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Level 6 – 14th March, 2020

Sports events cancelled, COVID-19 fears over Olympics

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

The global spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic, many sports associations have taken measures to curb the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are being suspended on a daily basis. European football is coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until further notice.

The biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for preparations to continue as scheduled. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to postpone the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's a shame because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed doors in Osaka 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>

WARM-UPS

1. SPORTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about sports. 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?

spread / COVID-19 / pandemic / sports / standstill / major leagues / Formula 1 / concern / Tokyo Olympics / preparations / committee / shame / sumo / baseball

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

3. POSTPONED: Students A **strongly** believe all sporting events should be postponed until COVID-19 disappears; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. COVID-19: How has COVID-19 affected these things? What would you do? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Has Happened?	What Would You Do?
Sport		
Finance		
Travel		
International relations		
City life		
Shopping		

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

6. CLOSE: Rank these with your partner. Put the things that should close at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cinemas
- Sports stadia
- Horse races
- Bars and pubs
- Theatres
- Museums
- Amusement parks
- Gyms

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. havoc | a. Delayed an action or event. |
| 2. designated | b. Great confusion or disorder. |
| 3. pandemic | c. Restrain or stop something from happening. |
| 4. measure | d. Officially gave a specific status, name or quality to something or someone. |
| 5. curb | e. A plan or course of action taken to achieve a particular purpose. |
| 6. standstill | f. Of a disease that is spreading across a whole country or the world. |
| 7. suspended | g. A situation or condition in which there is no movement or activity at all. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8. scheduled | h. Arranged or planned an event to take place at a particular time. |
| 9. inconceivable | i. Taking place without anyone watching. |
| 10. committee | j. Not capable of being imagined. |
| 11. postpone | k. A series of contests between a number of competitors, who compete for an overall prize. |
| 12. shame | l. A group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group. |
| 13. tournament | m. Cause or arrange for something to take place at a time later than that first scheduled. |
| 14. behind closed doors | n. A regrettable or unfortunate situation or action. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. The WHO said no one can play the sport of havoc during the pandemic. **T / F**
- b. The WHO earlier designated the pandemic as a coronavirus. **T / F**
- c. The Champions League could be delayed until next summer. **T / F**
- d. The whole of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled. **T / F**
- e. Many people are worried about whether the Olympics will take place. **T / F**
- f. Donald Trump said to hold the Olympics would be a shame. **T / F**
- g. A 15-day sumo tournament in Japan has been cancelled. **T / F**
- h. A high school baseball tournament in Japan has been cancelled. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. spread | a. unthinkable |
| 2. designated | b. restrain |
| 3. curb | c. postponed |
| 4. standstill | d. called off |
| 5. suspended | e. planned |
| 6. uncertainty | f. classed |
| 7. scheduled | g. proliferation |
| 8. inconceivable | h. pity |
| 9. shame | i. stop |
| 10. cancelled | j. doubt |

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

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. COVID-19 is playing | a. is uncertainty |
| 2. After the WHO designated the coronavirus | b. a standstill |
| 3. taken measures to curb the | c. notice |
| 4. European football is coming to | d. closed doors |
| 5. suspended until further | e. as a pandemic |
| 6. The biggest concern for sports fans | f. scheduled |
| 7. continue as | g. postponing the Games |
| 8. it was "inconceivable" they would | h. havoc with sports events |
| 9. Japan should consider | i. be cancelled |
| 10. being held behind | j. spread of the virus |

GAP FILL

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

The global spread of COVID-19 is playing (1) _____ with sports events worldwide. After the WHO (2) _____ the coronavirus as a pandemic, many sports associations have taken measures to (3) _____ the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are being suspended on a daily (4) _____. European football is coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have (5) _____ games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the (6) _____ grand prix of the Formula 1 (7) _____ has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until further (8) _____.

