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**Level 6 – 18th October, 2021**

## Peru wins first ever Balloon World Cup

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A new sporting fixture was added to the calendar of world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably a familiar one. We have all, at one time or another, partaken in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it touch the floor. Spanish soccer legend and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he decided to develop it into an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was held in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz was crowned as the very first world champion. His athleticism and deftness saw him fend off a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 victory.

Gerard Pique got his inspiration for establishing the annual tournament from videos that went viral on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips of the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game during the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique then intervened and made the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m court, which contained living room furniture as obstacles. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone and try new things." There are hopes it could become an Olympics event.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/sport/58922689>  
<https://www.espn.com/soccer/blog-the-toe-poke/story/4497731/barcelonas-gerard-pique-organises-inaugural-balloon-world-cup>  
<https://www.sportbible.com/football/football-news-reactions-gerard-pique-lays-into-his-team-mates-after-barcas-abject-defeat-20211003>

# WARM-UPS

**1. BALLOONS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Balloons. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

fixture / calendar / sport / balloon / pastime / air / legend / international / event / inspiration / tournament / clips / living room / global / furniture / obstacles / hope

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. OLYMPICS:** Students A **strongly** believe keepy-uppy ballooning should be an Olympics event; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ALTERNATIVE SPORTS:** What do you know about these sports? How exciting are they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	How Exciting
Keepy-uppy ballooning		
Cheese rolling		
Wife carrying		
Underwater hockey		
Zorbing		
Pillow fighting		

**5. LEGEND:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "legend". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SPORTS EVENTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Balloon World Cup
- FIFA World Cup
- Tour de France
- Formula One
- Horse racing
- Winter Olympics
- Heavyweight boxing
- Ski jumping

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. fixture   | a. Marking the beginning of an institution, activity, or period of office.          |
| 2. calendar  | b. Defend oneself from a challenger.  |
| 3. partaken  | c. A sporting event arranged to take place on a particular date.                    |
| 4. pastime   | d. A list of days or events of a specified kind.                                    |
| 5. inaugural | e. An activity that someone does regularly for enjoyment rather than work; a hobby. |
| 6. deftness  | f. Neatly skillful and quick in one's movements.                                    |
| 7. fend off  | g. Joined in an activity.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. inspiration   | h. A thing that blocks one's way or prevents or hinders progress.  |
| 9. annual        | i. Took part in something so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events.                                  |
| 10. viral        | j. A short sequence taken from a video, film or broadcast.   |
| 11. clip         | k. The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.          |
| 12. intervened   | l. A situation where one feels safe or at ease.  |
| 13. obstacle     | m. Occurring once every year.  |
| 14. comfort zone | n. Of an image, video, piece of information, etc. circulated rapidly and widely from one Internet user to another. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A new sporting calendar has been made with balloons on it. **T / F**
2. The article says everyone has played keepy-uppy ballooning. **T / F**
3. The first Balloon World Cup was held in Peru. **T / F**
4. The final of the Balloon World Cup was between Peru and Germany. **T / F**
5. The idea for the Balloon World Cup came from TikTok. **T / F**
6. Before the Balloon World Cup, there was a Keep-Up Balloon League. **T / F**
7. The Balloon World Cup games took part in a 8m x 8m court. **T / F**
8. Keepy-uppy ballooning will become an Olympics event. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>fixture</b>     | a. nimbleness       |
| 2. <b>familiar</b>    | b. first            |
| 3. <b>pastime</b>     | c. stepped in       |
| 4. <b>inaugural</b>   | d. well-known       |
| 5. <b>deftness</b>    | e. area             |
| 6. <b>inspiration</b> | f. stumbling blocks |
| 7. <b>clips</b>       | g. motivation       |
| 8. <b>intervened</b>  | h. contest          |
| 9. <b>obstacles</b>   | i. excerpts         |
| 10. <b>zone</b>       | j. hobby            |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A new sporting           | a. obstacles          |
| 2. partaken in the decades- | b. off a challenge    |
| 3. without letting          | c. intervened         |
| 4. His athleticism          | d. old pastime        |
| 5. fend                     | e. zone               |
| 6. videos that went         | f. and deftness       |
| 7. Pique then               | g. 8m x 8m court      |
| 8. took place on an         | h. viral              |
| 9. furniture as             | i. fixture            |
| 10. get out of your comfort | j. it touch the floor |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A new sporting (1) \_\_\_\_\_ was added to the calendar of world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ one. We have all, at one time or another, partaken in the decades-old (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it touch the floor. Spanish soccer (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he decided to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ it into an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was held in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as the very first world champion. His athleticism and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ saw him fend off a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*familiar*  
*crowned*  
*legend*  
*fixture*  
*victory*  
*deftness*  
*pastime*  
*develop*

Gerard Pique got his (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for establishing the annual tournament from videos that went (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips of the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game during the COVID-19 (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique then (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and made the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m (13) \_\_\_\_\_, which contained living room furniture as (14) \_\_\_\_\_. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and try new things." There are (16) \_\_\_\_\_ it could become an Olympics event.

