



Topic: Soccer

Level: Intermediate

Grammar Focus: Nouns



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? Use these words to build a description:

player ball boots uniform shorts stripe socks game sport kick

B. Read and answer the following questions.

1. What is the man doing?

2. What is the man wearing? Why?



3. What is he about to do with the ball?
4. What surface is a game of soccer played on?
5. How fit does a soccer player have to be?
6. What skills does a soccer player practise?

C. General chat about soccer and other ball sports.

Do you play soccer? Do you support a soccer team? What is the importance of uniform and team colours? What other sports involve a team effort and a ball?

D. Word Play

1. Nouns are naming words. Nouns often have 'the', 'a' or 'an' in front of them. How many nouns can you identify in the picture?
2. Make up some sentences starting with the noun 'soccer'. For example:
Soccer is the most popular sport in the world.



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time. As with learning a new sport you will gradually build up confidence and speed.

Soccer Game

It is Saturday morning. The twins, Mark and Simon, are very excited. Their father is going to take them to a soccer game. It is the final game for the season and they want their team to win. Their team is called Astonvilla.

They leave home early on the bus. As they get closer to the soccer stadium they see lots of other fans arriving by car, by bus, by train and by foot. They are all wearing the colours of their favourite team. There is an assortment of red and green and blue and white. The twins are wearing blue and white scarves for their team.

It is almost full time and the score is one goal each. Mark, Simon and their father yell for their team. It is a player in the blue and white who scores the last goal. The fans cheer. The twins scream their approval.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. Mark and Simon are the same age.
2. They live in Astonvilla.
3. Soccer is played in a stadium.
4. The blue and white team loses the game.
5. The last goal is scored before half time.

C. Grammar Challenge.

1. Which of the following words from the story are NOT nouns:

want twins wearing other bus score called player arriving by

2. Proper nouns are unique names and begin with a capital letter. Astonvilla is a proper noun. Can you find other examples in the story?



D. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 Why are Mark and Simon excited Saturday morning?

- a. There is no school on Saturday.
- b. Their father is taking them to a soccer game.
- c. They like soccer.
- d. They get to wear nice clothing.

Q.2 How do they get to the soccer game?

- a. They walk.
- b. They go by bus.
- c. They go by train.
- d. Their father takes them by car.

Q.3 Why do the twins scream?

- a. They want their team to win.
- b. They are scared of the noise from the fans.
- c. The blue and white scarves are hot and tight to wear.
- d. Their team scores the winning goal.



Q.4 What does 'assortment' mean?

- a. A mixture.
- b. A lot of colourful scarves.
- c. A group of soccer fans.
- d. People who travel by bus.

Q.5 What is the final score for the game?

- a. A draw – two goals each.
- b. A draw – one goal each.
- c. Two goals to one goal in favour of Astonvilla.
- d. Two goals to one goal in favour of the red and green team.

Exploring other ideas:

- The importance of training and physical fitness.
- Team sport versus individual sport.
- The great soccer nations and their soccer legends.
- Current news on David Beckham.