suspended

havoc

curb

season

basis

notice

designated

first

The biggest (9) _____ for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for preparations to continue as (10) _____. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "(11) _____" they would be cancelled. However, a (12) _____ of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to (13) _____ the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's a (14) _____ because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being (15) _____ in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed (16) _____ in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

member

shame

scheduled

doors

inconceivable

concern

hit

postpone

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The global spread of COVID-19 is playing _____ events
 - a. havoc with sports
 - b. pivot with sports
 - c. relic with sports
 - d. divot with sports
- 2) After the WHO designated the coronavirus _____
 - a. was a pandemic
 - b. has a pandemic
 - c. as a pandemic
 - d. is a pandemic
- 3) many sports associations have taken measures to _____
 - a. curb the spread
 - b. kerb the spread
 - c. carb the spread
 - d. crib the spread
- 4) other major leagues have suspended games for _____
 - a. the come in weeks
 - b. the coming in weeks
 - c. the come Ming weeks
 - d. the coming weeks
- 5) National Basketball League have been suspended _____
 - a. until farther notice
 - b. until future notice
 - c. until father notice
 - d. until further notice
- 6) The biggest concern for sports _____
 - a. fans is uncertainty
 - b. fans is uncertain
 - c. fans is not certainly
 - d. fans is non-certain
- 7) Japan's government has called for preparations to _____
 - a. continue that's scheduled
 - b. continue are scheduled
 - c. continue as scheduled
 - d. continue has scheduled
- 8) a member of the organizing committee said it _____
 - a. was "moor realistic"
 - b. was "mare realistic"
 - c. was "more realistic"
 - d. was "much realistic"
- 9) Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider _____ Games
 - a. post phoning the
 - b. post pinning the
 - c. postponing the
 - d. postpone in the
- 10) The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held _____
 - a. behind closet doors
 - b. behind closed windows
 - c. behind house doors
 - d. behind closed doors

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The global spread of COVID-19 is (1) _____ sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus (2) _____, many sports associations have taken measures to curb the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are (3) _____ a daily basis. European football is coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for (4) _____. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 (5) _____ cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended (6) _____.

The biggest concern for sports fans (7) _____ the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for preparations to (8) _____. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said (9) _____ they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" (10) _____ Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's (11) _____ they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held (12) _____ in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What did the article say COVID-19 was doing to sports worldwide?
2. What have sports associations taken to curb the spread of the virus?
3. What did the article say European football was coming to?
4. What did the article say could be suspended until next summer?
5. Until when did the article say the USA's basketball league is suspended?
6. What is the biggest concern for sports fans?
7. What did the Olympics minister say about cancelling the Games?
8. What did Donald Trump say the Japanese have built?
9. Where in Osaka is a sumo tournament being held?
10. What kind of baseball tournament has been cancelled in Japan?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What did the article say COVID-19 was doing to sports worldwide?
 - a) jeopardising them
 - b) rearranging them
 - c) destroying them
 - d) playing havoc with them
- 2) What have sports associations taken to curb the spread of the virus?
 - a) face masks
 - b) measures
 - c) money
 - d) advice
- 3) What did the article say European football was coming to?
 - a) a joke
 - b) meltdown
 - c) a town near you
 - d) a standstill
- 4) What did the article say could be suspended until next summer?
 - a) all sport
 - b) elections
 - c) the Champions League
 - d) Euro 2020
- 5) Until when did the article say the USA's basketball league is suspended?
 - a) 2021
 - b) lunch time
 - c) next Wednesday
 - d) until further notice
- 6) What is the biggest concern for sports fans?
 - a) their favourite team
 - b) ticket refunds
 - c) the Olympics
 - d) the health of athletes
- 7) What did the Olympics minister say about cancelling the Games?
 - a) it was inconceivable
 - b) it was unstoppable
 - c) it will happen
 - d) he would quit if that happened
- 8) What did Donald Trump say the Japanese have built?
 - a) trust
 - b) isolation centres
 - c) beautiful buildings
 - d) the best stadium ever
- 9) Where in Osaka is a sumo tournament being held?
 - a) in the dark
 - b) behind closed doors
 - c) in a hospital
 - d) in the south
- 10) What kind of baseball tournament has been cancelled in Japan?
 - a) a high school tournament
 - b) a professional tournament
 - c) a kindergarten tournament
 - d) an international tournament

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Amusement Parks

You think amusement parks are the most important places to close during the COVID-19 outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to close their places. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to close (and why): museums, sports stadia or gyms.