*lockdown*  
*court*  
*hopes*  
*inspiration*  
*intervened*  
*zone*  
*viral*  
*obstacles*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

- 1) A new sporting fixture was added to the calendar of world sports \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. event this week
  - b. eventers this week
  - c. eventing this week
  - d. events this week
- 2) The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a familiarity one
  - b. a familiar one
  - c. a familiars one
  - d. a familiarised one
- 3) We have all, at one time or another, partaken in the decades-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. old pastime
  - b. older pastime
  - c. olds pastime
  - d. oldest pastime
- 4) Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. was clowned
  - b. was crowned
  - c. was crowed
  - d. was crowns
- 5) His athleticism and deftness saw him \_\_\_\_\_ challenge
  - a. send off a
  - b. tend off a
  - c. vend off a
  - d. fend off a
- 6) Pique got his inspiration for establishing the annual tournament from videos \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. that went buy-all
  - b. that went vital
  - c. that went rival
  - d. that went viral
- 7) Pique then intervened and made \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the game globe all
  - b. the game glow ball
  - c. the game global
  - d. the game grow ball
- 8) contests took place on an 8m \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. x 8m count
  - b. x 8m cart
  - c. x 8m caught
  - d. x 8m court
- 9) Teams from 32 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. countries participate it
  - b. countries part anticipated
  - c. countries participated
  - d. countries participation
- 10) Sometimes you have to get out of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. your comfort tone
  - b. your comfort lone
  - c. your comfort zone
  - d. your comfort hone

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A new sporting fixture was added to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably (2) \_\_\_\_\_. We have all, at one time or another, partaken in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Spanish soccer legend and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it into an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was held in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the very first world champion. His athleticism and deftness saw him (6) \_\_\_\_\_ challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 victory.

Gerard Pique got his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the annual tournament from videos that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the social media site TikTok. He loved (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game during the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique (10) \_\_\_\_\_ made the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m court, which contained living room (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and try new things." There are hopes it could become an Olympics event.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

1. What was the Balloon World Cup added to?
2. How old does the article say keepy-uppy ballooning is?
3. Who promoted the Balloon World Cup?
4. Where was the Balloon World Cup held?
5. What was the score in the final?
6. What social media site had videos of a family ballooning?
7. How large is a Balloon World Cup court?
8. What did the obstacles in the Balloon World Cup consist of?
9. What did someone say we have to get out of?
10. What are there hopes the Balloon World Cup might become?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

- 1) What was the Balloon World Cup added to?
  - a) a list of alternative sports
  - b) the calendar of world sports events
  - c) a book of party games
  - d) the Guinness World Records
- 2) How old does the article say keepy-uppy ballooning is?
  - a) about 20 years old
  - b) 82 years old
  - c) centuries old
  - d) decades old
- 3) Who promoted the Balloon World Cup?
  - a) Gerard Pique
  - b) a balloon company
  - c) a toy company
  - d) a billionaire
- 4) Where was the Balloon World Cup held?
  - a) Canada
  - b) Japan
  - c) Spain
  - d) South Africa
- 5) What was the score in the final?
  - a) 5-2
  - b) 6-2
  - c) 6-3
  - d) 5-3
- 6) What social media site had videos of a family ballooning?
  - a) Instagram
  - b) YouTube
  - c) TikTok
  - d) Facebook
- 7) How large is a Balloon World Cup court?
  - a) 6m x 8m
  - b) 8m x 6m
  - c) 6m x 6m
  - d) 8m x 8m
- 8) What did the obstacles in the Balloon World Cup consist of?
  - a) living room furniture
  - b) cones
  - c) people
  - d) giant balloons
- 9) What did someone say we have to get out of?
  - a) the house
  - b) our comfort zone
  - c) this place
  - d) being in a rut
- 10) What are there hopes the Balloon World Cup might become?
  - a) huge
  - b) an Olympics event
  - c) played worldwide
  - d) a school sports event

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

## **Role A – Balloon World Cup**

You think the Balloon World Cup is the best sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavyweight boxing, the Tour de France or Formula One.

