

Sports Funding and Brexit

Name _____ Date _____

You are going to read a text about sports funding and Brexit.

Before you read, look at Tasks 1 and 2.

1. Work with a partner. Talk about these questions. Take turns to make notes of your answers.
 - a) Who pays for local sports facilities, for example leisure centres and running tracks?
 - b) Who pays for national sports teams, for example athletics, cycling, swimming teams?
 - c) Who pays for international competitions, for example the Olympic Games?
 - d) In the UK, will any of these change after Brexit?
2. Share your answers with another pair. Did you have any different answers?

Now read Text A.

3. Find the answers to these questions in the text.
 - a) Sports funding was cut immediately following the referendum.
True False
 - b) UK Sports funding went up by how much in 2015?
20% 23% 29%
 - c) Before the referendum, what did the Chancellor say he might have to cut?

 - d) How many UK-based sports projects received Erasmus+ funding in 2014-16?

 - e) In Erasmus+ projects, what is the difference between EU and non-EU countries?

4. Check your answers with a partner.

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5. **Although / despite / while / but / however**

In the text there are examples of all of these words, which express an idea of contrast or contradiction. Read the text again and highlight or circle one example of each.

Write out each sentence below:

although

despite

while

but

however

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6. A student in another class has written an article about sports funding. Read **Text B**. They have made **four** mistakes in the use of **although**, **despite** and **however**. Highlight the sentences with those words. Can you identify the mistake?

Write the sentences **correctly** here:

- i. _____

- ii. _____

- iii. _____

- iv. _____

Now check your answers using Text C. Did you identify the mistakes?
Did you write the sentences correctly?

7. Finally, write a paragraph on one of the following topics.

- Sports stars are overpaid
- We need more leisure centres
- Swimming pools should be free to enter
- Children and sport

Use at least three words from Task 5 to express contrast or contradiction.

A



UK Government committed to sport funding despite Brexit – although emergency Budget could change landscape

Government funding for Sport England and UK Sport is not expected to be cut as a result of the UK voting to leave the European Union – although the landscape could change if the Chancellor decides to call an emergency Budget.

5 Earlier this week culture secretary John Whittingdale from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) met with representatives of Sport England and UK Sport to reassure them that there won't be any "immediate changes".

We understand that the DCMS is working on the basis that the funding agreement will remain intact despite the vote, which is expected to have consequences for the UK economy and public finances.

10 In November 2015, the chancellor increased UK Sport's funding by 29 per cent to £148m for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle, while Sport England managed to negotiate funding of £1.4bn over the next five years, which is in line with what it received between 2010 and 2015.

15 However, a government source said that an emergency Budget is likely following the 23 June referendum result. Prior to the referendum, the Chancellor claimed that he would have to cut public spending in the event of a Brexit vote, although how – or if – that will affect sport is unclear.

20 While Sport England and UK Sport funding receives no money from the European Union, it remains to be seen how other methods of sports funding – such as the EU-devised ERASMUS+ – will be distributed to UK organisations following Brexit.

25 Between 2014 and 2016, £2.4m in ERASMUS+ funding has been awarded to seven UK sports projects. The UK's eligibility for the funding will depend on subsequent negotiations, but while non-EU countries such as Norway and Switzerland can benefit from ERASMUS+ funding, organisations from the nations cannot be the lead bidder or shape the project applying for the cash.

Text adapted from: <http://www.iog.org/news/dcms-committed-sport-funding-despite-brexit-although-emergency-budget-could-change-landscape>

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B

Many people believe that sports can make you rich, but this is not always true.

Some athletes make very little money, despite they win gold medals for their

country. Although they are famous and everybody knows their name, but they

sometimes don't make any money from their sport. I don't think this is fair,

because the athletes are the ones who do the hard work. However some

people say the government should pay for public services, not sports training.

I'm not sure I agree. I love watching athletics and I strongly believe we should

pay to support our athletes. Although I understand why others disagree.

For more information on **although, despite, in spite of** and **however**, visit
<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/content/learners/grammar-and-vocabulary/english-grammar/spite-despite-and-although>

and

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/intermediate/unit-25/tab/grammar>

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Teaching notes and answers

This resource is aimed at high E3, L1 and L2ESOL learners who make mistakes (with sentence structure, punctuation and language) in their writing when using conjunctions, prepositions and adverbs to express contrast.

There are seven speaking, reading and writing tasks in all. Learners start by discussing issues around sports funding, before reading Text A, which is adapted from an article published in 2016, following the Brexit vote. There are five comprehension questions. Learners then identify the ways in which contrast is expressed in the text, before reading a short sample text (Text B) containing typical student mistakes with these words. After this, they have an opportunity to correct them, before checking a corrected version (Text C).

Finally – this could be a homework task – learners draft a paragraph using at least three of these words. The learners can choose which words to use, and how many, giving an opportunity for differentiation. The writing could be carried out independently, or as pair-work. The topic is intended to provide opportunities to develop vocabulary around healthy lifestyles, public funding and the value of sport within the UK and elsewhere.

C

Many people believe that sports can make you rich, but this is not always true.

Some athletes make very little money, despite winning gold medals for their country. Although they are famous and everybody knows their name, but they sometimes don't make any money from their sport. I don't think this is fair, because the athletes are the ones who do the hard work. However, some people say the government should pay for public services, not sports training. I'm not sure I agree. I love watching athletics and I strongly believe we should pay to support our athletes although I understand why others disagree.