Role B – Museums

You think museums are the most important places to close during the COVID-19 outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to close their places. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to close (and why): amusement parks, sports stadia or gyms.

Role C – Sports Stadia

You think sports stadia are the most important places to close during the COVID-19 outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to close their places. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to close (and why): museums, amusement parks or gyms.

Role D – Gyms

You think gyms are the most important places to close during the COVID-19 outbreak. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't as important to close their places. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these to close (and why): museums, sports stadia or amusement parks.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

sports	events
---------------	---------------

- 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">• spread• measures• basis• coming• first• notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• concern• continue• member• shame• hit• doors
---	---

SPORTS SURVEY

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

SPORTS 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 'sport'?
3. What is your favourite sport?
4. What events have been cancelled in your country?
5. What events should be cancelled in your country?
6. Are you surprised that many sports events are still going ahead?
7. Do you agree with suspending sports leagues?
8. How long do you think sports leagues should be suspended for?
9. How has COVID-19 affected your life?
10. What advice do you have for sports fans?

Sports events cancelled, COVID-19 fears over Olympics – 14th March, 2020
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SPORTS 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 'event'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How worried are you about the Olympics being cancelled?
15. How bad would it be if the Olympics were cancelled?
16. Would it be OK for the Olympics to take place without spectators?
17. How would athletes feel about the Olympics being postponed?
18. Should sports events take place behind closed doors?
19. How are authorities dealing with COVID-19?
20. What questions would you like to ask COVID-19 experts?

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/2003/200314-sports.html>

The global spread of COVID-19 is (1) _____ havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO (2) _____ the coronavirus as a pandemic, many sports associations have taken measures to (3) _____ the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are being suspended on a daily basis. European football is coming to a (4) _____ as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could (5) _____ suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until further (6) _____.

The biggest concern for sports fans is (7) _____ over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for preparations to continue (8) _____ scheduled. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more (9) _____" to postpone the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's a (10) _____ because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being hit (11) _____ Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed (12) _____ in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) having | (b) playing | (c) doing | (d) tackling |
| 2. | (a) deigned | (b) designated | (c) designed | (d) digested |
| 3. | (a) carb | (b) kerb | (c) crib | (d) curb |
| 4. | (a) standing | (b) standstill | (c) standard | (d) stand |
| 5. | (a) have | (b) be | (c) do | (d) play |
| 6. | (a) sight | (b) awareness | (c) notice | (d) recognition |
| 7. | (a) certainty | (b) uncertain | (c) uncertainty | (d) curtains |
| 8. | (a) was | (b) has | (c) as | (d) be |
| 9. | (a) realism | (b) really | (c) reality | (d) realistic |
| 10. | (a) shame | (b) sham | (c) shimmy | (d) shun |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) on | (d) as |
| 12. | (a) windows | (b) roofs | (c) doors | (d) houses |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. playing oahcv with sports events
2. eatngsdeid the coronavirus as a pandemic
3. ucrb the spread of the virus
4. on a daily ssiba
5. other major lgsuaee
6. sndpsueed until further notice

Paragraph 2

7. nraeutncy over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
8. continue as uehscdeld
9. it was boavinielcne they would be cancelled
10. more islrtaeic to postpone the Games
11. Trump dutgesges Japan should consider
12. high school baseball nrutoetanm

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () held behind closed doors in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.
- () a pandemic, many sports associations have taken measures to curb the spread of the
- () and National Basketball League have been suspended until further notice.
- () coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming
- () grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League
- () called for preparations to continue as scheduled. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was
- (**1**) The global spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus as
- () "inconceivable" they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more
- () weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first
- () realistic" to postpone the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider
- () postponing the Games. He said: "It's a shame because they built some really beautiful
- () buildings." Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being
- () The biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has
- () virus. Major sporting events are being suspended on a daily basis. European football is

