



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Part One: Match these adjectives with their meanings:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. pleased | <i>popular</i> |
| 2. brave | <i>respected</i> |
| 3. liked by many people | <i>happy</i> |
| 4. known by many people | <i>plucky</i> |
| 5. very good or clever, admired | <i>famous</i> |

Part Two: Use the pictures to help you understand the words below. Find the words in the pictures.



race
racehorse
jockey
trainer

B: Discussion

Answer these questions in pairs. There are some words in the questions from today's article.

- Have you seen the movie, Seabiscuit, about a **racehorse**? What happened?
- Why was Seabiscuit **famous**?
- When you **win**, how do you feel?
 - When you **lose**, how do you feel? Do you try again?

Reading Activities

A: Matching Questions And Answers

Read **Part One** of today's article. Match each answer with the right question below. (Be careful: there are **two** extra answers!)

Questions

- Who or what is Haru-urara?
- Why is she famous?
- How many races has she lost?
- Who is Yutaka Take?
- Did Haru-urara win the race at Kochi Racecourse?

Answers

- He is the most respected jockey in Japan.
- It is a racecourse in Japan.
- She is a Japanese racehorse.
- She has lost so many races.
- She has won so many races.
- 106 races.
- No, she didn't.

Part One

Plucky Racehorse Loses Again

TOKYO Tue Mar 23 (Reuters) - A Japanese racehorse, who is famous because she has lost so many races, lost another race on Monday.

Haru-urara lost her 106th race at the Kochi Racecourse, southwest of Tokyo. 13,000 people came to watch the race. They wanted to see if Japan's most respected jockey, Yutaka Take, could help her win a race. (Continued/...)

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B: Reading And Thinking

Read **Part One** again and answer these questions. Use your own ideas as well as the article. Compare your answers in pairs.

1. Why did 13,000 people come to watch the race?
2. Why is Haru-urara special?
3. Why did Yutaka Take ride Haru-urara?

C: Finding Information

Why are the numbers, people, places or things below important? Find the numbers in Part Two of the article. Write a sentence for each number. (One is done for you as an example.)

100, 11, 10, Dai Muneishi, a movie, a farm

Example Answer: Haru-urara has lost more than 100 times.

Part Two

(.../Continued) There were 11 horses in the race. Haru-urara came 10th.

"All the **fans** seem to be going home happy," said a reporter for Asahi TV. "They feel that it was OK for her to lose."

"I don't really know why she's so popular," her trainer, Dai Muneishi said in an interview. "But I guess the biggest

reason is that the sight of her running **with all her heart** despite having lost more than 100 times gives **comfort** to people's hearts," he said.

Haru-urara will star in a movie later this year. When she retires, she will live on a farm in northern Japan.

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Words: **fan** - a person who likes something or somebody very much **with her heart** - trying very hard **comfort** - something that makes you feel better

D: Choose The Best Answer

Read **Part Two** again. Choose the best answer for each statement.

1. In the race 9 horses finished...
 a. in front of Haru-urara. b. behind Haru-urara.
2. The people who came to watch the race felt...
 a. happy when Haru-urara lost. b. sad when Haru-urara lost.
3. When Haru-urara lost the race, the people thought it...
 a. was very bad. b. was OK.
4. Haru-urara...
 a. isn't very popular in Japan. b. is very popular in Japan.
5. Haru-urara's trainer thinks Haru-urara makes people feel happy because...
 a. she tries to win each race. b. she doesn't try to win each race.
6. There will be a movie about...
 a. Haru-urara. b. Haru-urara's trainer.
7. Haru-urara will live on a farm...
 a. when she has won a race. b. when she is old and can't race.

E: What Do You Think?

Read the questions. Then answer them in pairs.

"Haru-urara has lost more than 100 races, but she runs 'with all her heart'."

1. Why do people like Haru-urara?
2. The article's headline is '**Plucky Racehorse Loses Again**'. Do you think Haru-urara is plucky?
3. How does this story make you feel?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

Read these rules for 'on' or 'in'.

'On' is used...

- for days: on Tuesday; on Saturday; on my birthday; on New Year's Day.
- for dates: on April 1; on February 28; on December 25, 2004.

