

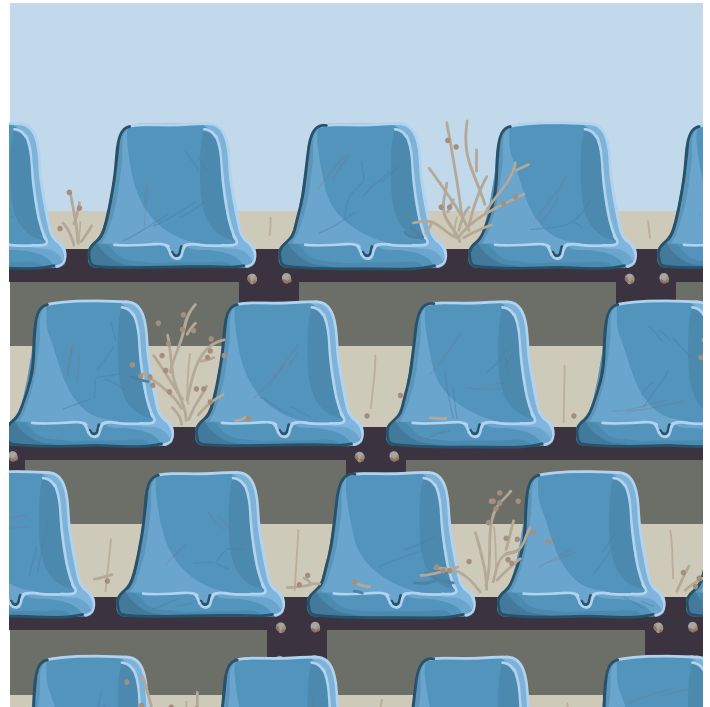
Hosting the World

"The things you need for a soccer tournament are almost never the things you need for your daily life." —Simon Kuper, Sports Journalist

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do host nations usually make a profit after a mega-sporting event?
2. What are some of the major costs involved with hosting the Olympic Games or the World Cup?
3. Would you support a bid if your country wanted to host a major international event? Why or why not?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. not all it's cracked up to be | a) plans or vows that you don't or can't keep |
| _____ 2. break the bank | b) not as good as once thought or believed |
| _____ 3. spare no expense | c) income |
| _____ 4. underestimate | d) to spend money on every detail |
| _____ 5. venue | e) something that is difficult to handle |
| _____ 6. burden | f) to do what you set out to do, to complete something |
| _____ 7. remote | g) to guess too low or to undervalue |
| _____ 8. mandatory | h) to go into debt or to spend too much |
| _____ 9. follow through | i) far away from a main hub |
| _____ 10. empty promises | j) required |
| _____ 11. displaced | k) a place to watch an organized event |
| _____ 12. revenue | l) pushed out of one's usual location or home |

Reading

HOSTING THE WORLD

Living up to the golden standard

1. Winning a bid to host a mega-sporting event should be a dream come true for any nation. In recent years, however, many candidates have been pulling out of the bidding races. Perhaps they've heard that hosting the world **isn't all it's cracked up to be**.
2. Nations that bid to host the World Cup or the Olympic Games often make promises they can't keep. Overpromising is the key to winning any election, after all. To host the world, nations must prove they are willing to **break the bank**. Athens **spared no expense** at the 2004 Games. It also went 60% over budget.
3. Candidates usually **underestimate** the costs of hosting the world. Building new **venues**, improving transportation routes, and hiring security are just a few of the financial **burdens**. When the world goes home, jobs are lost and expensive stadiums sit empty. The new facilities rarely meet the nation's long-term needs. What will Brazil do with a massive arena in a **remote** part of the Amazon?
4. Having a post-Games plan is **mandatory** for any host nation. Barcelona had a city plan in place before the 1992 Games. Their long-term goals served local residents and attracted tourists. Vancouver took a similar approach in 2010. Each venue was designed with the city's future in mind.
5. Other past hosts failed to **follow through** with their plans. **Empty promises** led to anger and frustration. In Beijing, people protested the return of the polluted skies. In Greece, the Olympics was blamed for the debt crisis. Were you surprised when **displaced** Brazilians told FIFA to go home?
6. While host nations regularly report losses rather than profits, organizations like FIFA and the IOC earn billions of dollars in **revenue**. What can these "non-profit" organizations do to support host nations? If they lower their golden standard, can we put the focus back on the game?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What is the meaning of the subtitle?
2. What do host nation candidates have to do to win a bid?
3. Why is a stadium in Brazil mentioned in the reading?
4. What should host nations do to avoid major economic losses?
5. What does the author imply by placing "non-profit" in double quotation marks in the final paragraph?

Vocabulary Review

Which word from page 1 is described in the sentence?

More than one option may be possible.

#	Sentence	Word
1	The government promised to improve the air quality, but we still wear masks.	
2	Ticket holders have to show ID.	
3	They held the most expensive opening ceremonies of all time.	
4	Thousands of Brazilians were forced to leave the slums they called home.	
5	Amazonia Arena is almost impossible to access by car.	
6	There must be a way to host an event like this without going into debt.	
7	The local restaurants earned a lot of money during the Games.	
8	They guessed the stadium would cost 100 million, but it ended up costing 200 million.	
9	After the Games, the mayor couldn't stop worrying about the financial trouble his city was in.	
10	Though it got great reviews, the official World Cup ball didn't work that well in the rain.	

Grammar Review

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

English learners often confuse hope and wish.

A. Wish

The verb “wish” usually means the situation is unlikely or impossible. This is called a “hypothetical situation” or “wishful thinking”.

Present wish (impossible or unlikely)
wish + past verb (a wish I have right now)

- I **wish** I **were** a professional soccer player.*
(I am only six years old.)
- I **wish** you **had** a ticket to the game.
(I am calling you from the game. You are at home.)

*Note:

In informal spoken English “was” is often used after wish instead of the subjunctive “were.”

B. Hope

The verb “hope” means the situation is possible or likely to happen.

Present hope (possible or likely)
hope + present verb (a hope I have right now)

- I **hope** my dad **is** on his way to the field.
(It is likely that he is on his way.)
- I **hope** lots of tourists **come** to see the World Cup.
(It’s my dream! It might come true.)

C. Practice

There are many other ways to use “hope” and “wish,” but using them in the present tense is a good start. Practice the sentences patterns above to become familiar with these uses. Work together to make up some of your own sentences about “great expectations” that host countries have.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do tax payers suffer when sports stadiums sit empty?
2. Should developing countries be excluded from hosting mega-sporting events?
3. How can a non-profit organization get away with having so much money in its “reserve fund”?
4. Should mega-sporting events take place in neighboring countries instead of just one country?

Critical Thinking

IN PAIRS OR SMALL GROUPS

Football is the most popular sport in the world because it’s affordable. All you really need is a ball and some players. Why does it cost so much money to host the World Cup? What expenses could be spared?

Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2014/06/25/hosting-the-world/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

HOSTING THE WORLD

Living up to the golden standard

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1. a dream come
2. election
3. stadiums
4. approach
5. debt
6. support

ANSWERS: