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Level 3 – 24th October, 2019

Soccer players more at risk of dementia

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage the mental health of players. A team of experts from Glasgow University discovered that former professional football players are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked at whether or not heading a football could lead to brain damage. The research team looked into the deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team compared the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain injuries.

The research was requested by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family was convinced he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his cause of death was "repeated minor brain traumas". The doctors said this could happen with heading a soccer ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed that former football players were more likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and lung cancer.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/50124102>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/dementia-football-heading-study-2019-the-fa-pfa-a9164861.html>
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/10/21/calls-ban-young-players-heading-footballs-brain-injury-expert/>

WARM-UPS

1. SOCCER: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about soccer. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

researchers / university / damage / mental health / experts / soccer / regularly / brain professional / request / result / trauma / heading / ball / suffer / disease / lung cancer

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. HEADING BAN: Students A **strongly** believe there should be a ban on heading soccer balls; Students B **strongly** believe there shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. MENTAL HEALTH: How can these things affect mental health? How can we help people? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How It Affects Mental Health	How We Can Help
Sport		
Social media		
Overtime		
Exams		
City life		
Money		

5. DAMAGE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "damage". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. DEMENTIA: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to slow down dementia at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Exercise
- Diet
- Working
- Reading
- Friends
- Medicine
- Sleep
- Hobbies

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. mental health | a. A person who has a lot of skill and knowledge in a particular area. |
| 2. expert | b. Probable. |
| 3. former | c. Damage to the body or brain. |
| 4. likely | d. Had a job, position or role in the past but not now. |
| 5. dementia | e. Someone doing a job for money and not for free. |
| 6. professional | f. About how well your brain, mind and feelings are. |
| 7. injury | g. A brain disease where people suffer memory loss, changed personalities and lowered understanding. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. requested | h. A group of people organized for a joint purpose. |
| 9. association | i. Completely certain or sure about something. |
| 10. convinced | j. An illness in a part of the body or brain. |
| 11. cause | k. Physical or mental shock. |
| 12. trauma | l. The reason that something happened. |
| 13. common | m. An act of asking politely or formally for something. |
| 14. disease | n. Happening, found, or done often. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The research is from the United Kingdom. **T / F**
- b. The researchers looked at soccer players who are currently playing. **T / F**
- c. The researchers looked at the deaths of 23,000 ex-soccer players. **T / F**
- d. The researchers looked at some players who played from 1900. **T / F**
- e. The research was requested by two football associations. **T / F**
- f. The family of a player who died is sure heading a ball caused his death. **T / F**
- g. Soccer players are less likely to suffer from diseases like Alzheimer's. **T / F**
- h. Soccer players are less likely to die from lung cancer. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. found | a. ex- |
| 2. damage | b. probable |
| 3. experts | c. frequently |
| 4. likely | d. harm |
| 5. regularly | e. small |
| 6. requested | f. like |
| 7. convinced | g. asked for |
| 8. minor | h. discovered |
| 9. former | i. certain |
| 10. such as | j. specialists |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. soccer can damage the mental | a. likely to die |
| 2. former professional | b. diseases |
| 3. three and a half times more | c. the request |
| 4. heading a | d. football players |
| 5. suffered from a lot | e. to suffer |
| 6. two associations made | f. health of players |
| 7. convinced he died as a result | g. lung cancer |
| 8. football players were more likely | h. of playing football |
| 9. die of common | i. more brain injuries |
| 10. heart disease and | j. football |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage the (1) _____ health of players. A team of experts from Glasgow University discovered that (2) _____ professional football players are three and a half times more (3) _____ to die of dementia than (4) _____ people. The experts looked at (5) _____ or not heading a football could lead to brain damage. The research team looked into the (6) _____ of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team (7) _____ the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly play football. They found that the football players (8) _____ from a lot more brain injuries.

former
whether
mental
compared
other
suffered
likely
deaths

The research was (9) _____ by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two (10) _____ made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family was (11) _____ he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his (12) _____ of death was "repeated minor brain traumas". The doctors said this could happen with (13) _____ a soccer ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed that former football players were more likely to (14) _____ from Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were (15) _____ likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and (16) _____ cancer.

