

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210118-tennis-stars.html>

Australian citizens are angered at the sight of preferential treatment being given to tennis stars. Dozens of tennis players are jetting in to Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament. Meanwhile, there are around 37,000 Australians stranded around the world waiting to return home. Many of these are frustrated at why they cannot return, while sports stars can enter Australia to play tennis. Organisers of the Australian Open have been chartering flights to ensure players and staff members can attend the event. All those who enter must have tested negative for coronavirus. They then have to stay in specially designated COVID-safe hotels. A number of stars have tested positive and so could not come.

The special treatment afforded to the stars has drawn criticism and ire from stranded Australians. There is particular consternation because Australia's government recently cut the weekly number of citizens allowed to return. An Aussie in London told the BBC: "I can't comprehend the fact that one week they announce they're halving the caps for citizens and the following week they announce they've found 1,200 spaces for tennis players and support staff." A Twitter user wrote: "Letting in 1,200 tennis players and their entourage...is a risky choice, and what hurts is that they'd take that risk for sport but not for stranded Aussies." He said: "The government can no longer claim it's just about the science".

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-55683035>  
<https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-australians-angry-as-elite-tennis-players-arrive-in-country-despite-travel-restrictions-12189231>  
<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/two-test-positive-virus-australian-041050971.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. TENNIS STARS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about tennis stars. 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?

citizens / angered / sight / tennis / tournament / frustrated / staff / negative / positive  
special / treatment / consternation / fact / support staff / risky / government / science

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

**3. SPORTS BAN:** Students A **strongly** believe all sporting events should be banned for three months; Students B **strongly** believe this is unnecessary. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. COVID-19:** How has COVID-19 changed these things? How can we manage it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Things Have Changed	How To Deal With It
Sport		
Travel		
Work		
Shopping		
Eating		
Studying		

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

**6. SAFEST SPORTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the safest sports to play during the pandemic at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Tennis
- Golf
- Football
- Volleyball
- Cycling
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Jogging

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. preferential | a. Feeling or expressing distress and annoyance, especially because of an inability to change or achieve something. |
| 2. jetting in   | b. Officially assigned a specified status or give a specified name or quality to something or someone.              |
| 3. stranded     | c. Giving better treatment to others.   |
| 4. chartering   | d. Arriving somewhere by airplane.  |
| 5. frustrated   | e. Reserving an aircraft, boat, or bus for private use.   |
| 6. flight       | f. An act of flying; a journey made through the air or in space, especially a scheduled journey made by an airline. |
| 7. designated   | g. Being somewhere without the means to move or get out.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. afforded       | h. A group of people attending or surrounding an important person.                            |
| 9. ire            | i. An upper limit imposed on spending or other activities.                                    |
| 10. consternation | j. Understand.  |
| 11. comprehend    | k. Provided or supplied an opportunity.   |
| 12. cap           | l. State or assert that something is the case, typically without providing evidence or proof. |
| 13. entourage     | m. Great anger.   |
| 14. claim         | n. Feelings of anxiety or dismay, usually at something unexpected.                            |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210118-tennis-stars.html>

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

- a. Australian tennis stars are angry at tennis players travelling to Australia. **T / F**
- b. Over 40,000 Australians are stranded overseas. **T / F**
- c. Tournament organisers prepared special flights for the tennis stars. **T / F**
- d. The tennis stars have to stay in COVID-safe hotels. **T / F**
- e. Australia recently increased the number of Australians allowed to return. **T / F**
- f. Australia will let in 1,200 tennis players and support staff. **T / F**
- g. A Twitter user said letting the tennis players in was risky. **T / F**
- h. The Twitter user said Australia cannot make claims about the science. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. preferential  | a. shock         |
| 2. jetting in    | b. irked         |
| 3. frustrated    | c. staff         |
| 4. attend        | d. appointed     |
| 5. designated    | e. special       |
| 6. afforded      | f. limits        |
| 7. consternation | g. provided      |
| 8. caps          | h. arriving      |
| 9. entourage     | i. argue         |
| 10. claim        | j. be present at |

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

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. preferential                   | a. to the stars      |
| 2. tennis players are jetting     | b. positive          |
| 3. chartering                     | c. their entourage   |
| 4. tested                         | d. ire               |
| 5. A number of stars have tested  | e. treatment         |
| 6. The special treatment afforded | f. caps for citizens |
| 7. drawn criticism and            | g. negative          |
| 8. halving the                    | h. about the science |
| 9. 1,200 tennis players and       | i. in to Melbourne   |
| 10. claim it's just               | j. flights           |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210118-tennis-stars.html>

1. Who does the article say is angry?
2. How many tennis stars does the article say are jetting in to Melbourne?
3. How many Australians are stranded overseas?
4. What have organisers been chartering for the tennis stars?
5. What kind of hotels are the tennis stars staying in?
6. What has the preferential treatment drawn besides criticism?
7. By how much did Australia cut caps on returning citizens?
8. How many spaces did Australia find for the Australian Open?
9. What kind of choice did a Twitter user say Australia is taking?
10. What did the Twitter user say Australia cannot make claims about?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210118-tennis-stars.html>

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

tennis	star

- 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>• angered</li><li>• ahead</li><li>• waiting</li><li>• ensure</li><li>• negative</li><li>• positive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• special</li><li>• particular</li><li>• fact</li><li>• caps</li><li>• spaces</li><li>• claim</li></ul>
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# TENNIS STARS 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 'tennis'?
3. What do you think of tennis?
4. Should sports stars get better treatment than 'normal' people?
5. What do you think of tennis players getting special treatment?
6. Should Australian citizens be allowed to return home immediately?
7. How would it feel to be stranded?
8. What advice do you have for the stranded Australians?
9. How frustrated or angry would you be if you were Australian?
10. How important is tennis?

*Tennis stars enter Australia ahead of stranded citizens – 18th January, 2021*  
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# TENNIS STARS 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 'player'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do stars get special treatment?
15. When was the last time you felt consternation about something?
16. How can Australia get more of its citizens home?
17. How risky is it to let the tennis stars in?
18. Should international sporting events take place?
19. Is the government ignoring the science?
20. What questions would you like to ask the Australian government?