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**Level 5 – 14th March, 2019**

**Sports events cancelled, COVID-19 fears over Olympics**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-5.html>

The spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sport worldwide. The WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic. Many sports are taking measures to curb the spread of the virus. Major events are being suspended. European football is coming to a standstill as major leagues in Spain, Italy and other countries have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until the summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia, and major league sports in the USA have been suspended until further notice.

The biggest worry for sports fans is uncertainty over the Tokyo Olympics. Japan is preparing to continue with the Games as scheduled. The minister in charge said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled, but a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to postpone them. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed doors, and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/51853524>  
<https://www.espn.com/soccer/uefa-european-championship/story/4073259/champions-league-cancellation-euro-2020-delay-on-table>  
<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11095/11956076/uefa-considers-champions-league-and-europa-league-suspension>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. COVID-19 is playing         | a. to a standstill  |
| 2. taking measures to          | b. notice           |
| 3. Major events are            | c. curb the spread  |
| 4. European football is coming | d. the coming weeks |
| 5. suspended games for         | e. been cancelled   |
| 6. suspended                   | f. being suspended  |
| 7. the Formula 1 season has    | g. havoc with sport |
| 8. suspended until further     | h. until the summer |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The biggest worry              | a. with the Games  |
| 2. uncertainty over the           | b. closed doors    |
| 3. Japan is preparing to continue | c. cancelled       |
| 4. The minister in                | d. postpone them   |
| 5. inconceivable they would be    | e. Tokyo Olympics  |
| 6. a member of the organizing     | f. charge          |
| 7. it was more realistic to       | g. committee       |
| 8. being held behind              | h. for sports fans |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-5.html>

The spread of COVID-19 is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ sport worldwide. The WHO designated the coronavirus (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Many sports are taking measures to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the virus. Major events are being suspended. European football is coming to a standstill as major leagues in Spain, Italy and other countries (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming weeks. The Champions League (5) \_\_\_\_\_ until the summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia, and major league sports in the USA have been suspended (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The biggest worry for sports fans (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the Tokyo Olympics. Japan is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with the Games as scheduled. The minister in charge said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled, but a member of the organizing committee said it (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to postpone them. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Games. Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held (11) \_\_\_\_\_, and a national high school baseball tournament (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-5.html>

The spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sport worldwide. The WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic. Many sports are taking measures to curb the spread of the virus. Major events are being suspended. European football is coming to a standstill as major leagues in Spain, Italy and other countries have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until the summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia, and major league sports in the USA have been suspended until further notice. The biggest worry for sports fans is uncertainty over the Tokyo Olympics. Japan is preparing to continue with the Games as scheduled. The minister in charge said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled, but a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to postpone them. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed doors, and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

# SPORTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2003/200314-sports-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about sports in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

