

# Lesson 1

## The Miracle of Bern

John: What have you got there, Anja?

Anja: They look like football tickets.

John: Let me see. Wow! Do you realise what these are? They are tickets to the World Cup final in 1954. The 'Miracle of Bern'. These are amazing!

Anja: My uncle Horst went when he was a child. His grandfather took him, I believe.



Are you a sports fan? Do you have a favourite team?  
Do you go to matches or do you follow your team on TV?  
Do you only watch the big events?  
Are you passionate about your team?  
Do you buy the team shirt?  
Do you shout at the TV? Are you an armchair referee?  
Do you play any sports?

Let's talk about sports...



## Vocabulary

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1) goal                | a) game to decide the winner                      |
| 2) header              | b) to give a loud signal to the teams             |
| 3) to pass to          | c) neutral person                                 |
| 4) to blow the whistle | d) ball in the net                                |
| 5) to attack           | e) out of position on the attack                  |
| 6) final               | f) international tournament                       |
| 7) offside             | g) passing the ball using your head not your feet |
| 8) wing                | h) sides of the playing area                      |
| 9) referee             | i) team expected to win                           |
| 10) World Cup          | j) unbelievable event                             |
| 11) favourites         | k) to give to                                     |
| 12) miracle            | l) to go for goal                                 |

It is July 4th, 1954. Hans-Peter is in Bern, Switzerland with his grandson Horst to see a football game. Horst is 6 years old and very excited. He has not got a father, so Hans-Peter is taking him to the game. Horst does not really understand that this is the World Cup. He only knows that it is raining and that nobody else cares about the weather. His grandfather is talking to another man.

"Hungary are the favourites. Germany are the outsiders."

"Maybe. But the German players are wearing special football boots made by Adolf 'Adi' Dassler. The boots are designed for rainy weather. Germany has a chance."



The players are on the field. William Ling, the English referee, blows his whistle. The game starts and Horst is watching everything closely. The players are running fast. Oh, no! A Hungarian goal after six minutes. What a good shot. The players start running again. NO! Another goal only 2 minutes later. Germany is losing. Hans-Peter and Horst are cheering and shouting loudly. 3 minutes later there is another goal... by Morlock! Hungary is now leading 2-1, and Germany has not given up.

Goal! It is now 2-2. The favourites are not winning and the outsiders are not losing. Grandfather and grandson are watching and shouting with thousands of other fans. The game is so exciting and at half-time it is still not clear who will win.

At home Horst's mother, grandmother and sister are listening to Herbert Zimmermann commentating the game on the radio:

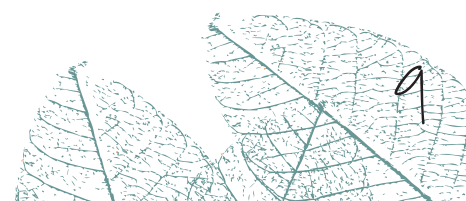
"There are still 6 minutes in the Wankendorf Stadium in Bern. Nobody is stopping, it is still raining, it is difficult, but the fans, they are not leaving. How can they? The World Cup only comes every few years and when can you see such a final, so close, so exciting? Now Germany. Schäfer is running down the left wing. Schäfer passes to Morlock, but Hungary has got the ball – and Boszik, again and again Boszik, Hungary's right-winger is running. He has got the ball – lost this time to Schäfer. Schäfer passes to the inside. Header – blocked! Rahn must shoot from the background – Rahn shoots – gooaaaaal! Goal! Goal! Goal!"



There are only 2 or 3 minutes to the end. Can Germany win? Hungary attacks again. Goal! 3-3! Horst is almost crying. But wait! The flag is up for offside. No goal! It is still 3-2 for Germany. The Hungarian fans are shouting in protest. The referee blows his whistle. The final is over. Germany, the outsiders, are the winners. It is a miracle.

## Questions

1. When was the 'Miracle of Bern'?
2. Who were the favourites?
3. Which team scored the first goal?
4. Where was the referee from?
5. What was the score at half-time?
6. Why wasn't the last goal allowed?
7. How did Adi help the German team?
8. Who was the commentator?





## Happy anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been married for 25 years and to celebrate their silver anniversary Mrs. Jones decides to cook a special meal. She sends her husband Eddie across town to pick up some snails and tells him not to stop at the pub and not to be late.

Eddie loves his wife and promises to pick up the snails, not go to the pub and not to be late. He sets off and buys the snails and then starts his walk back home. He passes his local pub and tries to go past.

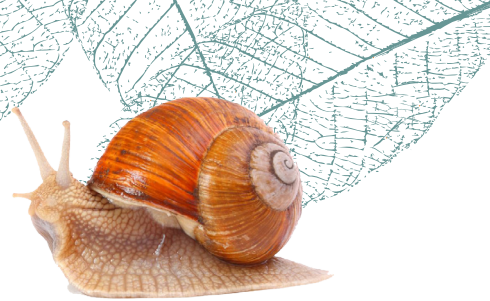
Unfortunately, some of his mates see him and call him in for a drink.

"I can't, I can't," he replies, "It's my silver anniversary and I can't be home late!"

His mates cheer and tell him that he must have one drink with them to celebrate. He looks at his watch and thinks to himself, 'I've got time for a quick one'. He takes the snails and goes into the pub.

At around midnight Eddie is standing outside his front door. How can he get himself out of this difficult situation? He sets the snails down on the ground just as Mrs. Jones opens the door.

"Come on, little guys. You're nearly there. It's only a couple of more metres to the kitchen!"



## Which is...

...the most annoying?



Bad parking



Potholes



No signal

...the most difficult?



Broken leg



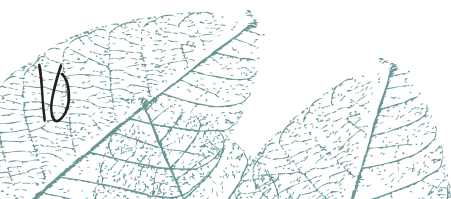
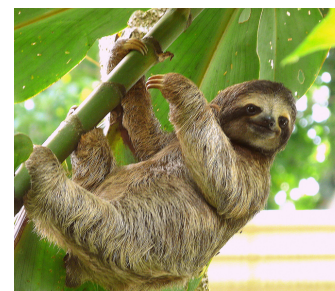
Losing weight



Passing an exam

## 50-50 quiz – what do you think? Why?

- 1 Which is the smallest country in the world? Vatican City or San Marino?
- 2 Which is the fastest animal in the world? Cheetah or ostrich?
- 3 Which is the slowest animal in the world? Giant Galapagos tortoise or the three-toed sloth?



Did you have any of these?



Odds  
and  
ends

If there is an activity that you don't do anymore, then 'used to' is a good way to say that:  
I **used to** smoke, but I gave up. I **used to** play tennis, but I don't anymore.



What don't you do anymore?



How do you get your news?

chat with – surf – read – watch – listen to

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper every morning while I eat my breakfast.
- 2 I always \_\_\_\_\_ TV in the evening for the news and discussions programmes.
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ the radio while I do the ironing.
- 4 I never \_\_\_\_\_ the Internet because I don't know where the information comes from.
- 5 I sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ the neighbours about local news and events.

What else happened  
in 1954?

April 11th is named the most boring day in the 20th century.

In 1954 Marilyn Monroe married baseball player Joe DiMaggio. Roger Bannister ran the mile in under 4 minutes. But on April 11th nothing significant happened. There were no big events, births or deaths. On April 12th Bill Haley and the Comets recorded 'Rock around the clock' and started the rock and roll craze. 24 hours earlier and April 11th, 1954 would be in the history books for a very different reason.