



News item 6

As Brazil sped up for the World Cup, 230 miles above the Earth, astronauts had their own microgravity kick-about.

The US astronauts Reid Wiseman and Steve Swanson, and German astronaut Alexander Gerst, watched the action from aboard the International Space Station. And to celebrate the opening ceremony, the three astronauts showed off their microgravity football skills by performing impressive bicycle kicks, spins and somersaults while kicking a ball. The astronauts have trained for years to work together as a unified crew, but the US astronauts and their German crewmate are feeling a little friendly competition. Their home countries will play against each other for a chance to advance out of Group G of the World Cup matches. The United States and Germany face off on June 26 at Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil. This isn't the first time a sporting event has been broadcast in space. The Super Bowl XLVIII was recently viewed aboard the ISS with NASA astronauts supporting the Denver Broncos. Since the crew members of the ISS are unable to watch the World Cup games live, NASA says it will upload the matches shortly after they are broadcast on terrestrial TV.

1. Which countries do these three astronauts come from?
2. What did these astronauts do to celebrate the opening ceremony?
3. Why will the World Cup games be uploaded shortly after they are broadcast on terrestrial TV?

Part III Test yourself

Questions 1 and 2 will be based on the following news item.

With 32 countries competing in the month-long tournament, it's one of the world's largest sporting events. And when one country scores a goal, or just comes close to scoring one — the roar is heard around the world.

At Public Bar in Dupont Circle, it's standing room only for the lunchtime crowd gathered for the US-Germany game. Manager John Gliatis said it's the biggest crowd he's seen in two months. And with so many customers he's doing double-duty in the kitchen, making sure everyone gets their orders. Many restaurants are relying on social networks to tell patrons about their World Cup specials. For local pubs and restaurants, it's money well spent.



1. Why do fans get together at lunchtime?
2. What are many restaurants relying on to tell patrons about their World Cup specials?

Questions 3 and 4 will be based on the following news item.

It is well-known that exercise is good for your health. But some kinds of exercise may be better than others.

Running, for example, may help to protect against heart disease and other health problems. Running also may help you live longer. Recently, researchers studied more than 55,000 adults. About one-fourth of the adults reported running regularly. The study found these runners were considerably less likely than non-runners to die of any form of disease, including heart disease. In fact, the runners lived, on average, three years longer than the non-runners. This study lasted 15 years. During that time, more than 3,400 of the individuals died. About 1,200 of the deaths were linked to heart disease, a heart attack or a stroke. One of the researchers is a man named D. C. Lee. He is an assistant professor of Kinesiology, or the science of movement, at Iowa State University. Compared to non-runners, he said, runners showed a much lower risk of dying from some diseases. To stay healthy, doctors suggest that adults up to age 65 do 150 minutes of moderate exercise every week. They say these individuals need 75 minutes of vigorous exercise, like running, every week for good health.

3. What did the study find?
4. What do doctors suggest adults up to age 65 do to stay healthy?

Questions 5 to 7 will be based on the following news item.

FIFA has confirmed the 2022 World Cup final in Qatar will take place on Sunday, December 18.

The decision to hold the first ever winter World Cup was taken more than four years after the most controversial award of a sporting event in history. FIFA has indicated the 2022 tournament will also be shortened to 28 days, instead of the usual 32. The decision means the traditional and popular Boxing Day club matches will take place as usual— which will come as some comfort to the Premier League who has strongly opposed the change.

The Qatar World Cup has been in controversy ever since the shock decision to stage the tournament in the desert kingdom which has no footballing history and a questionable human rights record. Sepp Blatter, FIFA's long-standing president, even admitted that staging



the tournament in Qatar was a “mistake.” Rumors of widespread corruption and collusion followed the process from the beginning. A report by investigator Michael Garcia into rumors of corruption remains secret, unpublished and subject to dispute between its author and FIFA.

5. Where will the 2022 World Cup final take place?
6. What activity will take place as usual according to the news?
7. What kind of rumors followed the process from the beginning?

UNIT 7

Part II Listen to the news

News item 1

Happy English Language Day! English Language Day is celebrated each year on April 23 — the date when tradition says William Shakespeare was born. Shakespeare has been called the greatest writer in the English language. His plays continue to be published, performed in theaters and seen in films almost 400 years after his death.

The first English Language Day was the result of work by the United Nations. A few years ago, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization created Language Day for each of the UN’s six official languages. The aim was to celebrate multilingualism—the use of different languages around the world—and different cultures. Another goal was to campaign for equal use of all six official languages throughout the United Nations. The other five languages are Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

1. What do we learn about William Shakespeare?
2. What was one of the aims of creating Language Day?

News item 2

The canals of Venice, Italy were packed with boats this week to launch a period of celebration leading up to Lent. The city kicks off its Carnival with a boat parade.

“Carnival” means “farewell to meat,” and Carnival covers the days leading to a period of denial, called Lent. Some observant Christians will also fast during holy days in the Lenten period. Those 40 days lead to Easter, the highest holy day for Christians.

The Venice Carnival lasts until Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi