

## World Ice Hockey Championships 2011

The 75<sup>th</sup> International Ice Hockey Championships in 2011 will be held in Slovakia. The tournament takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It will feature the world's top ice hockey nations taking part. Slovakia's capital Bratislava and the country's second city of Košice will host the tournament. The newly refurbished *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava and the *Košice Steel Arena* (*U.S. Steel* is a major sponsor) in Košice will co-host the event. Both cities are major bastions of ice hockey. Organisers are hoping to attract more than 350,000 ice hockey fans to the matches. Fans will be able to see live action of this exciting game that is said to be the fastest collective game in the world. There are 16 teams participating in the ice hockey tournament. A total of 56 games will be played. It all starts with a preliminary round of four groups each containing four teams. This leads to a qualifying round before the quarter and semi finals, followed by the final that will be played in Bratislava.

It is the first time the World Ice Hockey Championships have been hosted in Slovakia. The country was only created back in 1992 when it split in a friendly manner from the former Czechoslovakia. Slovakia last won the IIHC in 2002. It will however be Bratislava's third time in hosting the event. Previously it hosted it with Prague (now capital of the Czech Republic) in 1959 and 1992. The International Ice Hockey Federation awarded this year's championships to Slovakia in Riga (2006). Ice hockey is the number one sport in Slovakia. It is more popular than football! The country is on a major countdown to the championships. It is the talk of every Slovak. In case you don't know where Slovakia is – it is in the heart of Europe. In the ranking tables before the 2011 championships Slovakia currently ranks eighth. Russia tops the table followed by Canada, Sweden then Finland. Of course, this could all change come the event.

The Slovak post office has issued two stamps to commemorate the 2011 IIHF World Championships. After the tournament the *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava will change its name and become known as the *Orange Arena*.

May the best team win!

**Category: Sport / Ice Hockey Championships 2011 / Slovakia**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)

## EXERCISES

1. **Ice hockey:** Think of three things you know about ice hockey. Discuss briefly going round the room swapping details with others.

2. **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 - you need to do some work!

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

4. **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.

5. **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?

6. **Geography: Slovakia:** Draw a map on the board where you will find Slovakia. Add its capital Bratislava and Košice its second city then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. **Let's think!** Think of five top international ice hockey nations. Then add five of the biggest ice hockey teams from your country. (This is assuming your country plays ice hockey!) Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Discuss together. Which is the best? Why?

Five top international ice hockey teams	Five top ice hockey teams from your country
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. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Ice hockey**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's think!** In pairs, discuss how you play ice hockey!

World Ice Hockey Championships 2011 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**10. Let's roleplay: Sport FM:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Sport FM* radio studio in Bratislava. The interviewer is interviewing the guests. Today's interview is about: *The World Ice Hockey Championships 2011*.

1	Hockey player	3	Trainer
2	Fan	4	Mother of hockey player

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

**11. Let's think!** You and your partner are players in an ice hockey team. You need to train and to do some preparation for the world ice hockey match you hope to be in. Think of five things you might need to do. Then think of five things you might do during the match. Finally add five items of sports gear you might wear. Write them below. Discuss together.

Preparation	Match	Sports gear
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5

**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) What dates are the championships taking place?
- 2) How many ice hockey fans are the organisers expecting?
- 3) How many games will be played?
- 4) How many teams are taking part?
- 5) Name the ice hockey stadium in the capital.

**Student B**

- 1) In which country are the ice hockey championships taking place?
- 2) What is the post office doing?
- 3) What is the name of the second stadium?
- 4) What happened in 2006?
- 5) What happened in 1959?

**13. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The World Ice Hockey Championships 2011**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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

- a) Ice hockey \_\_\_\_\_
- b) I love to play \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The championships \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Who are the best ice hockey players in the world?
- 2) What is a puck?
- 3) Does Slovakia have a good ice hockey team?
- 4) Who are the best players in the NHL?
- 5) Why is youth ice hockey so popular today?
- 6) How can you be successful in ice hockey?
- 7) What is 'a pure hat trick' in ice hockey?
- 8) Why is ice hockey so popular in America?
- 9) In what months does ice hockey run?
- 10) How many ice hockey players are on the ice at any one time?

### Student B questions

- 1) What is ice hockey?
- 2) Who is the highest paid ice hockey player?
- 3) How are ice hockey sticks made?
- 4) How many ice hockey players are on the ice at the same time?
- 5) Which is the most successful women's ice hockey team in the world?
- 6) How many people make up an ice hockey team?
- 7) What are the health benefits in playing hockey?
- 8) What are the types of passes in ice hockey?
- 9) Which is the best ice hockey team in the world?
- 10) Do ice hockey players take drugs?

See links on page 8 for some answers

**Ondrej Nepela** (January 22, 1951 in Bratislava, Slovakia – February 2, 1989 in Mannheim, Germany) was an Olympic gold medallist and three-time World champion Slovak figure skater who competed for Czechoslovakia in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Men's Ice Hockey Championships 2011

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

### Group A – Bratislava

Russia, Slovakia, Germany, Slovenia

### Group B – Košice

Canada, Switzerland, Belarus, France

### Group C – Košice

Sweden, USA, Norway, Austria

### Group D – Bratislava

Finland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Denmark

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### World Ice Hockey Championships 2011

The 75<sup>th</sup> International Ice Hockey Championships in 2011 will be held in Slovakia. The tournament takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It will feature the world's top ice hockey nations taking part. Slovakia's capital Bratislava and the country's second city of Košice will (1)\_\_\_\_\_ the tournament. The newly refurbished *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava and the *Košice Steel Arena* (*U.S. Steel* is a main sponsor) in Košice will co-host the event. Both cities are (2)\_\_\_\_\_ bastions of ice hockey. Organisers are hoping to attract more than 350,000 ice hockey (3)\_\_\_\_\_ to the (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Fans will be able to see live action of this exciting game that is said to be the fastest collective game in the world. There are 16 teams participating in the ice (5)\_\_\_\_\_ tournament. A total of 56 (6)\_\_\_\_\_ will be played. It all starts with a preliminary round of four groups each containing four (7)\_\_\_\_\_. This leads to a qualifying round before the quarter and semi finals, followed by the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ that will be played in Bratislava.

*hockey*

*matches*

*final*

*teams*

*games*

*host*

*fans*

*major*

It is the first time the World Ice Hockey Championships have been hosted in Slovakia. The country was only created back in 1992 when it (1)\_\_\_\_\_ in a friendly manner from the former Czechoslovakia. Slovakia last won the IIHC in 2002. It will however be Bratislava's third time in hosting the (2)\_\_\_\_\_. (3)\_\_\_\_\_ it hosted it with Prague (now capital of the Czech Republic) in 1959 and 1992. The International Ice Hockey Federation awarded this year's championships to Slovakia in Riga (2006). Ice hockey is the number one (4)\_\_\_\_\_ in Slovakia. It is more (5)\_\_\_\_\_ than football! The country is on a major (6)\_\_\_\_\_ to the championships. It is the talk of every Slovak. In case you don't know where Slovakia is – it is in the (7)\_\_\_\_\_ of Europe. In the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ tables before the 2011 championships Slovakia currently ranks eighth. Russia tops the table followed by Canada, Sweden then Finland. Of course, this could all change come the event.

*event*

*sport*

*ranking*

*previously*

*countdown*

*split*

*heart*

*popular*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### World Ice Hockey Championships 2011

The 75<sup>th</sup> International \_\_\_\_\_ in 2011 will be held in Slovakia. The tournament takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It will feature the world's top \_\_\_\_\_ taking part. Slovakia's capital Bratislava and the country's second city of Košice will host the tournament. The newly refurbished *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava and the *Košice Steel Arena* (*U.S. Steel* is a main sponsor) in Košice will co-host the event. Both cities are major bastions of ice hockey. Organisers are \_\_\_\_\_ more than 350,000 ice hockey fans to the matches. Fans will be able to see live action of \_\_\_\_\_ that is said to be the fastest collective game in the world. There are 16 teams participating in the ice hockey tournament. A total of 56 games will be played. It all starts with \_\_\_\_\_ of four groups each containing four teams. This leads to a qualifying round before the quarter and semi finals, followed by the final \_\_\_\_\_ in Bratislava.

It is the first time the World Ice Hockey Championships have been hosted in Slovakia. The country was \_\_\_\_\_ 1992 when it split in a friendly manner from the former Czechoslovakia. Slovakia last won the IIHF in 2002. It will however be Bratislava's third time in \_\_\_\_\_. Previously it hosted it with Prague (\_\_\_\_\_ Czech Republic) in 1959 and 1992. The International Ice Hockey Federation awarded this year's championships to Slovakia in Riga (2006). Ice hockey is \_\_\_\_\_ in Slovakia. It is more popular than football! The country is on a major countdown to the championships. It is the talk of every Slovak. In case you don't know where Slovakia is – it is in \_\_\_\_\_. In the ranking tables before the 2011 championships Slovakia currently ranks eighth. Russia tops the table followed by Canada, Sweden then Finland. Of course, this \_\_\_\_\_ the event.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### World Ice Hockey Championships 2011

