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Germans want revenge on World Cup octopus

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

9th July, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

One of the biggest stars of the World Cup is Paul the octopus. He has become an international superstar for correctly guessing the winners of six World Cup matches. People say he's psychic – he can predict the future. His predictions on German TV have been 100 per cent correct. He predicted Germany's losses to Serbia and Spain. German soccer fans now want revenge. There are comments on Facebook suggesting Paul should be fried, barbecued or turned into a seafood salad. One angry fan said he should "be thrown into the shark tank".

Can an octopus really predict the winners of football games? Paul's six-out-of-six record suggests there is something special about him. German fans' hearts sank when he went into a box with the Spanish flag before the Spain-Germany game. They knew this was a bad sign for their team. It's not really fair though for German fans to want to eat him. It's not really Paul's fault their team lost against Spain. Or is it? Perhaps Paul the octopus doesn't only predict winners, but puts a spell on the match to make a team win. Stranger things have happened.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. One of the biggest | a. the future |
| 2. correctly guessing | b. shark tank |
| 3. he can predict | c. a seafood salad |
| 4. soccer fans now | d. stars |
| 5. turned into | e. the winners |
| 6. thrown into the | f. want revenge |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. predict the | a. sank |
| 2. there is something | b. have happened |
| 3. German fans' hearts | c. fault |
| 4. this was a bad sign | d. winners |
| 5. It's not really Paul's | e. for their team |
| 6. Stranger things | f. special about him |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

One _____ the World Cup is Paul the octopus. He has become an international superstar _____ the winners of six World Cup matches. People say he's psychic - he _____. His predictions on German TV _____ cent correct. He predicted Germany's losses to Serbia and Spain. German soccer fans _____. There are comments on Facebook suggesting Paul should be fried, barbequed or turned into a seafood salad. One _____ "be thrown into the shark tank".

Can an octopus really _____ of football games? Paul's six-out-of-six record suggests there is something special about him. German fans' _____ went into a box with the Spanish flag before the Spain-Germany game. They knew this was _____ team. It's not really fair though for German fans _____. It's not really Paul's fault their team lost against Spain. Or is it? Perhaps Paul the octopus _____ winners, but puts a spell on the match to make a team win. Stranger _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

One of the biggest stars of the World Cup is Paul the octopus. He has become an international superstar for (1) _____ guessing the winners of six World Cup matches. People say he's (2) _____ - he can predict the future. His predictions on German TV have been 100 per cent correct. He predicted Germany's (3) _____ to Serbia and Spain. German soccer fans now want revenge. There are comments (4) _____ Facebook suggesting Paul should be fried, barbecued or turned into a seafood salad. One angry fan said he should "be (5) _____ into the shark tank".

Can an octopus really predict the winners of football games? Paul's six-out-of-six (6) _____ suggests there is something special about him. German fans' hearts (7) _____ when he went into a box with the Spanish flag before the Spain-Germany game. They knew this was a bad sign for their team. It's not really (8) _____ though for German fans to want to eat him. It's not really Paul's fault their team lost against Spain. Or is it? Perhaps Paul the octopus (9) _____ only predict winners, but puts a (10) _____ on the match to make a team win. Stranger things have happened.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) right | (b) true | (c) correctly |
| 2. | (a) psychic | (b) physics | (c) physical |
| 3. | (a) lose | (b) losses | (c) lost |
| 4. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) on |
| 5. | (a) threw | (b) thrown | (c) throws |
| 6. | (a) record | (b) recorded | (c) records |
| 7. | (a) drowned | (b) choked | (c) sank |
| 8. | (a) fair | (b) fare | (c) fear |
| 9. | (a) never | (b) doesn't | (c) not |
| 10. | (a) spelling | (b) spelled | (c) spell |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the sebitgg stars
2. correctly egsugsin the winners
3. cpridte the future
4. Germany's sloses
5. ommnstec on Facebook
6. hnrwto into the shark tank

Paragraph 2

7. football smgea
8. six-out-of-six odrcre
9. something ecsipla
10. fans' artehs sank
11. not really Paul's ufalt
12. Stranger shngti have happened

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () on German TV have been 100 per cent correct. He predicted Germany's losses to Serbia and Spain. German soccer
- () Spain-Germany game. They knew this was a bad sign for their team. It's not really fair though for German
- (**1**) One of the biggest stars of the World Cup is Paul the octopus. He has become an international superstar for correctly
- () guessing the winners of six World Cup matches. People say he's psychic – he can predict the future. His predictions
- () special about him. German fans' hearts sank when he went into a box with the Spanish flag before the
- () only predict winners, but puts a spell on the match to make a team win. Stranger things have happened.
- () fans now want revenge. There are comments on Facebook suggesting Paul should be fried, barbequed or turned
- () fans to want to eat him. It's not really Paul's fault their team lost against Spain. Or is it? Perhaps Paul the octopus doesn't
- () into a seafood salad. One angry fan said he should "be thrown into the shark tank".
- () Can an octopus really predict the winners of football games? Paul's six-out-of-six record suggests there is something

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. One biggest the the of Cup of stars World.

2. six Guessing World the Cup winners matches of.

3. the - future he can He's predict psychic.

4. fans want soccer now revenge German.

5. be tank thrown into He the should shark.

6. octopus an Can winners the predict really?

7. something about is special him There.

8. box Spanish He a the into with flag went.

9. their team They knew this was a bad sign for.

10. lost Paul's fault It's their not team really.

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. _____

WRITING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1007/100709-revenge.html>

Write about revenge for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

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. PAUL THE OCTOPUS: Search the Internet and find more information about Paul the octopus. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about revenge. Include imaginary interviews with Paul the octopus and an angry German fan. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Paul the octopus. Ask him three questions about his predictions. What do you want to know about the future? Give him three more things to predict. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.