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КАФЕДРА АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКОЗНАНИЯ

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**ПОСОБИЕ ПО ПРАКТИКЕ УСТНОЙ РЕЧИ
ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ II КУРСА**

Часть II

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Пособие предназначено для развития навыков интенсивного чтения на II курсе лингвистических вузов и факультетов иностранного языка, изучающих английский язык как основную специальность. Во вторую часть пособия включены 8 аутентичных текстов на темы “Спорт”, “Здоровый образ жизни”, “Городская жизнь” и “Отдых и путешествия” различных жанрово-стилистических разновидностей: отрывки из

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UNIT 1

Sporting Spirit

Focus vocabulary

Cup fever	To score a goal
To kick f ball	Comparable
To fling-flung-flung	Ardent supporter
The goalkeeper	Exaltation/ exalted
To save/ save (n)	Jeer at
Rosette	To exert
Referee	To cheer a player
To tackle	.To subdue
To mark	Triumph over nature
Pursuit	Opponent

Read the text carefully consulting a dictionary to learn the meaning of unfamiliar words:

CUP FINAL GLORY

CUP FINAL

Cup, Football Association. Silver trophy competed for annually by football clubs in England playing the Association game. Competition for the cup is on the knock-out principle, and is played in two sections: a qualifying competition and the competition proper, the latter consisting of six rounds, semi finals, and finals. The 46 clubs forming the third and fourth divisions of the Football League enter at the first round of the competition proper, and the 44 clubs of the first and second divisions at the third round. Other clubs are required to play in the qualifying competitions. Grounds used for playing of the final have included the Oval* (1872—1874—92), Crystal Palace*

appeared in the *New Statesman* or in the *News Chronicle*. His characteristics are his skill in presenting an unusual point of view, his witty epigrammatic style, his humour and his appreciation of nature.

I have never caught **Cup fever**. I regret this, because there are few things pleasanter than to be one of an enormous crowd of human beings all suffering from con temporary blood pressure because a ball **is being kicked**, struck, **flung** or bumped with the head in this direction or the other.

I envy every partisan of Arsenal * or Newcastle United * who will be present at Wembley today, **rosetted**, buzzer--whirling, vociferous. I envy every young and old man who will join in that roar when the ball seems certain to fly past **the goalkeeper**, and in that still louder roar when, by a miracle, the goalkeeper **saves**.

How delightful it is to be so **exalted** above one's ordinary self that one feels one knows more about football than **the referee** and that one is playing a better game in one's red-hot imagination than most of the players! I have seldom been at a football match that I did not play the game perfectly in my own head, give and take perfect passes, **mark** my man ruthlessly, run and **tackle** exactly as a perfect player would run and tackle, and avoid all the faults of which some of the players were occasionally guilty.

That is the great thing about watching football matches. One enjoys all the rapture of being a hero-worshipper, and at the same time one has the glorious satisfaction of sitting as a critic in judgement of the heroes. It is enough to give anybody a swelled head — to say nothing of blood pressure. Even though I shall not be at Wembley today, however, and though I am feeling strangely calm considering the historic importance of the occasion, I shall, no doubt, be listening in, if the afternoon is wet enough to keep me in the house.

I shall know who is in square 8, * and what he is doing there, and I shall feel uneasy until he is back in square 6. And all the time, my imagination will be running up and down the field, like a mad hare, in close **pursuit** of the ball as it zig-zags its way in lightning-flashes all

As it is, I find it extraordinarily difficult to believe that a match between Arsenal and Newcastle United can be an event of the same earth-shaking importance as the Cup matches between my old school, the Royal Academical Institution, * and Methodist College * used to be thirty and forty years ago. Those were matches **comparable** in their seriousness to the wars of ancient Greece. The thought that W. E. Smyth's * leg might not have recovered in time for the match was a torture in the brain like a prevision of defeat in battle.

Reading history and literature since then, I have admired many heroes, from Hector * to Stalky; * but I doubt if I ever read of any hero so superhumanly perfect as Sam Lee * seemed to be when he scored tries * and dropped goals * for his side such as the world has not subsequently known.

I hope the schoolboy of today has grown more chivalrous than I was at that time, for **I certainly cannot remember ever having cheered a piece of good play by a player of the rival school.** Football was real, football was earnest in those days. If one was a Trojan, one did not cheer Achilles. * One hated the sight of him playing well. The worse he played, indeed, — the more he fumbled the ball and the oftener he missed a tackle — the better one was pleased. At least, I was.

Someone has been jeering lately at the notion that games **exert** a powerful influence on the character. I do not know whether playing games does. Rugby football certainly makes young men very rough with each other. I am confident, however, that watching games is one of the finest moral influences of our time.

Take, for example, this business of cheering a piece of good play by the other side. It is against nature. It is as difficult as swallowing medicine in the nursery. The natural man, if left to himself, would be like a man I heard at a football match nearly forty years ago enthusiastically shouting to a player he admired, "Break his leg, John!"