suffer
associations
cause
lung
requested
less
heading
convinced

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

- 1) from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage _____
 - a. the men tall health
 - b. the meant all health
 - c. the mental health
 - d. the mentally health
- 2) former professional football players are three and a half times more _____
 - a. likely to die
 - b. likely too die
 - c. likely two die
 - d. like lit to die
- 3) The experts looked at whether or not heading a football _____ brain damage
 - a. could lead to
 - b. could leads to
 - c. could lead too
 - d. could leader to
- 4) the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did _____
 - a. not regular play
 - b. not regularly plays
 - c. not regulate play
 - d. not regularly play
- 5) They found that the football players suffered from a _____ injuries
 - a. lot more brainy
 - b. lot more brain
 - c. lot more brains
 - d. lot more brainer
- 6) Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations _____
 - a. did the request
 - b. made the request
 - c. had the request
 - d. form the request
- 7) Mr Astle's family was convinced he died as a _____
 - a. results of playing
 - b. result of playing
 - c. resulted of playing
 - d. resulting of playing
- 8) Doctors said his cause of death was repeated minor _____
 - a. brain traumatic
 - b. brain traumatize
 - c. brain trauma
 - d. brain traumas
- 9) his research showed that former football players were more _____
 - a. likely to surfer
 - b. likely two suffer
 - c. likely too surfer
 - d. likely to suffer
- 10) less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease _____
 - a. end lung cancer
 - b. in lung cancer
 - c. on lung cancer
 - d. and lung cancer

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage the mental (1) _____. A team of experts from Glasgow University (2) _____ professional football players are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked (3) _____ not heading a football could lead to brain damage. The research team (4) _____ deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team (5) _____ of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot (6) _____.

The research (7) _____ the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family (8) _____ died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his cause of death was "repeated (9) _____". The doctors said this could happen with (10) _____ ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed that former football players were more (11) _____ from Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such (12) _____ and lung cancer.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

1. Which university carried out this research?
2. How much more likely might soccer players be to die from dementia?
3. What part of playing soccer did researchers look at?
4. When were the players in the research actively playing football?
5. How many deaths of non-players did the researchers look at?
6. How many football associations requested the research?
7. When did the soccer player Jeff Astle die?
8. What did doctors say Mr Astle died of?
9. Who is Willie Stewart?
10. What lung disease might soccer players be less likely to die of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

- 1) Which university carried out this research?
 - a) Barcelona
 - b) Rio de Janeiro
 - c) Glasgow
 - d) Moscow
- 2) How much more likely might soccer players be to die from dementia?
 - a) three and a half
 - b) two and a quarter
 - c) two and a half
 - d) three and a quarter
- 3) What part of playing soccer did researchers look at?
 - a) penalties
 - b) free kicks
 - c) goalkeeping
 - d) heading the ball
- 4) When were the players in the research actively playing football?
 - a) 1960-1976
 - b) 1900-1976
 - c) 1970-1996
 - d) 1900-1996
- 5) How many deaths of non-players did the researchers look at?
 - a) 7,676
 - b) 826
 - c) 23,000
 - d) 75
- 6) How many football associations requested the research?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 4
- 7) When did the soccer player Jeff Astle die?
 - a) 1902
 - b) 1992
 - c) 2012
 - d) 2002
- 8) What did doctors say Mr Astle died of?
 - a) natural causes
 - b) brain traumas
 - c) heart disease
 - d) a stroke
- 9) Who is Willie Stewart?
 - a) a researcher
 - b) a soccer player
 - c) a soccer fan
 - d) a dementia sufferer
- 10) What lung disease might soccer players be less likely to die of?
 - a) bronchitis
 - b) pneumonia
 - c) lung collapse
 - d) lung cancer

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Role A – Exercise

You think exercise is the best thing to slow down dementia. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): working, friends or hobbies.

Role B – Working

You think working is the best thing to slow down dementia. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): exercise, friends or hobbies.

Role C – Friends

You think friends are the best thing to slow down dementia. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): working, exercise or hobbies.

Role D – Hobbies

You think hobbies are the best thing to slow down dementia. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): working, friends or exercise.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'soccer' and 'health'.

soccer	health
---------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can• discovered• half• dementia• lead• 1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• requested• two• result• repeated• showed• such
--	---

SOCCER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Write five GOOD questions about soccer in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SOCCER DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'soccer'?
3. What do you think of soccer?
4. Do you think heading the ball causes brain injuries?
5. What other sports cause brain injuries?
6. Should soccer players wear head guards?
7. Should soccer players be able to sue for damages?
8. What do you know about dementia?
9. How does your country treat mental health?
10. Do you worry about your mental health?

Soccer players more at risk of dementia – 24th October, 2019
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SOCCER DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'dementia'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Is soccer the world's greatest game?
15. Which word is better - 'soccer' or 'football'?
16. How would you deal with mental health problems?
17. What advice do you have for soccer players?
18. How can we end mental health diseases?
19. Is it better to play soccer than to not play?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can (1) _____ the mental health of players. A team of (2) _____ from Glasgow University discovered that former professional football players are three and a half times more (3) _____ to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked at whether or not heading a football could (4) _____ to brain damage. The research team looked into the deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team (5) _____ the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain (6) _____.

