BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet
What's in a footballer's brain?



Listen to the full episode here: **https://bbc.in/4w7eaC8**

1. **Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?**

2. **Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.**
   - What do the presenters say the episode is about?
   - What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. **Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?**

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. Which star footballer's brain was studied in 2014 by Japanese scientists?
   a) Neymar
   b) Messi
   c) Ronaldo

2. Which word means 'involving active thought or attention'?
   a) conscious
   b) expertise
   c) accidental

3. "I'm so sorry, can we cancel dinner plans later? My life's _____ at the moment."
   a) a margin
   b) going on
   c) all over the place

4. A football player's performance can be impacted by their…
   a) margins.
   b) emotional state.
   c) neuroscience.

5. "I saw people setting up a big tent with a bar in the park. Do you think there's something _____?"
   a) going on
   b) conscious
   c) all over the place

6. Which word means 'a measure of difference, small details of which can affect an outcome'?
   a) expertise
   b) margin
   c) driven

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

a. (something) going on – something unknown and interesting happening

b. expertise – specialised knowledge or skill gained through study or experience

c. conscious – involving active thought or attention

d. driven by – influenced by or pushed forward by

e. all over the place – describes a situation or mental state that is disorganised, chaotic or confused

f. margin – a measure of difference, small details of which can affect an outcome

5. 1a, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5a, 6b

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Teacher's notes
This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.

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