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. with COVID-19 playing sports events worldwide . is havoc
2. designated The the coronavirus as WHO a pandemic .
3. have spread . the measures taken curb Associations to
4. are basis . daily suspended Events being a on
5. have games weeks . suspended Leagues the coming for
6. for sports The uncertainty . concern fans biggest is
7. continue . called preparations Japan's government has to for
8. the Olympics It inconceivable be was cancelled . would
9. postponing suggested Games . Trump should Japan the consider
10. tournament being doors . A closed behind held is

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The *global / globally* spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus *was / as* a pandemic, many sports associations have taken *measure / measures* to curb the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are *being / been* suspended on a daily basis. European football is coming to a *still / standstill* as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and *another / other* major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could *have / be* suspended until next summer. In other sports, the *first / fast* grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been *cancelled / cancel* in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until *further / farther* notice.

The biggest *concerned / concern* for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for *reparations / preparations* to continue as scheduled. The *ministerial / minister* responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "inconceivable" they would be *cancel / cancelled*. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to *postpone / postponement* the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should *considerable / consider* postponing the Games. He said: "It's a *shame / sham* because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already *being / been* hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being *held / holding* behind closed doors in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament *was / has* been cancelled.

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)

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

The global spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic, many sports seasons have taken months to curb the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are being suspended indefinitely basis. European football is coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first grand prize of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until further notice.

The biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for postponement of the event as scheduled. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "uncancelable" they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to postpone the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's shameful because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being halted in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring semester for government schools has been cancelled.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the global spread of covid19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide after the who designated the coronavirus as a pandemic many sports associations have taken measures to curb the spread of the virus major sporting events are being suspended on a daily basis european football is coming to a standstill as spains la liga italys serie a and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks the champions league could be suspended until next summer in other sports the first grand prix of the formula 1 season has been cancelled in australia and the national hockey league and national basketball league have been suspended until further notice

the biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 tokyo olympics japans government has called for preparations to continue as scheduled the minister responsible for the olympics and paralympics said it was inconceivable they would be cancelled however a member of the organizing committee said it was more realistic to postpone the games us president donald trump suggested japan should consider postponing the games he said its a shame because they built some really beautiful buildings sport is already being hit in japan the nations 15day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed doors in osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The global spread of COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide. After the WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic, many sports associations have taken measures to curb the spread of the virus. Major sporting events are being suspended on a daily basis. European football is coming to a standstill as Spain's La Liga, Italy's Serie A and other major leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks. The Champions League could be suspended until next summer. In other sports, the first grand prix of the Formula 1 season has been cancelled in Australia; and the National Hockey League and National Basketball League have been suspended until further notice. The biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty over the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Japan's government has called for preparations to continue as scheduled. The minister responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics said it was "inconceivable" they would be cancelled. However, a member of the organizing committee said it was "more realistic" to postpone the Games. U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games. He said: "It's a shame because they built some really beautiful buildings." Sport is already being hit in Japan. The nation's 15-day spring sumo tournament is being held behind closed doors in Osaka and a national high school baseball tournament has been cancelled.

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. SPORTS: Make a poster about sports. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CANCEL: Write a magazine article about cancelling all sports events worldwide. 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 COVID-19. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on the wisdom of holding sports events. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Playing havoc with them
2. Measures
3. A standstill
4. The Champions League
5. Until further notice
6. Uncertainty over the 2020 Olympics
7. It was inconceivable
8. Beautiful buildings
9. Behind closed doors
10. A national high school tournament

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. COVID-19 is playing havoc with sports events worldwide.
2. The WHO designated the coronavirus as a pandemic.
3. Associations have taken measures to curb the spread.
4. Events are being suspended on a daily basis.
5. Leagues have suspended games for the coming weeks.
6. The biggest concern for sports fans is uncertainty.
7. Japan's government has called for preparations to continue.
8. It was inconceivable the Olympics would be cancelled.
9. Trump suggested Japan should consider postponing the Games.
10. A tournament is being held behind closed doors.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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