

Night golf becomes a thing in South Korea

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The rise of the popularity of golf in South Korea shows no sign of abating. The country is now the world's third largest market for golf, and Korean golfers spend more per capita on golf equipment and apparel than people in any other

country. A new phenomenon is taking off in Korea to reflect the ever-increasing popularity of the game. Golf clubs are opening after dark to allow more people to play the game. The concept has been dubbed "white night" golf. It allows Korea's avid golfers more opportunities to get their clubs out. It can be difficult to secure a round of golf in Korea. There is a scarcity of courses in metropolitan areas. The capital city of Seoul has just one course and is limited to use by military personnel.

There are as many as 117 golf courses of 18 holes or more that currently offer night games. White night golf may result in South Korea's golfers achieving more success on the international stage, especially in the women's game. The SeoulSisters website states that: "As of last week, 32 of the top 100 players in the women's world rankings, including 4 of the top 10, were from South Korea." A Korean woman has won at least one golf major every season since 2010. Korea's legendary Pak Se-ri won the 1998 US Open aged 20 in her rookie season. She may have been a white night trailblazer. It is reported her father made her practice her swing near cemeteries at night to toughen her up.

Sources: seoulsisters.freeforums.net / straitstimes.com / destinationgolf.travel

Writing

Golf is the best game in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

popularity / market / golf / equipment / apparel / popularity / club / metropolitan / golf courses / holes / international / world rankings / major / season / swing / cemeteries

True / False

- 1) The popularity of golf in South Korea is falling. T / F
- 2) South Korea is the second largest global market for golf. T / F
- 3) Korean golfers spend more on golf clothing than other golfers. T / F
- 4) There are only three golf courses in Seoul. T / F
- 5) There are over 110 golf courses in South Korea offering night golf. T / F
- 6) Four of the world's top ten women golfers are South Korean. T / F
- 7) A South Korean woman has won a major every year for the past 10 years. T / F
- 8) South Korea's legendary Pak Se-ri won her first major at the age of 19. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. abating | a. pioneer |
| 2. per capita | b. nicknamed |
| 3. phenomenon | c. standings |
| 4. dubbed | d. occurrence |
| 5. scarcity | e. harden |
| 6. achieving | f. famous |
| 7. rankings | g. decreasing |
| 8. legendary | h. shortage |
| 9. trailblazer | i. attaining |
| 10. toughen | j. for each person |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of golf?
- b) Why is golf so popular?
- c) What are the benefits of playing golf?
- d) What do you think of the idea of night golf?
- e) What other sports can be played at night?
- f) What equipment and apparel do you need to play golf?
- g) What are golf courses like in your country?
- h) What else could golf clubs do to increase playing opportunities?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. The rise of the | a. of 18 holes or more |
| 2. shows no sign of | b. personnel |
| 3. The concept has been dubbed | c. season |
| 4. a scarcity of courses in | d. rankings |
| 5. military | e. abating |
| 6. There are as many as 117 golf courses | f. up |
| 7. players in the women's world | g. metropolitan areas |
| 8. in her rookie | h. trailblazer |
| 9. She may have been a white night | i. popularity of golf |
| 10. toughen her | j. "white night" golf |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is golf a sport, game or pastime?
- What damage do golf courses do to the environment?
- Are golf stars good role models?
- Why do you think South Korea's women are so good at golf?
- Who is your favourite golf player, and why?
- Should all schoolchildren play golf?
- What questions would you like to ask a golf club CEO?

Spelling

- the pulopaityr of golf
- spend more per cpaati
- golf equipment and lpearpa
- The concept has been udebbd "white night" golf
- There is a iyatcsrc of courses
- use by miltryia personnel
- ihgvnciae more success
- world rnikangs
- Korea's ygednlrea Pak Se-ri
- in her korieo season
- She may have been a white night taiabrlizer
- near smeetcieer at night

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. i	7. c	8. f	9. a	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Golf

You think golf is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): football, tennis or basketball.

Role B – Football

You think football is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): golf, tennis or basketball.

Role C – Tennis

You think tennis is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): football, golf or basketball.

Role D – Basketball

You think basketball is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): football, tennis or golf.

Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| • Golf | • Tennis |
| • Formula One | • Darts |
| • Football | • Marathon |
| • Karate | • Basketball |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.