The research was (7) _____ by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family was (8) _____ he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his cause of death was "repeated (9) _____ brain traumas". The doctors said this could happen with (10) _____ a soccer ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed (11) _____ former football players were more likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and lung (12) _____.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) damaged | (b) damaging | (c) damage | (d) damages |
| 2. | (a) experts | (b) expats | (c) exports | (d) expects |
| 3. | (a) likely | (b) likes | (c) liking | (d) likelihood |
| 4. | (a) lead | (b) cause | (c) result | (d) end |
| 5. | (a) compare | (b) compared | (c) comparison | (d) compares |
| 6. | (a) injuring | (b) injurious | (c) injured | (d) injuries |
| 7. | (a) bequest | (b) inquest | (c) requested | (d) quotes |
| 8. | (a) rested | (b) serviced | (c) closure | (d) convinced |
| 9. | (a) minor | (b) minority | (c) miner | (d) minors |
| 10. | (a) heading | (b) head | (c) header | (d) heads |
| 11. | (a) this | (b) that | (c) them | (d) what |
| 12. | (a) express | (b) pressure | (c) cancer | (d) blood |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Paragraph 1

1. A team of xrespet
2. srasnoeifplo football players
3. more ylkile to die of dementia
4. The team dracompe the deaths
5. graluyrel play football
6. a lot more brain erinusij

Paragraph 2

7. The two associations made the rueqets
8. Mr Astle's family was cdivnenoc
9. repeated morni brain traumas
10. ufrsef from Alzheimer's
11. heart aesdsie
12. lung rcenac

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's
- () death was "repeated minor brain traumas". The doctors said this could happen with heading a soccer ball. Researcher
- () or not heading a football could lead to brain damage. The research team looked
- () play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain injuries.
- () and a half times more likely to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked at whether
- () Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed that former football players were more
- () into the deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team compared
- () 2002. Mr Astle's family was convinced he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his cause of
- () The research was requested by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in
- () the UK. The two associations made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in
- (**1**) Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage the mental health of
- () disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and lung cancer.
- () players. A team of experts from Glasgow University discovered that former professional football players are three
- () the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

1. of players . damage the mental Soccer can health
2. to . Three likely a times half more and
3. football Heading to damage . a could lead brain
4. the former deaths of Compared players . the soccer
5. more from injuries . a Players brain suffered lot
6. the after request associations the Two death . made
7. of as football . a playing died He result
8. was brain The cause repeated death traumas . of
9. happen ball . could This a soccer with heading
10. likely common die diseases . to Less of

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found *what / that* playing soccer can damage the mental health of players. A team of *expats / experts* from Glasgow University *discovered / discovery* that former professional football players are three and a half times more *likelihood / likely* to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked at *weather / whether* or not heading a football could lead to brain *damaging / damage*. The research team looked *into / onto* the deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team *comparison / compared* the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not *regularly / regular* play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain *injured / injuries*.

The research was *requested / acquitted* by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations *did / made* the request after the *dead / death* of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family was *convinced / studied* he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his *cause / course* of death was "repeated minor brain traumas". The doctors said *these / this* could happen with *heading / backing* a soccer ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research *showed / shown* that former football players were more likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, *vehicle / motor* neurone disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and lung *cancer / cancerous*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

R_s__ r c h_r s f r_m _ n_v_r s_t y _n t h_ U K h_v_
f__ n d t h_t p l_y_n g s_c c_r c_n d_m_g_ t h_
m_n t_l h__ l t h _f p l_y_r s . A t__ m _f _x p_r t s
f r_m G l_s g_w U n_v_r s_t y d_s c_v_r_d t h_t f_r
m_r p r_f_s s__ n_l f__ t b_l l p l_y_r s _r_ t h r__
_n d _ h_l f t_m_s m_r_ l_k_l y t_ d__ _f d_m_n
t__ t h_n _t h_r p__ p l_ . T h_ _x p_r t s l__ k_d _t
w h_t h_r _r n_t h__ d_n g _ f__ t b_l l c__ l d l__
d t_ b r__ n d_m_g_ . T h_ r_s__ r c h t__ m l__
k_d _n t_ t h_ d__ t h_s _f 7 , 6 7 6 _x - s_c c_r p
l_y_r s w h_ p l_y_d _n S c_t l_n d p r_f_s s__ n_l l y
b_t w__ n 1 9 0 0 _n d 1 9 7 6 . T h_ t__ m c_m
p_r_d t h_ d__ t h_s _f t h_ f_r m_r s_c c_r p l_y_r s
t_ t h_ d__ t h_s _f 2 3 , 0 0 0 p__ p l_ w h_ d_d
n_t r_g_l_r l y p l_y f__ t b_l l . T h_y f__ n d t h_t
t h_ f__ t b_l l p l_y_r s s_f f_r_d f r_m _ l_t m_r_
b r__ n _n j_r__ s .

