



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The Ba'
街头群伙足球

The Ba' 街头群伙足球

An Ancient Game Played in Orkney 奥克尼群岛上的古代游戏

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Imagine a game of football played not with 11 but hundreds of players on each side; contested not on a soft field of grass but on cold, hard flagstone streets; and where there are no rules and no referee to control the surging mass of bodies.

Though it might sound like something from the Middle Ages, in fact just such a game of mob football is played every year in Scotland.

Known as The Ba', the game is played each Christmas Day and New Year's Day through the narrow, winding streets of the town of Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland.

To onlookers it can be impossible to tell where the ball is amongst the huge scrum of players who risk of cracking ribs and breaking limbs to try and score a match-winning goal.

The men and boys of Kirkwall are divided into two teams of 'Uppies' and 'Doonies' depending on which part of the town they come from.

There are no goalposts or goalkeepers, and the two sides compete to score a goal by transporting the Ba', which is a cork-filled, leather ball, to the other end of town.

Games can last for hours as the heaving ruck of players struggle to gain ground in either direction, though the ball can suddenly burst out of the pack and into a small side street.

The game has its roots in more violent forms of street football which have taken place in towns across Britain since Roman times, though these days injuries are surprisingly uncommon.

Nonetheless, shopkeepers whose premises line the streets take no chances and board up their doors and windows to prevent them being smashed by the sheer weight of bodies who funnel through the narrow streets.

Finally, when a goal is scored, the Ba' itself is awarded to a key member of the side who can proudly display the trophy in their window, but not before a celebratory festive drink with the team.

Glossary 词汇表

flagstone - 石板	surging mass - 蜂拥而上的群众
Middle Ages - 中世纪	mob - 一群乱民
winding streets - 蜿蜒的街道	huge scrum - 并列争球的大片人群
cracking ribs - 折断的肋骨	breaking limbs - 折断的四肢
goalposts - 门杠	cork-filled - 充满软木塞的
heaving ruck - 拼命斯抢的人群	gain ground - 夺得优势
burst out - 迸发出	pack - 一窝人/一帮人
has its roots - 来源于	premises – 营业场所
board up - 用木板封起来	sheer weight – (人群的) 自身重量
funnel – 涌入 (狭窄的街道)	festive - 节日的

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. The Ba' is played on a special football pitch. True / False
2. Games last a set amount of time. True / False
3. Players frequently get injured these days. True / False
4. The Ba' is covered in cork. True / False
5. Similar forms of street football have been played in Britain for many years. True / False

2. Collocations 词语搭配

In English, specific words are often combined to form what we call collocations.

Try to match these words from the story to the words they usually collocate with:

英语单词经常相互配合使用构成我们所称的固定搭配。

根据课文里的用法请你把下列词语进行搭配练习。

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. team | a. scrum |
| 2. media | b. spirit |
| 3. press | c. market |
| 4. mob | d. season |
| 5. mass | e. rule |
| 6. festive | f. release |

3. Measure Words 度量词语

Just like Chinese, English also has measure words (also known as numeral classifiers), although they are much less common than in Chinese.

Often they are used for talking about groups of animals. For example the word 'pack', which appears in this story, is used when talking about wolves: a pack of wolves.

Try adding the correct measure words from the box below into the gaps below.

和汉语一样，英语中也有很多度量词，不过没有汉语中那么多。

英语中的量词经常用来表达大群的动物和牲牲畜比如本课中出现的 pack 这个词就经常用来形容狼群，一群狼就是: a pack of wolves.

请用下列量词作句子填空练习。

shoal	herd	bar	grain	bottle	loaf	flock	tribe
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1. A _____ of fish.
2. A _____ of soap.
3. A _____ of sand.
4. A _____ of bread.
5. A _____ of geese.
6. A _____ of monkeys.
7. A _____ of cattle.
8. A _____ of wine.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with The Ba' in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与街头群伙足球有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

c	r	o	k	c	o	d	u	l	e	s	k
a	r	e	m	o	y	b	r	e	r	y	i
f	a	v	e	r	o	o	t	e	d	f	r
i	n	o	r	k	n	e	y	k	i	u	k
f	l	a	g	s	t	o	n	e	s	n	w
i	n	d	o	f	v	m	e	g	e	n	a
t	s	a	b	l	e	r	o	e	p	e	l
t	c	i	l	f	o	o	t	b	a	l	l
e	r	u	c	k	d	i	d	a	n	t	y
o	u	u	e	v	e	n	i	n	e	k	o
w	m	a	b	o	u	t	t	h	w	o	p
f	l	a	g	s	t	o	n	e	d	i	n

Orkney	Kirkwall	football	ba	cork
scrum	ruck	mob	funnel	flagstones

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. The Ba' is played on a special football pitch. **False**
2. Games last a set amount of time. **False**
3. Players frequently get injured these days. **False**
4. The Ba' is covered in cork. **False**
5. Similar forms of street football have been played in Britain for many years. **True**

2. Collocations 词语搭配

- 1=b team spirit
- 2=a media scrum
- 3=f press release
- 4=e mob rule
- 5=c mass market
- 6=d festive season

2. Measure Words 度量词语

1. A shoal of fish.
2. A bar of soap.
3. A grain of sand.
4. A loaf of bread.
5. A flock of geese.
6. A tribe of monkeys.
7. A herd of cattle.
8. A bottle of wine.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

				c								k	
				o								i	
				r								f	r
			o	r	k	n	e	y				u	k
f	l	a	g	s	t	o	n	e	s	n	w		
						m						n	a
	s						o					e	l
	c				f	o	o	t	b	a	l	l	
	r	u	c	k					a				
	u												
	m												