The 75<sup>th</sup> International Ice Hockey Championships in 2011 will be held in Slovakia. The tournament takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> April (1)\_\_\_ 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. (2)\_\_\_ will feature the world's top ice hockey nations taking part. Slovakia's capital Bratislava and the country's second city of Košice will host the tournament. The newly refurbished *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava and the *Košice Steel Arena* (*U.S. Steel* is a main sponsor) in Košice will co-host the event. Both cities are major bastions (3)\_\_\_ ice hockey. Organisers are hoping to attract more than 350,000 ice hockey fans to the matches. Fans will be able to see live action of this exciting game that is said to be the fastest collective game in the world. There are 16 teams participating in the ice hockey tournament. A total of 56 games will be played. It all starts with (4)\_\_\_ preliminary round of four groups each containing four teams. This leads to a qualifying round before (5)\_\_\_ quarter and semi finals, followed (6)\_\_\_ the final that will be played (7)\_\_\_ Bratislava.

**a**  
**of**  
**in**  
**and**  
**it**  
**by**  
**the**

It is the first time the World Ice Hockey Championships have been hosted in Slovakia. The country was only created back in 1992 (1)\_\_\_ it split in a friendly manner from the former Czechoslovakia. Slovakia last won the IIHC in 2002. It will (2)\_\_\_ be Bratislava's third time in hosting the event. Previously it hosted it (3)\_\_\_ Prague (now capital of the Czech Republic) in 1959 and 1992. The International Ice Hockey Federation awarded this year's championships to Slovakia in Riga (2006). Ice hockey is the number one sport in Slovakia. It is (4)\_\_\_ popular (5)\_\_\_ football! The country is on a major countdown to the championships. It is the talk of every Slovak. In case you don't know (6)\_\_\_ Slovakia is – it is in the heart of Europe. In the ranking tables before the 2011 championships Slovakia currently ranks eighth. Russia tops the table followed by Canada, Sweden (7)\_\_\_ Finland. Of course, this (8)\_\_\_ all change come the event.

**with**  
**than**  
**where**  
**then**  
**when**  
**more**  
**could**  
**however**

## 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	preliminary	11	host
2	tournament	12	refurbished
3	quarter	13	newly
4	participating	14	federation
5	bastions	15	popular
6	qualifying	16	major
7	hockey	17	currently
8	championships	18	countdown
9	Czechoslovakia	19	manner
10	previously	20	commemorate

### LINKS

<http://wiki.answers.com/Q/FAQ/2992> link for some answers

<http://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?p=world+ice+hockey+championships+2011>

<http://www.bratislavaguide.com/iihf-world-championship>

<http://ihwc2011.com/>

[http://icehockey.wikia.com/wiki/2011\\_Women%27s\\_World\\_Ice\\_Hockey\\_Championships](http://icehockey.wikia.com/wiki/2011_Women%27s_World_Ice_Hockey_Championships)

<http://www.slovakiahockey.com/>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: World Ice Hockey Championships 2011: The 75<sup>th</sup> International Ice Hockey Championships in 2011 will be held in Slovakia. The tournament takes place between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011. It will feature the world's top ice hockey nations taking part. Slovakia's capital Bratislava and the country's second city of Košice will **host** the tournament. The newly refurbished *Ondrej Nepela Arena* in Bratislava and the *Košice Steel Arena* (*U.S. Steel* is a main sponsor) in Košice will co-host the event. Both cities are **major** bastions of ice hockey. Organisers are hoping to attract more than 350,000 ice hockey **fans** to the **matches**. Fans will be able to see live action of this exciting game that is said to be the fastest collective game in the world. There are 16 teams participating in the ice **hockey** tournament. A total of 56 **games** will be played. It all starts with a preliminary round of four groups each containing four **teams**. This leads to a qualifying round before the quarter and semi finals, followed by the **final** that will be played in Bratislava.

It is the first time the World Ice Hockey Championships have been hosted in Slovakia. The country was only created back in 1992 when it **split** in a friendly manner from the former Czechoslovakia. Slovakia last won the IIHC in 2002. It will however be Bratislava's third time in hosting the **event**. **Previously** it hosted it with Prague (now capital of the Czech Republic) in 1959 and 1992. The International Ice Hockey Federation awarded this year's championships to Slovakia in Riga (2006). Ice hockey is the number one **sport** in Slovakia. It is more **popular** than football! The country is on a major **countdown** to the championships. It is the talk of every Slovak. In case you don't know where Slovakia is – it is in the **heart** of Europe. In the **ranking** tables before the 2011 championships Slovakia currently ranks eighth. Russia tops the table followed by Canada, Sweden then Finland. Of course, this could all change come the event. (V3)

[www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)

Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)