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David Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

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12 January, 2007

THE ARTICLE

David Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

Former England soccer captain David Beckham has inked an extraordinary big bucks move from Spanish giant Real Madrid to America's Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy. The transfer will pull in a lucrative \$250 million over the next five years and propel him into being one of sport's highest earners, although he'll still be \$40 million a year poorer than golf's Tiger Woods. On top of his salary, Beckham should be able to net \$25 million a year through sponsorship deals; \$10 million in merchandising tie-ups, including shirt sales; and, finally, he is poised to sign a unique profit-sharing deal with LA Galaxy to the tune of a further \$10 million. On top of that, there's the lure of Hollywood cashing in on the player's dashing looks and global celebrity. He also gets to do what he loves – play football every day and score goals.

Beckham broke the news of his departure from Spain's La Liga championship by announcing he would not accept Madrid's offer of a two-year contract extension. He will instead head to LA when his current contract expires in the summer. He said in a statement: "I am proud to have played for two of the biggest clubs in football [Manchester United and Real Madrid] and I look forward to the new challenge of growing the world's most popular game in a country that is...passionate about its sport." He intimated that taking football (soccer in the USA) to another level was more important than the money, saying: "I think potentially it can go higher in America than anyone can believe.... Soccer is huge all around the world except in America and that's where I want to make a difference with the kids."

WARM-UPS

1. DAVID BECKHAM: What do you know about David Beckham? Find out as much as you can from your partner. Change partners often to build up your information.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Soccer / football / big bucks / Los Angeles / golf / Hollywood / \$10 million / Spain / contracts / Manchester United / passion / making a difference / kids

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. CHANGING PLACES: Talk to your partner(s) about which of these sports stars you would like to change places with. Rank three in order. Discuss what you would do in your future as these stars.

- David Beckham (football/soccer)
- Michelle Wie (golf)
- Maria Sharapova (tennis)
- Fernando Alonso (Formula One)
- Asashoryu (sumo)
- Laila Ali (boxing)
- Yao Ming (basketball)
- Other _____

4. QUICK DEBATE: Students A believe \$50 million a year is too much to pay any sports star. Students B believe \$50 million a year is an acceptable salary for sports stars. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

5. HI. I'M BECKHAM: In pairs / groups, decide on a famous sports star you would like to be. In your new role as this star, walk around the room and talk to the other "stars" about your sport and life.

6. TOP SPORT: Talk to your partner(s) about which of these sports are the best, biggest and most exciting – and why. Which are truly global sports? Which will be more popular in the future?

- Football/Soccer
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Baseball
- Sumo
- Hockey
- American football
- Cricket

7. FOOTBALL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with football (or soccer). Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. David Beckham is captain of England's national soccer team. T / F
- b. David Beckham is set to earn \$250 million a year in the USA. T / F
- c. Beckham's annual salary will still be less than that of Tiger Woods. T / F
- d. Beckham has also signed acting deals with two Hollywood studios. T / F
- e. Beckham will break his contract with Spanish team Real Madrid. T / F
- f. Beckham expressed regrets that he joined Real Madrid. T / F
- g. Beckham wants to increase the profile of soccer in the USA. T / F
- h. Beckham will encourage America's senior citizens to play soccer. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. inked | making public |
| b. big bucks (adj) | rocket |
| c. propel | worth |
| d. tie-ups | lapses |
| e. to the tune of | bar |
| f. expires | signed |
| g. announcing | deals |
| h. passionate | suggested |
| i. intimidated | lucrative |
| j. except | nuts (informal) |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. an extraordinary big | passionate about its sport |
| b. The transfer will pull | looks and global celebrity |
| c. \$10 million in merchandising | the news of his departure |
| d. to the tune | in a lucrative \$250 million |
| e. the player's dashing | to LA |
| f. Beckham broke | bucks move |
| g. He will instead head | of a further \$10 million |
| h. his current contract | anyone can believe |
| i. a country that is... | tie-ups |
| j. it can go higher in America than | expires in the summer |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

David Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

Former England soccer captain David Beckham has _____ an extraordinary big _____ move from Spanish giant Real Madrid to America's Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy. The transfer will _____ a lucrative \$250 million over the next five years and _____ him into being one of sport's highest earners, although he'll still be \$40 million a year poorer than golf's Tiger Woods. On top of his salary, Beckham should be able to _____ \$25 million a year through sponsorship deals; \$10 million in merchandising tie-ups, including shirt sales; and, finally, he is _____ to sign a unique profit-sharing deal with LA Galaxy to the tune of a further \$10 million. On top of that, there's the _____ of Hollywood _____ in on the player's dashing looks and global celebrity. He also gets to do what he loves – play football every day and score goals.

