

Sport in the UK Lesson Plan

Learning objectives: To practise listening, to develop sport-related vocabulary

Skills: Listening, Speaking

Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Completion Time: 60 minutes (90 minutes if using all the suggested activities)

Age/Level: Adult/Advanced

Resources: Pictures or internet access, alternative activities (see Presentation section) Eddie the Eagle UK Sporting Hero Worksheet and Eddie the Eagle UK Sporting Hero Worksheet Answer Key

Warm-Up

- Ask the class which sports the UK has traditionally been strong in and which ones it isn't so good at.
- Ask why some countries seem to excel in certain sports, e.g. Ethiopia in long-distance running, China in gymnastics, New Zealand in rugby, Brazil in soccer, etc.

Presentation

- If possible, show students a picture of 'Eddie the Eagle' at the Calgary Olympics wearing his ski outfit and glasses and elicit reactions. Failing that, ask students what sport someone might take part in with such a nickname.
- You can also use either or both warmers: **Sport in the UK Warmer 1** or **Sport in the UK Warmer 2**.

Script and answers for Warm-up Activity 1:

Tennis star of the 1980's Bjorn Borg had a formula for success that he reserved for the grass courts of Wimbledon – he never used a razor during the entire tournament. This meant that his clean-shaven appearance at the beginning of the fortnight gradually gave way to an incipient Viking beard by the end. Leyton Hewitt swears by the uplifting strains of the Rocky theme song 'Eye of the Tiger' before every match. Outside the world of tennis, Fulham goalie Mark Schwarzer wears the same pair of shin pads in every match and has done so since he turned 19. Finally, the French national football manager Raymond Domenech reputedly picked his team with the help of the zodiac, and would never put a Leo in defence!

Answer Key for Warm-up Activity 2:

underdog

entry requirements

unsuccessful attempt

opening ceremony

fear of heights

record holder

living legend

media darling

motivational speaker

Olympic torch

non-conformist

short-sighted

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Practice

You have several options.

OPTION 1.

- Distribute the **Eddie the Eagle Worksheet** to the whole class.
- Read out the text.
- Students answer the questions and compare their answers in pairs or groups.

OPTION 2.

- Give the text to half the class and the questions to the other half.
- Put students back-to-back and ask the students with the text to read it out while their partners listen.

OPTION 3.

- Cut the text into two sections. Do the same with the questions.
- Give half the text and half the questions to each student in a pair.
- Make sure that the questions you give to each student are answered by the other student's half of the text. This may involve re-ordering the questions.

Key:

- 1 **Ski jumping**
- 2 **No support from the sporting establishment, short-sighted/wore glasses, too heavy.**
- 3 **That he was afraid of heights.**
- 4 **He walked into a glass door.**
- 5 **He came last.**
- 6 **He set a number of UK records.**
- 7 **They changed the rules to prevent total amateurs with no chance of winning from entering.**
- 8 **'On the Piste'.**
- 9 **Finnish.**
- 10 **He became a motivational speaker.**
- 11 **A degree in law.**
- 12 **By a 'biopic'/motion picture/movie/film.**
- 13 **He is very popular/he is admired as an underdog/he is a living legend.**
- 14 **They are proud of him.**

Closure

Use the discussion questions at the end of the **Eddie the Eagle Worksheet**.