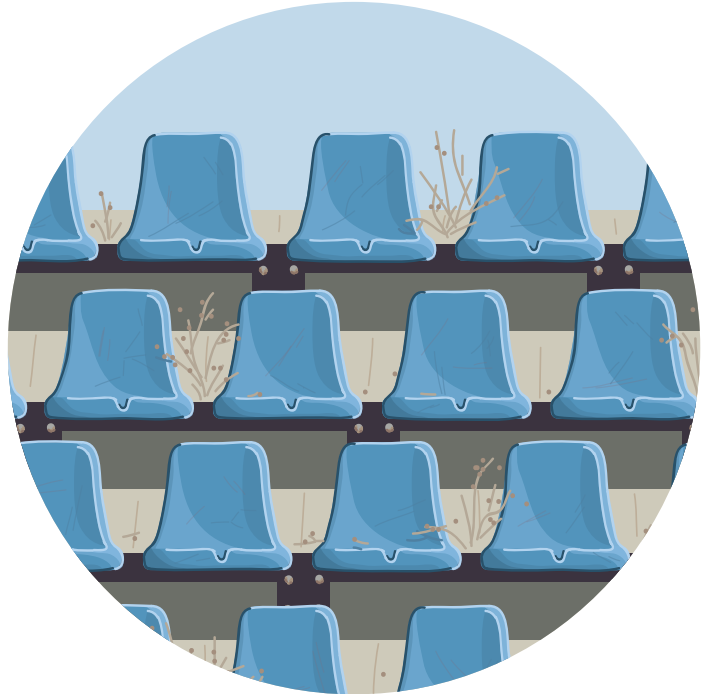


# Hosting the World

## 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 up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ___ 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. facilities                    | g) to guess too low or to undervalue                          |
| ___ 8. mandatory                     | h) to go into debt or to spend too much                       |
| ___ 9. follow through                | i) a room, building, or equipment used for a specific purpose |
| ___ 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. These new **facilities** rarely meet the nation's long-term needs.
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?

*"The things you need for a soccer tournament are almost never the things you need for your daily life."*

—Simon Kuper, Sports Journalist

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1. What is the meaning of the subtitle?

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2. What do host nation candidates have to do to win a bid?

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3. Why is it so expensive to host an international event?

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4. What should host nations do to avoid major economic losses?

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5. What does the author imply by placing "non-profit" in double quotation marks in the final paragraph?

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## 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	They built a beautiful arena to host four World Cup matches.	
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

### A. Reference

English learners often confuse the verbs “hope” and “wish.”

	<b>Hope</b>	<b>Wish</b>
<b>Meaning</b>	The verb “hope” means the situation is <b>possible</b> or <b>likely</b> to happen.	The verb “wish” usually means the situation is <b>unlikely</b> or <b>impossible</b> . This is called a “hypothetical situation” or “wishful thinking.”
<b>Pattern (Present)</b>	<b>hope + present verb</b> (a hope I have right now)	<b>wish + past verb</b> (a wish I have right now)
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>hope</b> my dad <b>is</b> on his way to the field. (It is likely that he is on his way.)</li> <li>• I <b>hope</b> lots of tourists <b>come</b> to see the World Cup. (It will probably happen.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>wish</b> I <b>were</b> a professional soccer player.* (I am only six years old.)</li> <li>• I <b>wish</b> you <b>had</b> a ticket to the game. (I am calling you from the game. You are at home.)</li> </ul>

**\*Note:**

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

### B. 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

1. Why do taxpayers 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 (soccer) 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

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

### HOSTING THE WORLD

*Living up to the golden standard*

1. Winning a bid to host a mega-sporting event should be \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ sit empty. The new facilities rarely meet the nation's long-term needs.
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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ host nations? If they lower their golden standard, can we put the focus back on the game?

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Students read about and discuss the reasons why hosting a mega-sporting event isn't as glamorous as it seems. The lesson includes vocabulary review exercises, comprehension questions, discussion questions, and grammar practice.

**TEACHING TIPS:**

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** Int – Adv

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, sports, business, Olympics, Olympic Games, FIFA, World Cup, IOC, football, protests

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Have students work in small groups or as a class. Consider showing a picture or an online slide show of decaying Olympic venues.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

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

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 7. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

1. The subtitle is meant to get the reader to think about our expectations. Every year we expect host nations to do something more elaborate. The focus is not on sports anymore.
2. Bidding nations have to prove that they will do all it takes, including going into debt, to make the event perfect.
3. Host nations need to build new facilities and transportation routes and hire security. These are just a few of the financial burdens.
4. Host nations need to plan for the long-term needs of a city or nation, not just the short-term needs of a sporting event.
5. By placing “non-profit” in double quotation marks, the author implies that these organizations actually are earning profits.

*(continued on the next page...)*



## Answer Key cont.

### Vocabulary Review

1. empty promise, follow through
2. mandatory
3. spare no expense
4. displaced
5. venue, facilities
6. break the bank
7. revenue
8. underestimate
9. burden
10. not all it's cracked up to be

### Grammar Review

Review our editor's tips for teaching these two verbs:  
<http://blog.esllibrary.com/2014/06/19/hope-vs-wish/>

### Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

### Critical Thinking

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

### Listening

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

#### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Neighboring* and *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Neighbouring* and *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the text and see if they know the alternate spellings.