## **Role B – Heavyweight Boxing**

You think heavyweight boxing is the best sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Balloon World Cup, the Tour de France or Formula One.

## **Role C – Tour de France**

You think the Tour de France is the best sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavyweight boxing, Balloon World Cup or Formula One.

## **Role D – Formula One**

You think Formula One is the best sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavyweight boxing, the Tour de France or Balloon World Cup.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'balloon' and 'sport'.

<b>balloon</b>	<b>sport</b>

- 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. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• calendar</li><li>• familiar</li><li>• decades</li><li>• legend</li><li>• held</li><li>• victory</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• annual</li><li>• loved</li><li>• room</li><li>• 8</li><li>• 32</li><li>• hopes</li></ul>
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# BALLOONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

Write five GOOD questions about balloons 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.

# BALLOONS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Peru'?
3. What do you know about Peru?
4. What do you know about balloons?
5. What do you think of the Balloon World Cup?
6. Have you played balloon keepy-uppy?
7. Is balloon keepy-uppy a real sport?
8. How exciting do you think the Balloon World Cup is?
9. How athletic and deft must you be for keepy-uppy ballooning?
10. Would you be good at keepy-uppy ballooning?

*Peru wins first ever Balloon World Cup – 18th October, 2021*  
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# BALLOONS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'balloon'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of TikTok?
15. What did you do during the COVID-19 lockdowns?
16. Do you think the Balloon World Cup will become more popular?
17. What obstacles are needed for keepy-uppy ballooning?
18. What variations of keepy-uppy ballooning could there be?
19. Should keepy-uppy ballooning become an Olympics sport?
20. What questions would you like to ask the tournament winner?

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A new sporting (1) \_\_\_\_\_ was added to the calendar of world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably a familiar one. We have all, at one time or another, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the floor. Spanish soccer legend and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he decided to develop it into an international event. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Balloon World Cup was held in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ as the very first world champion. His athleticism and deftness saw him fend (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 victory.

Gerard Pique got his inspiration (7) \_\_\_\_\_ establishing the annual tournament from videos that went viral on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips of the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique then (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and made the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m court, which contained living room furniture as (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and try new things." There are (12) \_\_\_\_\_ it could become an Olympics event.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                 |                  |                |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) fitting   | (b) fixture     | (c) fixing       | (d) fixative   |
| 2.  | (a) mistaken  | (b) partaken    | (c) overtaken    | (d) retaken    |
| 3.  | (a) attain    | (b) fiddle      | (c) caress       | (d) touch      |
| 4.  | (a) ogre      | (b) inaugural   | (c) agricultural | (d) gruel      |
| 5.  | (a) boarded   | (b) topped      | (c) capped       | (d) crowned    |
| 6.  | (a) over      | (b) in          | (c) off          | (d) unto       |
| 7.  | (a) for       | (b) to          | (c) as           | (d) on         |
| 8.  | (a) while     | (b) thorough    | (c) during       | (d) via        |
| 9.  | (a) interned  | (b) intertwined | (c) interviewed  | (d) intervened |
| 10. | (a) obstacles | (b) receptacles | (c) spectacles   | (d) tentacles  |
| 11. | (a) zone      | (b) hone        | (c) tone         | (d) lone       |
| 12. | (a) hopes     | (b) wish        | (c) aspires      | (d) yearning   |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. A new sporting xftirue
2. partaken in the decades-old imsetap
3. Spanish soccer gleden
4. The iaaulgran Balloon World Cup
5. His athleticism and dtesfsne
6. a 6-2 rictyvo

## Paragraph 2

7. Pique got his nripintsioa
8. establishing the annual tннаemrtou
9. went rivla on the social media site
10. Pique then iedveerntn
11. living room furniture as lstasbeco
12. 32 countries eirpcdpttaia

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( **1** ) A new sporting fixture was added to the calendar of world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport"
- ( ) and deftness saw him fend off a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 victory.
- ( ) zone and try new things." There are hopes it could become an Olympics event.
- ( ) of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably a familiar one. We have all, at one time or another, partaken
- ( ) the floor. Spanish soccer legend and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he decided to
- ( ) during the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique
- ( ) been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort
- ( ) develop it into an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was held
- ( ) then intervened and made the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m court, which contained
- ( ) in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz was crowned as the very first world champion. His athleticism
- ( ) Gerard Pique got his inspiration for establishing the annual tournament from videos that went
- ( ) viral on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips of the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game
- ( ) living room furniture as obstacles. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's
- ( ) in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it touch