'In' is used...

- for longer periods of time. (These include months, seasons and years.) in April; in the next three months; in spring, in 2005; in 3 years.

Use **in** or **on** in the sentences below.

1. ___ March Haru-urara lost her 106th race.
2. Haru-urara lost the race ___ Monday 22, 2004.
3. I read about her ___ Friday.
4. The article about her was written ___ March 23, 2004.
5. A film will be made about Haru-urara ___ 2004.
6. ___ the last few months Haru-urara has become very famous.

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B: Questionnaire

Work in pairs. Ask your partner questions to complete the questionnaire below. Answer your partner's questions. Repeat the activity until you have spoken to two or more other people.

Name: _____
Sports You Play (What sports do you play?): _____
Sports You Watch On Television (What sports do you watch on television?): _____
Name of Famous Sportsperson (What is the name of a famous sportsperson you like?): _____
Reason? (Why do you like this person?): _____
Name: _____
Sports You Play (What sports do you play?): _____
Sports You Watch On Television (What sports do you watch on television?): _____
Name of Famous Sportsperson (What is the name of a famous sportsperson you like?): _____
Reason? (Why do you like this person?): _____
Name: _____
Sports You Play (What sports do you play?): _____
Sports You Watch On Television (What sports do you watch on television?): _____
Name of Famous Sportsperson (What is the name of a famous sportsperson you like?): _____
Reason? (Why do you like this person?): _____

C: Scrambled Words

Here are the names of some sports. The letters of each word are scrambled. Unscramble them. (One is done for you as an example.)

nigrsehorac - **Answer:** horseracing

1. ccerso **Answer: s** _____

3. ckyeho **Answer: h** _____

5. douj **Answer: j** _____

7. gsimmwin **Answer: s** _____

2. allbaseb **Answer: b** _____

4. snntei **Answer: t** _____

6. icathlets **Answer: a** _____

8. bioxng **Answer: b** _____



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Answers

Part One: 1. happy, 2. plucky, 3. popular, 4. famous, 5. respected.

Part Two: Picture 1 - A trainer (with a jockey and a racehorse training).

Picture 2 - A race with jockeys and racehorses.

B: Discussion - Notes

If students don't know anything about Seabiscuit, you might like to talk generally about horseracing and then about winning and losing.

B: Discussion - Sample Answers

1. A recent movie featured Seabiscuit, a racehorse that was smaller than other racehorses, that raced during the Depression era in the United States. Seabiscuit became famous for winning races from the back of the field and won, not because of tremendous physical ability, but because of pluck.
2. People liked the idea of a horse that had lost so many times trying hard and then becoming successful.
3. Many people feel sad when they lose. Most people admire someone who tries again.

Reading Activities

A: Matching Questions And Answers

1. c, 2. d, 3. f, 4. a, 5. g. Extra answers: b, e.

B: Reading And Thinking - Answers

1. Because they wanted to see if the horse that has failed so many times before could now win.
2. Because she has lost so many races.
3. He is Japan's most respected jockey. He is experienced and successful and therefore might be able to help Haru-urara win the race.

C: Finding Information - Sample Answers

There were **11** horses in the race on March 22.

Haru-urara came **10th** in the race. (She wasn't last. One horse finished behind her.)

Dai Muneishi is the horse's trainer.

Haru-urara will star in **a movie**.

Haru-urara will live on **a farm** when she retires from racing.

D: Choose The Best Answer - Answers

1. a, 2. a, 3. b, 4. b, 5. a, 6. a, 7. b.

E: What Do You Think? - Sample Answers

1. People enjoy a story like this of a person or animal who doesn't give up. They like her because she is plucky. She still tries very hard even though she has lost so many times before.
2. She is plucky because she still tries hard to win.
3. Answers will vary.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Notes

For a more comprehensive list of rules, look at the Anna Grammar page "Prepositions - Drills" in the Resources section of the English-To-Go.com Teachers' Room.

A: Language - Answers

1. in, 2. on, 3. on, 4. on, 5. in, 6. in.

C: Scrambled Words- Answers

1. soccer, 2. baseball, 3. hockey, 4. tennis, 5. judo, 6. athletics, 7. swimming, 8. boxing.

