

Germany rejects Spanish 'transfer bid' for octopus

Germany recently rejected a 'transfer request' to transfer Paul, the famous World Cup predicting Octopus, from a zoo in Germany to Spain. Paul shot to worldwide fame during the World Cup after he correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany's seven matches in the tournament. Known as Paul the "psychic" octopus the cephalopod then picked a mussel from the "Spanish" tank indicating Spain would win the FIFA World Cup final in South Africa. They did! His awesome 100% record made him an instant hero in Spain and now Madrid's zoo says it wants to put Paul on display in its aquarium. But the Octopus's owners at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany said there was no chance of Paul being sold. Here's how the two and a half year old octopus makes his prognostications: Officials put a mussel inside each of two clear plastic boxes bearing the national flags of the teams in his tank. Paul then makes his choice by opening the lid with his tentacles and devouring one of the treats. Paul now has thousands of fans worldwide including world leaders.

Ever since Paul predicted Spain's triumph in the month-long tournament in South Africa he has become a huge celebrity in Spain. Fans watching the cup final in Madrid sported mini-Pauls on their T-shirts and squidgy replicas on top of their hats. The octopus is already an honorary citizen of one Spanish town, and a summer festival in Paul's name is being planned in the country. Even Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stepped in to offer protection, after bitter German fans threatened to eat Paul for predicting Germany's defeat in the semi-final against Spain. One Spanish fan said Paul should replace the bull, which is seen on many Spanish flags. "The Octopus has done more good than the bull," the Spanish fan said. Sadly for many Spaniards, Paul will be staying in Germany. The octopus wasn't very popular though in Holland, as after their defeat Dutch fans in Amsterdam wanted to eat him! Following Germany's defeat one German newspaper also showed footage of a grilled octopus! If anyone had put the winnings of a €10 bet onto the next winning game Paul predicted they would have won €1,400! The oracle of Oberhausen is now taking a well deserved rest away from the attention of the world's press.

Category: World Cup / Germany-Spain / Paul the Octopus

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. **Paul the octopus:** Briefly, what three things do you know about Paul the octopus? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Germany:** Where is Germany? What language do they speak in Germany? What is its capital? What countries surround it? Where is Oberhausen? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - we need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. **Let's think! Football:** Think of five FIFA World Cup games that Paul predicted correctly. (You might need to use the internet) Then add five of the best football matches from the FIFA World Cup 2010 in South Africa. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Five of Pauls correct predictions	Five best FIFA World Cup games 2010
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **An octopus's garden...** In pairs/groups. Imagine you are in an octopus's garden! (You are under the sea - right!) Discuss together what you might see and who you might meet? What you might do down there? (See **links on p8**)

9. **Let's think:** In pairs think of as many books, songs, musicians and films that have '**octopus**' or '**fish**' in their title. Write them on the board. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams.

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10. Let's talk! In a pub: *In pairs:* Imagine you are in a pub. You order some food. The conversation gets onto: **Paul the octopus.** Discuss. *5-minutes.*

11. Pros and Cons: Think of two advantages and disadvantages of being an octopus. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Advantages	Disadvantages
1	1
2	2

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the octopus.
- 2) Where does the octopus live?
- 3) What did the octopus predict?
- 4) What did the Spanish football fan say?
- 5) How does the octopus predict the result?

Student B

- 1) How much might you have won?
- 2) What did the Spanish Prime Minister do?
- 3) What did the German newspaper show?
- 4) What did Dutch fans want to do?
- 5) What did Spanish fans do?

13. The FIFA World Cup Final: Spain v Holland: *In pairs/groups.* Each person chooses to be one of the people listed below. You are watching the FIFA World Cup Final in Johannesburg. You have heard about Paul the octopus. Create a short story about the octopus. Tell your story to your partner/group. Try to make it interesting, funny, the challenges etc... *Students can interact and interlink student storylines!*

1 A Spanish football fan	3 Paul the octopus
2 Nelson Mandela	4 A Dutch football fan

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Paul the Octopus.** Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The octopus _____
- b) Paul the octopus _____
- c) Spain _____

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DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Should the Spanish be able to 'transfer' Paul?
- 3) When did you first hear about Paul the octopus?
- 4) What do you think of this story?
- 5) Has this story put you off eating octopus?
- 6) What is the name of the James Bond movie about octopuses?
- 7) Are you one of Paul's worldwide fans?
- 8) Do you think Paul will be predicting any more football games?
- 9) Is Paul the octopus now more famous in Spain than a Spanish bull?
- 10) Think of three ways you can eat octopus?

