



Sèrie 2

I. Listening comprehension

Goalball, a Unique Sport

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

goalball: *golbol* / *gólbol*

low vision: *baixa visió* / *baja visión*

eyeshade: *antifaç* / *antifaz*

Ready? Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme. [Now listen to the interview.]

Interviewer: The **Paralympic Games** are a series of international multi-sport events involving athletes with different disabilities. What you may not know is that there is one sport played in the Paralympics which does not have an Olympics counterpart: goalball. My guest today is Chloe Thompson, and she is here to tell us what makes goalball unique. She is a goalball player on the American team.

Welcome to our programme, Chloe. I must say I've never heard of goalball. Can you tell us a little bit about this sport, and what makes it unique?

Chloe: Sure, and thank you for inviting me to your programme. Goalball is the only sport played in the Paralympics that has not been adapted from another sport. It was created on its own, specifically for people who have low vision or who are blind. It was invented in the 1940s by two doctors to help with the rehabilitation of soldiers who had been blinded in the Second World War, and developed as a competitive sport in the 1950s and 1960s. Today goalball is played in over 100 countries around the world. The game has a large following in these countries and is played both for enjoyment as well as a rehabilitation technique for children who are born blind and for anyone who loses their sight later in life. It was first played in the Paralympics unofficially in 1972, and in 1976 it became an official Paralympic sport.

Interviewer: What kind of court is it played on?

Chloe: Goalball is played on a court that is the same size as a volleyball court. It is 18 meters long by 9 meters wide and all of the lines that are on the floor are both painted and tactile so that the players can feel them with their hands and feet as they play.



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Interviewer: Why do the lines on the floor have to be painted, if all the players rely on their sense of touch to feel them?

Chloe: Goalball has referees, like other competitive sports, and they need to see the lines. In fact, there are nine officials on court during official competitions.

Interviewer: Of course. Could you tell us a bit about the game itself? How long does a game take, and how do you score points?

Chloe: A goalball game consists of two 12-minute halves with a 3-minute halftime in which the players switch ends of the court, so each game lasts about half an hour. There are two teams, and there is a maximum of six players on each team, and there are three players from each team on the court at any single time. Players try to defend their goal from throws of a ball from the other end of the court. So, the object of the game is to score goals by getting the ball past the opposing team and across the goal line, and to do this you either throw the ball or roll it on the ground. The ball is about the size of a basketball and it weighs just under three pounds.

Interviewer: So you either throw or roll the ball. Can you also kick it?

Chloe: No, players are not allowed to kick the ball.

Interviewer: This may sound like a silly question, but how do you know where the ball is if you can't see it?

Chloe: The ball has bells inside of it so that it can be heard when it's being thrown or when it's rolling. So for the players it's very important for the crowd to keep quiet while the ball is in play because otherwise we can't hear it. The coaches must also stay silent during gameplay. In fact, silence is so important that if players on the offense make too much noise while they are throwing or rolling the ball, they can be penalized because the team defending its goal might not be able to hear the ball.

Interviewer: Is this sport only for people who are totally blind?

Chloe: No. Some players are totally blind and some have low vision. Because of the varying degrees of visual impairment of the athletes, we are all required to wear eyeshades that completely black out our vision, so that everybody on court, in effect, plays blind.

Interviewer: Tell us a little bit about your last goalball game.

Chloe: It was great! We played in San Francisco. One of the referees punished me with a penalty because I touched my eyeshades, which is not allowed, so I had to defend the entire goal on my own. I was nervous and could feel the tense atmosphere in the audience. But in the end, we won!

Interviewer: I can tell you're very enthusiastic about goalball. Why do you like playing so much?



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Chloe: To me, my team is like a family. I love the unity that we have. We are really good friends and rely on each other. Apart from that, this sport improves my orientation skills and builds confidence, which helps me in lots of ways. I also like the competitiveness of the game. It's really great fun!

Interviewer: Thank you, Chloe, for such a lovely introduction to this sport. We hope to see you on court very soon, although now we know we won't be allowed to shout each time you touch the ball. I'm looking forward to seeing your next match!

