

Part 1: Listening comprehension

JUANITA. THE INCA MUMMY

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

mummy: mòmia / momia

attire: indumentària / atuendo

bundle: paquet / paquete

burial site: lloc d'enterrament / lugar del entierro

appease: apaivagar / apaciguar

coca leaves: fulles de coca / hojas de coca

docile: dòcil / dócil

blow: cop / golpe

kneel: agenollar-se / arrodillarse

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

[Now listen to the interview.]



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Part 2: Reading comprehension

SOCCER IS THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORT. BUT WHO INVENTED IT?

Soccer is by far the world's most popular sport, and for good reason—beloved by at least 265 million people worldwide, it's easy to play in a random yard or field, and viewers instantly relate to the players racing across stadiums in different parts of the world. But if you're looking for the earliest ancestor of all that running, kicking, and cooperating, be ready to turn back your watch. Here's what you need to know about soccer's ancient origins and why it's the world's favorite sport today.

The Chinese were the first to kick balls into nets for sport in the third century B.C., and the game known globally as football was formalized in England in the 19th century. But the predecessor of most modern ball games can be found in the Americas. "The idea of the team sport was invented in Mesoamerica," says Mary Miller, a professor of the history of art at Yale University who has studied extensive evidence of the sport. In Mesoamerica, the vast historical region spanning from Mexico to Costa Rica, civilizations flourished well before Columbus "discovered" them, and many of them played a sport that involved a heavy ball made from a substance derived from tree resin.

It is unclear exactly where the game was invented, but it was popular across Mesoamerican cultures like the Teotihuacanos, Aztecs, and Maya beginning about 3,000 years ago. Its name varied—*ullamalitzli* in Aztec, *pok-ta-pok* or *pitz* in Maya. So did its rules, which included moves such as keeping the ball in play by bumping it with body parts or using racquets or bats.

Many of these games were played with rubber balls, which still exist in the archaeological record. Other evidence of game play ranges from ceramic vessels to more than 1,300 large stone courts that can be found across the region.

Aztec players bounced the ball back and forth between teams using only their hips and buttocks (feet or hands were off limits). They tried to hit the back wall of their opponents' courts with just one bounce, often sustaining life-threatening injuries when they were hit with the hard, heavy ball. If a player managed to get it into a high ring on the opposing team's side, it was an automatic win—and a major honor for the winner.

Though it was played as an everyday **pickup** sport, much like soccer or basketball, this ball game also held a **sacred** place in religion and warfare for Mesoamerican cultures. Aztec kings reportedly played it as a substitute for war, gaining ruling rights or diffusing diplomatic dramas with a game of ball. In Maya and Veracruz cultures, the stakes were even higher: the losers of some ritual games were sacrificed.

Though other cultures like Native Americans and Indigenous Australians played similar games, the modern sport that some people know as soccer—and many others know as football—was created in British schools. Although they had played variations of the game informally for centuries, the sport became formalized in the 19th century.

In the mid 19th century, developments in transportation, labor, and technology gave people the leisure and means to travel to competitive matches on mown lawn fields. By the 1840s, a variety of British schools created their own standards of play, making it possible to hold tournaments among players who all knew the same rules.

As the sport's popularity **ballooned**, players banded together in the London Football Association. By the 1870s, some teams had begun to recruit widely, secretly paying working-class league members. Upper-class footballers wanted the sport to remain amateur, but in 1885, they finally agreed to allow professional players, enabling a further boom in the sport. By 1904, the sport was so popular it had gone international, and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) began that same year.

Soccer's success skyrocketed from there. After the sport debuted in the 1908 Olympic Games and the first FIFA World Cup in 1930, professional soccer flourished. Today, FIFA remains the sport's governing body, **raking** in \$755.5 million in 2021 alone.

But the heart of the sport has always been on the field, where everyone from small children to **seasoned** pro athletes can enjoy the action. Soccer's spirit is alive and well both in modern incarnations of the ball game and the millions of amateur and pro players who run and kick their way down an official or **makeshift** soccer pitch every day.

Text adapted from an article by Erin BLAKEMORE.
The National Geographic [online] (November 17, 2022)

pickup: espontani / espontáneo

sacred: sagrat / sagrado

to balloon: incrementar

raking: recollint / recogiendo

seasoned: experimentats / experimentados

makeshift: improvisat / improvisado

Part 3: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Your answer should be 125-150 words in length. There is no specific penalty for exceeding 150 words in length. Extra points are not given for exceeding 150 words. [4 points]

1. Travelling by plane leaves an enormous carbon footprint that contributes to global warming. Yet, flying is often the fastest means of transport between two locations. Write an **opinion essay** discussing whether a government should regulate the citizens' use of transportation based on environmental criteria.
2. Write a **descriptive essay** about an occurrence that taught you a lot about how to deal (or how not to deal) with people. You can focus on one event or person, or on something that you learnt gradually in different situations.
3. Many cities in Europe are changing their traffic patterns by eliminating lanes for cars while opening more lanes for bicycles and battery-powered scooters and promoting public transportation. Some people like the idea of fewer cars in cities, but some business owners say that fewer cars means fewer customers. In addition, some residents say that taking public transportation is not always an option. Write a **for-and-against essay** about campaigns to restrict private car traffic in cities.



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