poised
propel
lure
inked
cashing
bucks
net
pull in

Beckham _____ the news of his departure from Spain's La Liga championship by announcing he would not accept Madrid's offer of a two-year contract _____. He will instead _____ to LA when his _____ contract expires in the summer. He said in a statement: "I am proud to have played for two of the biggest clubs in football [Manchester United and Real Madrid] and I look forward to the new challenge of _____ the world's most popular game in a country that is...passionate about its sport." He _____ that taking football (soccer in the USA) to another _____ was more important than the money, saying: "I think _____ it can go higher in America than anyone can believe.... Soccer is huge all around the world except in America and that's where I want to make a difference with the kids."

intimated
extension
potentially
current
broke
level
growing
head

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

David Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

Former England soccer captain David Beckham _____ extraordinary big bucks move from Spanish giant Real Madrid to America's Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy. The transfer will _____ lucrative \$250 million over the next five years and propel him into being one of sport's highest earners, although he'll still be \$40 million a year poorer than golf's Tiger Woods. On top of his salary, Beckham should be _____ \$25 million a year through sponsorship deals; \$10 million in merchandising tie-ups, including shirt sales; and, finally, he _____ a unique profit-sharing deal with LA Galaxy _____ a further \$10 million. On top of that, there's the lure of Hollywood _____ player's dashing looks and global celebrity. He also gets to do what he loves – play football every day and score goals.

Beckham _____ his departure from Spain's La Liga championship by announcing he would not accept Madrid's offer of a two-year contract extension. He _____ LA when his current contract expires in the summer. He said in a statement: "I am proud _____ two of the biggest clubs in football [Manchester United and Real Madrid] and I look forward to the new challenge of growing the world's most popular game in a country that is...passionate about its sport." He _____ taking football (soccer in the USA) to another level was more important than the money, saying: "I think _____ higher in America than anyone can believe.... Soccer is huge all around the world except in America and that's where I want to _____ with the kids."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'soccer' and 'football'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "SOCCER" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about soccer.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| • inked | • broke |
| • pull in | • expires |
| • poorer | • proud |
| • poised | • intimidated |
| • lure | • potentially |
| • loves | • difference |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Did anything in the article surprise you?
- c. What do you know about David Beckham?
- d. Would you like to be David Beckham?
- e. Do you think sporting superstars get paid too much?
- f. Would you prefer to be a top sports player or top actor?
- g. Which word do you prefer – soccer or football?
- h. Why do you think football / soccer is the most popular sport in the world?
- i. Is football / soccer the biggest sport in your country?
- j. What sports might one day overtake football as the world's biggest sport?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Is football / soccer an art?
- d. Do you prefer watching sport on TV or at the stadium, arena, ball park etc?
- e. Do you think David Beckham is more interested in increasing soccer's popularity in the US than he is in the millions of dollars?
- f. Is football / soccer a force for good in the world?
- g. Would you like to see more sports stars in Hollywood movies?
- h. Do you think David and Victoria Beckham's marriage has lasted well, considering the media spotlight, gossip and news of scandals?
- i. What question would you like to ask David Beckham?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

ROLE PLAY:

A discussion between different athletes about which of their sports is best.

Team up with classmates who have been assigned the same role to develop your roles and discuss ideas and “strategies” before the role play begins. Introduce yourself to the other role players. Discuss your roles after the role play ends.

Role A – David Beckham - Soccer

Your sport is best. It is the most popular sport in the world. The World Cup has the biggest TV audiences of any other sport. You need only a ball to play. Boys and girls can play. Soccer unites countries and peoples. It helps lots of poor people.

- Think of more reasons why soccer is the best sport.

Role B – Tiger Woods - Golf

Your sport is best. It is the most popular sport in the world. The World Cup has the biggest TV audiences of any other sport. You need only a ball to play. Boys and girls can play. Soccer unites countries and peoples. It also keeps you very fit.

- Think of more reasons why golf is the best sport.

Role C – Haile Gebreselassie – Marathon runner

Running is the only true and pure sport. It is your body against other runners. It requires dedication, stamina and discipline that is missing in other sports. It is one of the world’s oldest sports. Anyone can run. The marathon has a special status in sports.

- Think of more reasons why marathon running is the best sport.

Role D – Kobe Bryant - Basketball

Nothing beats basketball for non-stop, end-to-end entertainment. It is the most exciting sport. It has lots of points. The skill required combines athleticism, power and art. Anyone can play. You can play alone, with a friend or in a team. There’s never a dull moment.

- Think of more reasons why basketball is the best sport.

