká is a nickname. Kaká’s real name is Carlos.

6. Orlando Fire is a women’s professional soccer team in the United States.
### Languages

This chart shows six countries and the language *most* people speak in each country. Fill in the blanks to complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Brazil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Russia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Qatar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sports: How much do you know?

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

1. Canada has ____________ professional ice hockey teams.

2. FC Barcelona is a soccer (football) team in ____________.

3. Roger Federer is a famous ____________ player.

4. The Toronto Raptors is a Canadian ____________ team.

5. The 2020 Summer Olympics will be in ____________.
Olga is a track star at 90

Olga Kotelko is amazing. She is a 90-year-old track star. Olga competes in 11 track and field events. For example: high jump, discus, and 100-metre and 200-metre races.

Retired from teaching
Olga was a school teacher in Burnaby for 30 years. After she retired, she kept busy. She hiked, swam, worked in her garden, did yoga, and played bridge with her friends.

Started to compete at 77
When Olga was 77 years old she started to compete in track and field events. In the last 13 years she has won more than 500 gold medals. Olga trains six days a week. She says, “I am healthier now than I was at 80.”

Shot put is one of Olga’s events.

Update
2013: A newspaper reporter wrote a book about Olga. It is called “What makes Olga run?”

2014: Olga Kotelko died at age 95.
**True or false**

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if the sentence is false (not true).

1. Olga Kotelko is a 90-year-old rock star. ____
2. She competes in 11 track and field events. ____
3. She has won more than 500 Olympic medals in the last 13 years. ____
4. Olga was a school teacher in Burnaby for 30 years. ____
5. After Olga retired, she hiked, swam, and played poker. ____
6. When Olga was 77 she took up track and field. ____
7. Olga will be 98 in 2014. ____
8. She trains six days a week. ____

**Track and field**

Put the track and field events in the box under the correct headings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Running</th>
<th>Jumping</th>
<th>Throwing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>discus</td>
<td>100-metre sprint</td>
<td>high jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marathon</td>
<td>shot put</td>
<td>pole vault</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Steve Nash is a basketball star

Basketball career
Steve played basketball in high school in Victoria. He got a scholarship to play at a university in the United States.

After he graduated, Steve played for three NBA teams: the Phoenix Suns, the Dallas Mavericks, and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Steve was voted the most valuable player in the NBA in 2005 and 2006.

Steve Nash Foundation
Steve started a foundation to help kids live a healthy life. His foundation helps many community groups in Canada and around the world.

Steve Nash is one of Canada’s best known athletes. He played basketball in the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 1996 to 2015.

Family moved to Canada
Steve was born in South Africa in 1974. His parents immigrated to Canada when he was a baby. The family settled in Victoria.

Steve has a younger brother and sister. His brother, Martin, is a soccer player. He played for Canada’s national soccer team.

The Steve Nash Foundation built a hospital for children in Paraguay.

The Westcoast Reader 2003 & 2006 • Updated 2015
Which words go together?

Match the word in the box with the group of words that usually go with it. Some words in the box come before the words in the list and some come after. This symbol (+) shows the position of the word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>play</th>
<th>community</th>
<th>life</th>
<th>school</th>
<th>basketball</th>
<th>world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>team</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>player</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>game</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td>whole +</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>around the +</td>
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<td></td>
<td>on top of the +</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>by ear</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>cards</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>a game</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td>summer +</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>public +</td>
<td></td>
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<td>high +</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>healthy +</td>
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<td>entire +</td>
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<td></td>
<td>a hard +</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td>+ college</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Double letters

Add the missing letters. These words are all on page 22.

1. b __ __ __ __ __  l l
2. s __ t t __ __
3. c __ m m __ __ __ __
4. s __ __ o o __
5. D __ l l __
6. __ a __ e e __
7. s __ c c __
8. __ s s __ __ __ __
**Finish the sentences**

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

1. Steve Nash was born in ___________________ Africa.

2. He grew up in ___________________.

3. Steve has a younger ___________________ and sister.

4. ___________________ Nash is Steve’s brother.

5. Steve attended university on a ___________________.

6. He played for the ___________________ Mavericks.

7. Steve was voted the most ___________________ player in 2005 and 2006.

8. The Steve Nash ___________________ helps kids live a healthy life.

| scholarship • Martin • valuable • Victoria • national Foundation • basketball • Dallas • South • brother |

**Did you know?**

- James Naismith was a Canadian. He invented basketball in 1891.
- The NBA has players from many countries. For example:
  Kristaps Porzingis—Latvia
  Dirk Nowitzki—Germany
  Joel Embiid—Cameroon
  Marc Gasol—Spain

[Image of James Naismith]
Find it

Look through this e-book to find these pictures. Each one is part of a larger picture. Write the title of the story that goes with each one.

1. ______________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________________
6. ______________________________________________________________
Answers for exercises

What’s the word? (p 6)
1. hockey 3. twins 5. years
2. Vancouver 4. Sweden

Canada’s NHL teams (p 6)
1d 2c 3a 4g 5f 6b 7e

Label the hockey player (p 7)
1. helmet 2. hockey stick 3. puck 4. skate

Babies (p 7)
1d 2a 3e 4b 5c — 6 quadruplets

What’s the sport? (p 9)
1. snowboard, ski jumping, bobsleigh, hockey
2. bobsleigh
3. snowboard
4. figure skating, hockey, speed skating

What’s the sport? (p 11)
1. wheelchair curling
2. ice sledge hockey
3. ice sledge hockey, alpine skiing
4. biathlon
5. cross-country skiing

Grey Cup (p 13)
CFL, nine, divisions, November, team, Grey, game

CFL teams (p 13)
1. BC 6. Montreal
2. Calgary 7. Winnipeg
3. Toronto 8. Otawa
4. Edmonton 9. Hamilton
5. Saskatchewan

All about gold (p 15)
1b 2a 3c 4c 5b 6b

Silent letters (p 15)
1t 2l 3w 4b 5l 6s 7h 8k
9w 10w 11p 12c

What’s the number? (p 18)
1. 860,000 2. 2018 3.1 4. 5 5. 64
6. 4 7. 47

Correct the errors (p 18)
1. hockey > soccer 2. Croatia > France
3. rugby > football 4. Argentina > Brazil
5. Carlos > Ricardo 6. Fire> Pride

Languages (p 19)
1. Portuguese 2. Russian 3. Arabic

Sports (p 19)
1. seven 2. Spain 3. tennis 4. basketball
5. Tokyo

True or false (p 21)
1F 2T 3F 4T 5F 6T 7F 8T

Track and field (p 21)
Running: 100-metre sprint, marathon
Jumping: high jump, pole vault
Throwing: discus, shot put

Which words go together? (p 23)
1. basketball 3. play 5. life
2. world 4. school 6. community

Double letters (p 23)
1. basketball 4. school 7. soccer
2. settled 5. Dallas 8. association
3. community 6. career

Finish the sentences (p 24)
1. South 5. scholarship
2. Victoria 6. Dallas
3. brother 7. valuable
4. Martin 8. Foundation

Find it (p 25)
1. Grey Cup
2. Steve Nash is a basketball star
3. Gold medal winners: Chantal Petitclerc
4. Two Brazilian soccer players (Kaká)
5. Swedish twins are hockey players
6. Joannie is an Olympic athlete