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

1. to new fixture was the calendar . added A
2. The sport of familiar ballooning a is one .
3. a Keeping in balloon the air . up
4. the was crowned Cruz as very champion . first
5. a His him saw off athleticism fend challenge .
6. viral went on the site . Videos social media
7. the made and Pique game intervened global . then
8. living room obstacles . The as furniture court contained
9. out comfort zone . You should of get your
10. Olympics event . an become could it Hopes

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A new sporting *fixture / fixing* was added to the calendar of world sports events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is *probable / probably* a familiar one. We have all, at one time or another, *partaken / mistaken* in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without *abetting / letting* it touch the floor. Spanish soccer *legendary / legend* and Barcelona star Gerard Pique loved this sport so much he decided to develop it *into / onto* an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was *held / grasped* Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's Francesco de la Cruz was *crowned / capped* as the very first world champion. His athleticism and *deftly / deftness* saw him fend off a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 *victory / victor*.

Gerard Pique got his *inspire / inspiration* for establishing the annual tournament from videos that *went / took* viral on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips *at / of* the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game *during / while* the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's *living / live* room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Pique then intervened and *gave / made* the game global. The World Cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m *spurt / court*, which contained living room furniture as *tentacles / obstacles*. Teams from 32 countries participated. Pique said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get *out / about* of your comfort *zone / hone* and try new things." There are hopes it could become an Olympics event.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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\_ n\_w sp\_rt\_ng f\_xt\_r\_ w\_s \_dd\_d t\_ th\_ c\_l\_nd\_r \_f  
w\_rld sp\_rts \_v\_nts th\_s w\_\_k - th\_ B\_ll\_\_n W\_rld  
C\_p. Th\_ "sp\_rt" \_f k\_\_py-\_ppy b\_ll\_\_nng \_s pr\_b\_bly  
\_ f\_m\_l\_\_r \_n\_. W\_ h\_v\_ \_ll, \_t \_n\_ t\_m\_ \_r \_n\_th\_r,  
p\_rt\_k\_n \_n th\_ d\_c\_d\_s-\_ld p\_st\_m\_ \_f k\_\_p\_ng \_  
b\_ll\_\_n \_p \_n th\_ \_\_r w\_th\_\_t l\_ttng \_t t\_\_ch th\_  
fl\_\_r. Sp\_n\_sh s\_cc\_r l\_g\_nd \_nd B\_rc\_l\_n\_ st\_r G\_r\_rd  
P\_q\_\_ l\_v\_d th\_s sp\_rt s\_ m\_ch h\_ d\_c\_d\_d t\_  
d\_v\_l\_p \_t \_nt\_ \_n \_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l \_v\_nt. Th\_ \_n\_g\_r\_l  
B\_ll\_\_n W\_rld C\_p w\_s h\_ld \_n T\_rr\_g\_n\_, Sp\_\_n, \_n  
Th\_rsd\_y. P\_r\_'s Fr\_nc\_sc\_ d\_ l\_ Cr\_z w\_s cr\_wn\_d \_s  
th\_ v\_ry f\_rst w\_rld ch\_m\_p\_\_n. H\_s \_thl\_t\_c\_sm \_nd  
d\_ftn\_ss s\_w h\_m f\_nd \_ff \_ ch\_ll\_ng\_ fr\_m G\_rm\_ny's  
J\_n Sp\_\_ss \_n th\_ f\_n\_l w\_th \_ 6-2 v\_ct\_ry.