Chloe: Thank you!

Text adapted from United States Association of Blind Athletes / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du5doesdulw>; Goalball New Zealand / <http://www.goalball.org.nz/home/what-is-goalball>; and Goalfix USA / <https://goalfixsportsusa.com/news/goalball/>.



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1. Goalball was created...

as a rehabilitation activity after the Second World War.

2. Goalball players...

may have lost vision at any point in life.

3. The goalball court in the Paralympics...

is the same size as a standard volleyball court.

4. In a goalball game...

three players from each team play at the same time.

5. How do players know where the ball is while playing?

By following the sound of the ball.

6. Why are players required to wear eyeshades?

Because they may have different degrees of vision loss.

7. What did Chloe do wrong in her last goalball game?

She touched her eyeshades.

8. What does Chloe especially like about goalball?

How the game helps her to develop orientation skills.



II. Reading comprehension

The Woman Who Saved Millions of Lives Without Knowing

1. Which one of the following sentences about Henrietta Lacks is NOT true?

She died while giving birth to her fifth son.

2. When Henrietta Lacks was in hospital, George Gey

received some of her tissue.

3. Because of senescence,

cells eventually die.

4. Lack's cells "became a workhorse of biological research". This means that

they were used over and over again.

5. The HeLa cell line

has been the basis for medical research for years.

6. According to the text,

neither Henrietta nor her family were ever asked permission to conduct experiments with her cells.

7. The #BlackLivesMatter movement

has made researchers consider stopping the use of HeLa cells completely.

8. Some of Henrietta's descendants

do not mind what was done wrong, because the result was worth it.



Sèrie 5

Listening comprehension

The Mystery of Jim Thompson

In the following conversation, you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

silk: seda

guild: gremi / gremio

spinner: filador / hilandero

fabrics: roba, tela / ropa, tela

legacy: llegat / legado

teakwood: teca (tipus de fusta / tipo de madera)

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

More than forty years after the supposed death of Jim Thompson, he remains the most important and beloved farang ('foreigner') in Thailand. His name is related to the silk business in Thailand, but he led a life full of adventures and his death, if he is dead, is still a mystery. In today's program, our reporter interviews Mark Biles, who has just published a biography of Jim Thompson.

REPORTER: Hi, Mark. Welcome to our programme.

MARK: My pleasure.

REPORTER: **To start, tell us why you are so interested in Jim Thompson.**

MARK: Well, learning about someone from a different era, a different background or a totally different set of life experiences gives you a new perspective. It allows you to see the world in new ways. Two years ago, I was in Thailand on holidays, and someone told me about this man. Everything about him seemed taken out of a movie. So, I started to investigate. I was able to find out many things about his life but much remained, and will remain, a secret forever.

REPORTER: **He was American, wasn't he? So how come he is so famous in Thailand? Tell us a bit about his life.**

MARK: Jim Thompson was born in Delaware, in the United States. He was the youngest of five children His father was a wealthy textile manufacturer. He studied



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architecture at Princeton. He lived and worked in New York and had a comfortable life there. But in 1944 he quit his job and enlisted with the Delaware National Guard. In 1949, he joined the Department of Strategic Services of the United States, what today we know as the CIA, to participate in different operations in the Far East. He arrived in Thailand shortly after the victory over Japan in World War II. After a series of "missions", he was finally assigned to Bangkok as head of American secret services, thus beginning the fabulous legend that emerges from his no less fabulous life.

REPORTER: So, let me see if I got it right. He was a spy!!

MARK: Exactly, notice we are referring to the 1940s. The Second World War had just ended. It's the time of the Cold War. The United States needed information, so Thailand seemed like a great place to get it. However, oddly enough he is not remembered for his deeds as a member of CIA. He was a benefactor for Thai society and that is why he is well remembered.

REPORTER: Right. He is linked to the silk industry, isn't he? How did this relationship start?