Yet, by dint of the most terrific self-control, we gradually **subdue** the wild animal in our breasts that clamours for victory at all

"May the better team win!" and adding under his breath: "And may the better team be mine!"

the Oval — a cricket ground in South London

Crystal Palace — a stadium in South London, so named after the glass building constructed for the Exhibition of 1851 and destroyed by fire in 1936

Wembley Stadium — a stadium North of London

Arsenal — a North London football team

Newcastle United — a football team from NE England

square — when matches were first described live on the B. B. C, the field of play was divided into squares. The commentator's assistant read **out** a number to indicate to the listeners where play was taking place.

the Royal Academical Institution and Methodist College — both are grammar schools in Belfast, Northern Ireland

W. E. Smyth — an Irish rugby player towards the end of the 19th century

Hector — a Trojan hero in classical legend

Stalky — a character in Kipling's *Stalky and Co.*

Sam Lee — a rugby player

to score tries, to drop goals — terms used in rugby

Achilles — a Greek hero who killed Hector

Wembley and Twickenham — the Rugby Union ground in Twickenham

Newmarket — a town in East Anglia noted for horse-races

I. Comprehension check

1. Answer the questions:

- with the game? Find proofs from the text.
6. Why does the author compare the importance of his school matches with the seriousness of the wars in ancient Greece?
 7. What do the words “ I hope the schoolboy of today has grown more chivalrous than I was at that time” imply?
 8. Do spectators now appreciate a piece of good play by a player of the rival team school? Does the author think it is against nature?
 9. Did football stop to be earnest and real now?
 10. Does R. Lynd agree with the opinion that “games exert a powerful influence on the character”?
 11. What is in his view the most effective way to form the character?
 12. What results of this “ character-formation” do we witness today?

2. Check your understanding of the detail by answering the questions that follow:

1. Why does R Lynd call the supporters of Arsenal or Newcastle United “ partisans”? Is this word used appreciatively or derogatory?
2. What gives supporters of football teams the greatest moments of exaltation?
3. What is the author’s attitude to the mixture of those wonderful feelings the supporters experience during a football match? (Humorous, contemptuous, scornful, delightful, full of incredulity and disbelief, full of admiration, etc.)
4. The author won’t be present at Wembley Final Cup, but he is going to be listening in, weather permitting. What team will he be cheering: Arsenal or Newcastle United? Find

Regretful(adj.), please(v), envious(adj.), miraculous(adj.),
exaltation(n), perfection(n), ruthless(adj.), infernal(adj.),
important(adj.), compare(v), torturer(n), chivalry(n), hatred(n),
exertion(n), immorality(n), enthusiasm(n), admirable(adj.),
victorious(adj.), applause(n), reluctance(n).

2. Find the words and expressions in the text that mean:

1. belonging to the same time
2. noisy in expressing one's feelings; shouting
3. to keep a ball from going in to the net
4. very strong feeling of happiness
5. great joy and delight
6. kind and gentle (mood, smile)
7. showing strong feeling or desire, eager; passionate
8. knowledge of something before it happens
9. to win a victory over; e.g .in a war, competition, or game;
beat
- 10.(esp. of men) showing bravery, generosity, and good
manners esp. to women
- 11.determined or serious, esp. too serious
- 12.laugh and shout disrespectfully
- 13.concerning or based on principles of right and wrong
behaviour and the difference between good and evil
- 14.unwilling, unenthusiastic, resistant
- 15.a complete victory or success; the joy of satisfaction caused
by this

3. Give Russian equivalents and use these words in sentences of your own:

1. Contemporary morals (dress, building). 2. Blood
pressure
(count bank group/type poisoning)
3. Historic importance

2. If I'd known the _____ of the task before I took it on I wouldn't have attempted it! (ENORMOUS)
3. I'm very _____ of your new job- I wish I had a job like that.(ENVY)
4. Their beautiful garden is the _____ of all the neighbours.(ENVY)
5. According to the Bible, Christ performed many _____, such as turning water into wine.(MIRACULOUS)
6. No doubt, her daughter is an _____ child.(IMAGINE)
7. All the characters in this book are _____.(IMAGINE)
8. The pantomime really captured the children's _____ and _____ they talked about it for weeks.(IMAGINE)
9. Many modern films _____ war and violence.(GLORY)
10. We had a _____ time at the seaside.(GLORY)
11. I can't decide for you; you'll have to use your own _____.(JUDGE)
12. His poetry isn't bad, but it's hardly _____ with Shakespeare's! (COMPARE)
13. She showed _____ self-control. (ADMIRE)
14. The trapped miners _____ when they heard the rescue party. (CHEER)
15. *The Guardian* is one of _____ British newspapers.(INFLUENCE)

5. Find English equivalents for the following in the text:

Футбольная лихорадка, вратарь, судья, поймать мяч (о вратаре), забить гол, страстный болельщик, болеть за свою любимую команду, команда противника, завладеть мячом/ перехватить мяч, победа любой ценой, пусть победит лучший!

4. Did you do any sports at school? Did you cheer your school football/ volleyball team?
5. How did the supporters express their delight in those days?
6. Do you think that the support of football fans (or any other sports fans) with all its shouting, jeering and applauding helps their favourite team win?

IV. Writing Suggestions:

1. One of the most important sporting events in England is Final Cup. Write about the excitement the game brings to ardent football supporters.
2. The English are well-known as the great lovers of competitive sports. But not all of them share the competitive spirit. Write about R. Lynd's unusual point of view on football fever.