T h_ r_s__ r c h w_s r_q__ s t_d b y t h_ F__ t b_l l
A s_s_c__ t__ n _n d t h_ P r_f_s s__ n_l F__ t b_l l_r s
' A s_s_c__ t__ n _n t h_ U K . T h_ t w__ s s_c__ t__
n s m_d_ t h_ r_q__ s t _f t_r t h_ d__ t h _f E n g
l_s h f__ t b_l l p l_y_r J_f f A s t l_ _n 2 0 0 2 . M
r A s t l_' s f_m_l y w_s c_n v_n c_d h_ d__ d _s _
r_s_l t _f p l_y_n g f__ t b_l l . D_c t_r s s__ d h_s
c__ s_ _f d__ t h w_s " r_p__ t_d m_n_r b r__ n t
r__ m_s " . T h_ d_c t_r s s__ d t h_s c__ l d h_p
p_n w_t h h__ d_n g _ s_c c_r b_l l . R_s__ r c h_r
D r W_l l__ S t_w_r t s__ d h_s r_s__ r c h s h_w_d
t h_t f_r m_r f__ t b_l l p l_y_r s w_r_ m_r_ l_k_l y
t_ s_f f_r f r_m A l z h__ m_r ' s d_s__ s_ , m_t_r
n__ r_n_ d_s__ s_ _n d P_r k_n s_n ' s d_s__ s_ . H_
s__ d t h_y w_r_ l_s s l_k_l y t_ d__ _f c_m m_n
d_s__ s_s , s_c h _s h__ r t d_s__ s_ _n d l_n g c_n
c_r .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

researchers from a university in the uk have found that playing soccer can damage the mental health of players a team of experts from glasgow university discovered that former professional football players are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than other people the experts looked at whether or not heading a football could lead to brain damage the research team looked into the deaths of 7676 exsoccer players who played in scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976 the team compared the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23000 people who did not regularly play football they found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain injuries

the research was requested by the football association and the professional footballers association in the uk the two associations made the request after the death of english football player jeff astle in 2002 mr astles family was convinced he died as a result of playing football doctors said his cause of death was repeated minor brain traumas the doctors said this could happen with heading a soccer ball researcher dr willie stewart said his research showed that former football players were more likely to suffer from alzheimers disease motor neurone disease and parkinsons disease he said they were less likely to die of common diseases such as heart disease and lung cancer.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191024-soccer-players.html>

Researchers from a university in the UK have found that playing soccer can damage the mental health of players. A team of experts from Glasgow University discovered that former professional football players are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than other people. The experts looked at whether or not heading a football could lead to brain damage. The research team looked into the deaths of 7,676 ex-soccer players who played in Scotland professionally between 1900 and 1976. The team compared the deaths of the former soccer players to the deaths of 23,000 people who did not regularly play football. They found that the football players suffered from a lot more brain injuries. The research was requested by the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association in the UK. The two associations made the request after the death of English football player Jeff Astle in 2002. Mr Astle's family was convinced he died as a result of playing football. Doctors said his cause of death was "repeated minor brain traumas". The doctors said this could happen with heading a soccer ball. Researcher Dr Willie Stewart said his research showed that former football players were more likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease, motor neuron disease and Parkinson's disease. He said they were less likely to die of common diseases, such as heart disease and lung cancer.

HOMWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SOCCER: Make a poster about soccer. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BANNING HEADING: Write a magazine article about banning the heading of soccer balls. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on soccer. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make soccer more exciting. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. g 6. e 7. c
8. m 9. h 10. i 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b F c F d T e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. found | a. discovered |
| 2. damage | b. harm |
| 3. experts | c. specialists |
| 4. likely | d. probable |
| 5. regularly | e. frequently |
| 6. requested | f. asked for |
| 7. convinced | g. certain |
| 8. minor | h. small |
| 9. former | i. ex- |
| 10. such as | j. like |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Glasgow University
2. Three and a half times
3. Heading the ball
4. 1900-1976
5. 23,000
6. Two
7. 2002
8. Repeated minor brain traumas
9. A researcher
10. Lung cancer

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Soccer can damage the mental health of players.
2. Three and a half times more likely to.
3. Heading a football could lead to brain damage.
4. Compared the deaths of the former soccer players.
5. Players suffered from a lot more brain injuries.
6. Two associations made the request after the death.
7. He died as a result of playing football.
8. The cause of death was repeated brain traumas.
9. This could happen with heading a soccer ball.
10. Less likely to die of common diseases.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)