Student B questions

- 1) Do you like to eat octopus?
- 2) Would you like to visit Paul the octopus?
- 3) What do you think of the Paul the octopus?
- 4) Should the octopus be given special protection?
- 5) What is the future for Paul the octopus?
- 6) Will Paul the octopus help revive the Spanish economy?
- 7) Will you place a bet on anything Paul the octopus might predict in the future?
- 8) What did you think of the FIFA 2010 World Cup final?
- 9) Overall, what did you think of the FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Game! Under the sea I might see...

Allow 10 minutes - Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Form a circle or go round the room in a clockwise direction.

"I went scuba diving under the sea and I saw..."

The idea of the game is that each person has to remember what was previously said. Then add another of your own. The list will therefore get longer and longer.

When a student cannot remember the order or cannot think of any more ideas they are 'eliminated'!

The winner is the one at the end not eliminated!

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Germany recently rejected a '(1)_____ request' to transfer Paul, the famous World Cup predicting Octopus, from a zoo in Germany to Spain. Paul (2)_____ to worldwide fame during the World Cup after he correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany's seven matches in the (3)_____. Known as Paul the "psychic" octopus the cephalopod then picked a mussel from the "Spanish" (4)_____ indicating Spain would win the FIFA World Cup final in South Africa. They did! His (5)_____ 100% record made him an instant hero in Spain and now Madrid's Zoo says it wants to put Paul on display in its (6)_____. But the Octopus's owners at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany said there was no chance of Paul being sold. Here's how the two and a half year old octopus makes his prognostications: Officials put a (7)_____ inside each of two clear plastic boxes bearing the national flags of the teams in his tank. Paul then makes his choice by opening the lid with his (8)_____ and devouring one of the treats. Paul now has thousands of fans worldwide including world leaders.

awesome

tournament

tentacles

mussel

tank

aquarium

shot

transfer

Ever since Paul predicted Spain's (1)_____ in the month-long tournament in South Africa he has become a huge (2)_____ in Spain. Fans watching the cup final in Madrid sported mini-Pauls on their T-shirts and (3)_____ replicas on top of their hats. The octopus is already an honorary citizen of one Spanish town, and a summer festival in Paul's name is being planned in the country. Even Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stepped in to offer (4)_____, after bitter German fans threatened to eat Paul for predicting Germany's (5)_____ in the semi-final against Spain. One Spanish fan said Paul should replace the bull, which is seen on many Spanish flags. "The Octopus has done more good than the (6)_____" the Spanish fan said. Sadly for many Spaniards, Paul will be staying in Germany. The (7)_____ wasn't very popular though in Holland, as after their defeat Dutch fans in Amsterdam wanted to eat him! Following Germany's defeat one German newspaper also showed footage of a (8)_____ octopus! If anyone had put the winnings of a €10 bet onto the next winning game Paul predicted they would have won €1,400! The oracle of Oberhausen is now taking a well deserved rest away from the attention of the world's press.

bull

squidgy

protection

defeat

celebrity

octopus

grilled

triumph

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Germany rejects Spanish 'transfer bid' for octopus

Germany recently rejected a '_____ ' to transfer Paul, the famous World Cup predicting Octopus, from a zoo in Germany to Spain. Paul shot to worldwide fame _____ after he correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany's seven matches in the tournament. Known as Paul the "psychic" octopus the cephalopod _____ from the "Spanish" tank indicating Spain would win the FIFA World Cup final in South Africa. They did! His awesome 100% record made him an instant hero in Spain and now Madrid's Zoo says it wants to put Paul on display in its aquarium. But the Octopus's owners at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany said there was no chance of Paul being sold. Here's how the two and a half year old octopus makes his prognostications: Officials put a mussel inside each of two _____ bearing the national flags of the teams in his tank. Paul then makes his choice _____ with his tentacles and devouring one of the treats. Paul now has thousands of fans worldwide _____.

Ever since Paul predicted Spain's triumph in the month-long tournament in South Africa he has become a huge celebrity in Spain. Fans watching the cup final in Madrid sported mini-Pauls on their T-shirts and squidgy replicas on _____. The octopus is already an honorary citizen of one Spanish town, and a summer festival in Paul's name is being planned in the country. Even _____ Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stepped in to offer protection, after bitter German fans threatened to eat Paul for predicting Germany's defeat in the semi-final against Spain. One Spanish fan said Paul should _____, which is seen on many Spanish flags. "The Octopus has done more good than the bull," the Spanish fan said. Sadly for many Spaniards, Paul will be staying in Germany. The octopus wasn't very popular though in Holland, as after their defeat Dutch fans in Amsterdam _____! Following Germany's defeat one German newspaper also showed footage _____! If anyone had put the winnings of a €10 bet onto the next winning game Paul predicted they would have won €1,400! The oracle of Oberhausen is now taking a well deserved rest away from the attention _____.