MARK: In Bangkok Thompson bought a part of the Oriental Hotel, but his great opportunity came with the **guild of silk **spinners**. The guild was in decline because silk had been relegated by the Thais themselves in favour of other, cheaper **fabrics**. Thompson was a visionary and relaunched the silk business thanks to his contacts with Europe. In 1948, he founded the Silk Company of Thailand.**

REPORTER: But wasn't being a foreigner a huge inconvenience for him? I mean, did the Thais trust him? He may not have known many of their customs and ways of doing business.

MARK: Well, at a time when the Thais preferred everything Western, Thompson was a revolutionary who recovered traditions and craftsmanship. He defended Thai art and architecture at all costs, but without losing his own Western roots. In fact, there was no party or social event of any kind that Thompson did not attend. His presence was fundamental at any and every event, and both the Thais and the international community in Bangkok adored him.

REPORTER: So, he was kind of a star!

MARK: Yes, in fact, all the personalities that passed through the Bangkok of those years sat at his table, among them his friend Truman Capote.

REPORTER: I see. But tell us a bit about his mysterious disappearance. What happened?

MARK: In fact, his mysterious disappearance accelerated his legend. In 1967, during a vacation in Malaysia with some friends, he went for a walk and simply disappeared. This gave rise to speculations of all kinds: kidnapping, murder, all sorts of things.

REPORTER: But people do not just disappear. I'm sure the police looked into the disappearance.



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MARK: Yes, of course. But the fact is that he was never found, which only served to forge his legend. And to put more salt on the wound, his only sister was killed in her home in the United States soon after his disappearance and their driver and guide in Malaysia dropped out of sight and was never heard from again. You can see how all of this seems to be part of a crime novel as opposed to real life. Some people say that, in reality, he never stopped working for the CIA and that's why he left as suddenly as he had arrived.

REPORTER: Spy or not, the truth is that he left a magnificent **legacy**.

MARK: Definitely. Today the silk business that Thompson created is one of the main sources of income in the country, a thriving industry that exports silk to the whole world. In addition, the firm has diversified and has entered the restaurant business, opening restaurants and wine bars with all the glamour that always characterized this man of exquisite tastes.

REPORTER: We are running out of time, so a last question. Is there a place in Thailand where we can see his legacy?

MARK: Yes, absolutely. Currently you can visit his magnificent mansion, which has been converted into a museum in Bangkok. In 1958, he began what was to be his most important architectural achievement—the construction of a new home to display his art objects. The house is a combination of six independent Thai-style **teakwood** houses that have been reassembled in traditional Thai fashion—not even a single nail was used. And the museum also houses an excellent collection of Thai art that includes one of the best collections of traditional art from around the world.

REPORTER: Well, Mark, it's been a pleasure to have you here tonight.

MARK: Thank you for inviting me.

Adapted from: <http://www.turismotailandes.com/el-misterio-de-jim-thompson-y-el-negocio-de-la-seda-en-tailandia/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1yq9gCKnEE> [30th November 2018]



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1. Which of these facts is NOT true about Jim Thompson?

He arrived in Bangkok in the middle of the World War.

2. Why did the Thais not use silk? Because

They used other types of cloth that were cheaper.

3. Which of these statements is TRUE according to the text?

Thais liked Western things more than traditional Thai things.

4. How did Thompson disappear?

He was on holiday in Malaysia and did not return after leaving for a stroll.

5. What contributed to the mystery of his disappearance?

His sister was murdered not long after he went missing.

6. Which of these things does Thompson's firm NOT have?

Architecture studios

7. What can you visit in Thompson's mansion?

Thompson's collection of Thai art.

8. What is special about Thai buildings?

The houses are held together without nails.



Reading comprehension

1. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

The biologists extracted the straw right away.

2. The harm that plastic causes on marine birds

results in a constant feeling of hunger.

3. We can deduce from Matthew Savoca's research that

anchovies feed on algae.

4. Plastic is a threat to animals because

it can be thrown away easily.

5. Straws, water bottles and plastic bags

last much longer than expected.

6. The massive use of plastic

is a relatively recent phenomenon.

7. The impact of plastic waste on wildlife

requires government intervention.

8. According to the text, which of the following is an effective solution to the threat of plastic waste on wildlife?

Locating crucial areas and then forbidding plastics there.