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

David Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

Former England soccer captain David Beckham has (1)_____ an extraordinary big bucks move from Spanish giant Real Madrid to America's Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy. The transfer will pull (2)_____ a lucrative \$250 million over the next five years and (3)_____ him into being one of sport's highest earners, although he'll still be \$40 million a year poorer than golf's Tiger Woods. On top of his salary, Beckham should be able to (4)_____ \$25 million a year through sponsorship deals; \$10 million in merchandising tie-ups, including shirt sales; and, finally, he is (5)_____ to sign a unique profit-sharing deal with LA Galaxy to the tune of a further \$10 million. On top of that, there's the (6)_____ of Hollywood cashing in on the player's dashing looks and global celebrity. He also gets to do what he loves – play football every day and score goals.

Beckham (7)_____ the news of his departure from Spain's La Liga championship by announcing he would not accept Madrid's offer of a two-year contract extension. He will instead (8)_____ to LA when his current contract (9)_____ in the summer. He said in a statement: "I am proud to have played for two of the biggest clubs in football [Manchester United and Real Madrid] and I look forward to the new challenge of growing the world's most popular game in a country that is...passionate about its sport." He (10)_____ that taking football (soccer in the USA) to another level was more important than the money, saying: "I think potentially it can go higher in America than anyone can believe.... Soccer is (11)_____ all around the world (12)_____ in America and that's where I want to make a difference with the kids."

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) ink | (b) inked | (c) inkling | (d) irked |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) out | (c) on | (d) over |
| 3. | (a) propeller | (b) propane | (c) propel | (d) pro rata |
| 4. | (a) not | (b) nit | (c) nut | (d) net |
| 5. | (a) posed | (b) poised | (c) posted | (d) poisoned |
| 6. | (a) lure | (b) lurid | (c) alluring | (d) lurk |
| 7. | (a) breaking | (b) broke | (c) break | (d) broken |
| 8. | (a) toe | (b) chest | (c) foot | (d) head |
| 9. | (a) expires | (b) expands | (c) expects | (d) exploits |
| 10. | (a) initiated | (b) intimidated | (c) intimated | (d) imitated |
| 11. | (a) elephantine | (b) huge | (c) gargantuan | (d) colossal |
| 12. | (a) except | (b) expect | (c) accept | (d) exception |

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. DAVID BECKHAM: Search the Internet and find more information about David Beckham or any other sports superstar. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DIARY: Write a diary about a day in the life of David Beckham or any other sports superstar. Read your diary entry to your classmates in your next lesson. Be prepared to answer questions from your partner(s).

4. LETTER: Write a letter to David Beckham. Tell him your thoughts on his move to Los Angeles and his new salary. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions. Which letter did you like best and why?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. T d. F e. F f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. inked | signed |
| b. big bucks (adj) | lucrative |
| c. propel | rocket |
| d. tie-ups | deals |
| e. to the tune of | worth |
| f. expires | lapses |
| g. announcing | making public |
| h. passionate | nuts (informal) |
| i. intimidated | suggested |
| j. except | bar |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. an extraordinary big | bucks move |
| b. The transfer will pull | in a lucrative \$250 million |
| c. \$10 million in merchandising | tie-ups |
| d. to the tune | of a further \$10 million |
| e. the player's dashing | looks and global celebrity |
| f. Beckham broke | the news of his departure |
| g. He will instead head | to LA |
| h. his current contract | expires in the summer |
| i. a country that is... | passionate about its sport |
| j. it can go higher in America than | anyone can believe |

GAP FILL:

Beckham in 250-million-dollar LA move

Former England soccer captain David Beckham has **inked** an extraordinary big **bucks** move from Spanish giant Real Madrid to America's Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy. The transfer will **pull in** a lucrative \$250 million over the next five years and **propel** him into being one of sport's highest earners, although he'll still be \$40 million a year poorer than golf's Tiger Woods. On top of his salary, Beckham should be able to **net** \$25 million a year through sponsorship deals; \$10 million in merchandising tie-ups, including shirt sales; and, finally, he is **poised** to sign a unique profit-sharing deal with LA Galaxy to the tune of a further \$10 million. On top of that, there's the **lure** of Hollywood **cashing in** on the player's dashing looks and global celebrity. He also gets to do what he loves – play football every day and score goals.

Beckham **broke** the news of his departure from Spain's La Liga championship by announcing he would not accept Madrid's offer of a two-year contract **extension**. He will instead **head** to LA when his **current** contract expires in the summer. He said in a statement: "I am proud to have played for two of the biggest clubs in football [Manchester United and Real Madrid] and I look forward to the new challenge of **growing** the world's most popular game in a country that is...passionate about its sport." He **intimated** that taking football (soccer in the USA) to another **level** was more important than the money, saying: "I think **potentially** it can go higher in America than anyone can believe.... Soccer is huge all around the world except in America and that's where I want to make a difference with the kids."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - b 2 - b 3 - c 4 - d 5 - b 6 - a 7 - c 8 - d 9 - a 10 - c 11 - b 12 - a