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Germany recently rejected (1)___ 'transfer request' to transfer Paul, the famous World Cup predicting Octopus, from a zoo in Germany to Spain. Paul shot to worldwide fame during the World Cup after he correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany's seven matches in the tournament. Known (2)___ Paul the "psychic" octopus the cephalopod then picked a mussel from the "Spanish" tank indicating Spain would win (3)___ FIFA World Cup final in South Africa. They did! (4)___ awesome 100% record made him an instant hero in Spain and now Madrid's Zoo says (5)___ wants to put Paul on display in its aquarium. (6)___ the Octopus's owners at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany said there was no chance of Paul being sold. Here's how the two and a half year old octopus makes his prognostications: Officials put a mussel inside each of two clear plastic boxes bearing the national flags of the teams in his tank. Paul then makes his choice (7)___ opening the lid with his tentacles (8)___ devouring one of the treats. Paul now has thousands of fans worldwide including world leaders.

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Ever (1)___ Paul predicted Spain's triumph in the month-long tournament in South Africa he has become a huge celebrity in Spain. Fans watching the cup final in Madrid sported mini-Pauls on their T-shirts and squidgy replicas on top of their hats. The octopus is already an honorary citizen of one Spanish town, and a summer festival in Paul's name is being planned in the country. (2)___ Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stepped in to offer protection, after bitter German fans threatened to eat Paul for predicting Germany's defeat in the semi-final against Spain. One Spanish fan said Paul should replace the bull, (3)___ is seen on many Spanish flags. "The Octopus has done more good than the bull," the Spanish fan said. Sadly for (4)___ Spaniards, Paul will be staying in Germany. The octopus wasn't very popular (5)___ in Holland, as after (6)___ defeat Dutch fans in Amsterdam wanted to eat him! Following Germany's defeat one German newspaper (7)___ showed footage of a grilled octopus! If anyone had put the winnings of a €10 bet onto the next winning game Paul predicted they (8)___ have won €1,400! The oracle of Oberhausen is now taking a well deserved rest away from the attention of the world's press.

which

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even

their

since

though

also

many

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	outcome	11	devouring
2	triumph	12	squidgy
3	honorary	13	lid
4	threatened	14	bitter
5	octopus	15	Spaniards
6	protection	16	prognostications
7	psychic	17	tentacles
8	aquarium	18	attention
9	awesome	19	cephalopod
10	tournament	20	oracle

Note – Cephalopod – any mollusc of the class Cephalopod, having tentacles attached to the head; including the cuttlefish, octopus and squid.

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_%28octopus%29

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya85knuDzp8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEnhijRep3q&feature=channel>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgPqmRNjoTE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIDar7ObW4s&feature=related>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Germany rejects Spanish 'transfer bid' for octopus: Germany recently rejected a **transfer** request' to transfer Paul, the famous World Cup predicting Octopus, from a zoo in Germany to Spain. Paul **shot** to worldwide fame during the World Cup after he correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany's seven matches in the **tournament**. Known as Paul the "psychic" octopus the cephalopod then picked a mussel from the "Spanish" **tank** indicating Spain would win the FIFA World Cup final in South Africa. They did! His **awesome** 100% record made him an instant hero in Spain and now Madrid's Zoo says it wants to put Paul on display in its **aquarium**. But the Octopus's owners at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre in Germany said there was no chance of Paul being sold. Here's how the two and a half year old octopus makes his prognostications: Officials put a **mussel** inside each of two clear plastic boxes bearing the national flags of the teams in his tank. Paul then makes his choice by opening the lid with his **tentacles** and devouring one of the treats. Paul now has thousands of fans worldwide including world leaders.

Ever since Paul predicted Spain's **triumph** in the month-long tournament in South Africa he has become a huge **celebrity** in Spain. Fans watching the cup final in Madrid sported mini-Pauls on their T-shirts and **squidgy** replicas on top of their hats. The octopus is already an honorary citizen of one Spanish town, and a summer festival in Paul's name is being planned in the country. Even Spanish Prime minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero stepped in to offer **protection**, after bitter German fans threatened to eat Paul for predicting Germany's **defeat** in the semi-final against Spain. One Spanish fan said Paul should replace the bull, which is seen on many Spanish flags. "The Octopus has done more good than the **bull**," the Spanish fan said. Sadly for many Spaniards, Paul will be staying in Germany. The **octopus** wasn't very popular though in Holland, as after their defeat Dutch fans in Amsterdam wanted to eat him! Following Germany's defeat one German newspaper also showed footage of a **grilled** octopus! If anyone had put the winnings of a €10 bet onto the next winning game Paul predicted they would have won €1,400! The oracle of Oberhausen is now taking a well deserved rest away from the attention of the world's press. (V4)

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