G\_r\_rd P\_q\_\_ g\_t h\_s \_nsp\_r\_t\_\_n f\_r \_st\_bl\_sh\_ng th\_  
\_nn\_\_l t\_\_rn\_m\_nt fr\_m v\_d\_\_s th\_t w\_nt v\_r\_l \_n th\_  
s\_c\_\_l m\_d\_\_ s\_t\_ T\_kT\_k. H\_ l\_v\_d w\_tchng cl\_ps \_f  
th\_ \_rr\_nd\_nd\_ f\_m\_ly fr\_m th\_ \_S\_ pl\_y\_ng th\_ g\_m\_  
d\_rng th\_ C\_V\_D-19 l\_ckd\_wn. \_t d\_v\_l\_p\_d fr\_m th\_  
f\_m\_ly's l\_v\_ng r\_\_m \_nt\_ \_ "K\_\_p-\_p B\_ll\_\_n L\_\_g\_\_".  
P\_q\_\_ th\_n \_nt\_rv\_n\_d \_nd m\_d\_ th\_ g\_m\_ gl\_b\_l. Th\_  
W\_rld C\_p c\_nt\_sts t\_\_k pl\_c\_ \_n \_n 8m x 8m c\_\_rt,  
wh\_ch c\_nt\_\_n\_d l\_v\_ng r\_\_m f\_rn\_t\_r\_ \_s \_bst\_cl\_s.  
T\_\_ms fr\_m 32 c\_\_ntr\_\_s p\_rt\_c\_p\_t\_d. P\_q\_\_ s\_\_d:  
"\_t's b\_\_n \_m\_z\_ng. \_t's s\_m\_thng t\_t\_lly d\_ff\_r\_nt.  
S\_m\_t\_m\_s y\_\_ h\_v\_ t\_ g\_t \_\_t \_f y\_\_r c\_mf\_rt z\_n\_  
\_nd try n\_w th\_ngs." Th\_r\_ \_r\_ h\_p\_s \_t c\_\_ld b\_c\_m\_  
\_n \_lymp\_cs \_v\_nt.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

a new sporting fixture was added to the calendar of world sports events this week the balloon world cup the sport of keepyuppy ballooning is probably a familiar one we have all at one time or another partaken in the decadesold pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it touch the floor spanish soccer legend and barcelona star gerard pique loved this sport so much he decided to develop it into an international event the inaugural balloon world cup was held in tarragona spain on thursday perus francesco de la cruz was crowned as the very first world champion his athleticism and deftness saw him fend off a challenge from germanys jan spiess in the final with a 62 victory

gerard pique got his inspiration for establishing the annual tournament from videos that went viral on the social media site tiktok he loved watching clips of the arrendondo family from the usa playing the game during the covid19 lockdown it developed from the familys living room into a keepup balloon league pique then intervned and made the game global the world cup contests took place on an 8m x 8m court which contained living room furniture as obstacles teams from 32 countries participated pique said its been amazing its something totally different sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone and try new things there are hopes it could become an olympics event.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2110/211018-balloon-world-cup.html>

A news sporting fixture was added to the calendar of world sport events this week - the Balloon World Cup. The "sport" of keepy-uppy ballooning is probably a familiar one. We have all, at one time or another, partaken in the decades-old pastime of keeping a balloon up in the air without letting it touch the floor. Spanish soccer legend and Barcelona star Gerard Piqué loved this sport so much he decided to develop it into an international event. The inaugural Balloon World Cup was held in Tarragona, Spain, on Thursday. Peru's FrancescodelaCruz was crowned as the very first world champion. His athleticism and deftness saw him fend off a challenge from Germany's Jan Spiess in the final with a 6-2 victory. Gerard Piqué got this inspiration from establishing the annual tournament from videos that went viral on the social media site TikTok. He loved watching clips of the Arrendondo family from the USA playing the game during the COVID-19 lockdown. It developed from the family's living room into a "Keep-Up Balloon League". Piqué then intervened and made the game global. The World Cup contest took place on an 8m x 8m court, which contained living room furniture as obstacles. Teams from 32 countries participated. Piqué said: "It's been amazing. It's something totally different. Sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone and try new things." There are hopes it could become an Olympic event.







# 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. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. BALLOONS:** Make a poster about balloons. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. OLYMPICS:** Write a magazine article about making the sport of keepy-uppy ballooning an Olympic sport. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. 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.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on balloons. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on the Balloon World Cup. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. g    4. e    5. a    6. f    7. b  
8. k    9. m    10. n    11. j    12. i    13. h    14. l

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 T    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- The calendar of world sports events
- Decades old
- Gerard Pique
- Tarragona, Spain
- 6-2
- TikTok
- 8m x 8m
- Living room furniture
- Our comfort zone
- An Olympics event

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- A new fixture was added to the calendar.
- The sport of ballooning is a familiar one.
- Keeping a balloon up in the air.
- Cruz was crowned as the very first champion.
- His athleticism saw him fend off a challenge.
- Videos went viral on the social media site.
- Pique then intervened and made the game global.
- The court contained living room furniture as obstacles.
- You should get out of your comfort zone.
- Hopes it could become an Olympics event.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. a    4. c    5. b    6. c    7. d    8. a    9. b    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)