

## Elite Sailors Circle Globe in Ocean Race

Difficulty:

**A**VERAGE

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### *Discussion activities to be done after completing this EA lesson*

Today's report is about a round the world yacht race. What is like to take part? What are the challenges? Who does it, and which places will the yachts visit? How long will it take?

### *Extension discussion topics*

#### **A. Talking about and going over the specific topic / idea / issue in listening text**

*Introduction = What facts do you remember about the race? Which places does the race visit? What are the main challenges of the race and what incidents did you hear about?*

1. What do we learn in the report about this race?

- The race is called the Volvo Open Seventy.
- It goes more than thirty-nine thousand nautical miles around the world.
- It has six boats in it, representing the countries of the United Arab Emirates, China, Spain, France, New Zealand and the United States.
- This is the eleventh time the race has been held.
- All the sailors are elite sailors, and are of different nationalities.
- The yachts cost multi-millions of dollars.
- The yachts are sponsored by different companies, such as Telefonica.
- In-port races are being staged at each stop, which give the spectators a chance to see the boats in action.
- It will finish next July.

Would you like to take part in this race? Why, why not?

2. Which places does the race visit?

- The race has eight legs and stops at eight different ports.
- The first leg started from Alicante, Spain and went to Cape Town, South Africa.
- The route of the first leg was west toward the island of Fernando De Noronha off Brazil before heading back across the Atlantic south to Cape Town.
- The second leg finishes in Abu Dhabi on January the first.
- The eight places visited are United Arab Emirates, China, New Zealand, Brazil, the United States, Portugal and France, and Ireland.
- The race finishes in Galway, Ireland.

Which of these places have you visited? What were they like?

3. What are the challenges of this race, and some of the incidents you heard about?
  - It's challenging, thrilling and dangerous, and takes a long time.
  - It goes to places with very different temperatures, ranging from minus fifteen, to plus forty degrees Celsius.
  - It encounters very high seas.
  - The boats get damaged, e.g., Puma lost its mast in the first leg.
  - The sailors get hurt e.g., Mike Pammenter, smashed his face.

## **B. Expanding on (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text**

*Topic = Journeys by sea.*

1. What trips by sea have you taken? Where from and to? What types of boat have you traveled in? Why did you make the trips? How much did they cost? Do you like traveling by boat? Do you get sea-sick? Have you made any river trips by boat? Do you like sight-seeing by boat? What are the advantages and disadvantages of boat travel, and why? Make a list of three of each. Compare your list of these advantages and disadvantages with a friend.
2. What boat trips are common in your country? Where do they go to, and from? How popular are they? Have you made these trips? Are they expensive? Is there an alternative way to make these journeys? Do people commute by boat in your country? Do people live on boats, or barges? Are holidays on boats, or barges, popular?
3. What are the main ports in your country? What are these places like? What goods are imported and exported through them? Would you like to live in a port town or city? What are benefits of using ships for moving goods? Does your country's navy use these ports? Have you heard about the pirates operating from Somalia?
4. What famous boat trips are there that you know about? One of them is that of the Titanic - see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS\\_Titanic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic). Tell a friend what you know about it. Have you seen the film? What did you think about it?

## **C. Extending discussion of (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text**

*Topic = Adventures.*

1. The report tells of an adventurous trip - sailing around the world. Have you ever made any adventurous trips? If so, describe them. Would you do it / them again? If you haven't, what adventurous trips or holidays would you like to make? Where would they take you, and what is it about them that appeals to you? Have you heard about any adventurous trips made by any of your friends or family? What were these?

2. What adventurous sports do you know about, apart from sailing around the world? (Suggestions: hang-gliding; mountaineering; pot-holing; kayaking; deep-sea diving; parachuting; hot-air ballooning) Have you ever undertaken any adventurous sports, or know anyone who has? If you haven't, which would you like to do, and why? Why do people enjoy doing such sports?
  
3. Danger is one aspect of adventure. What is the most dangerous situation you have found yourself in? Describe what happened and how you felt. How did the situation end? What did you learn from it? Has anyone one you know experienced a very dangerous situation?

## *Audioscript*

It's challenging, thrilling and dangerous, and takes a long time.

The eleventh edition of the Volvo Ocean Race takes the elite sailors and their multi-million dollar yachts on a journey of more than thirty-nine thousand nautical miles around the world, in temperatures ranging from minus fifteen, ... to plus forty degrees Celsius.

The six Volvo Open Seventy yachts all have eleven-member international crews, and represent United Arab Emirates, China, Spain, France, New Zealand and the United States.

The commitment to this lengthy event means none of the sailors will likely vie for gold at next year's London Olympics.

The Spanish yacht Telefonica features three past Olympic gold medalists. One is Iker Martinez. He skippered Telefonica to victory in the first leg of the Volvo Ocean Race from Alicante, Spain to Cape Town, South Africa.

"We're very happy, that's something very special for us. We tried already in the last two editions, no, and (it) didn't happen as we wanted, no, and, but we learn a lot every time. So this is very important for the team, no. We now very happy."\*

The opening leg took boats west toward the island of Fernando De Noronha off Brazil before heading back across the Atlantic south to Cape Town.

In second place after that first leg was Camper. It's sponsored by the Spanish footwear brand, but crewed mostly by New Zealanders. The lone South African member, Mike Pammenter, smashed his face while he was washed down the deck by high seas.

Puma was in the lead at one point in the race, but lost its mast and fell to fifth. Puma's skipper is American Ken Read.

"Uh, nobody was hurt, nobody was even close to hurt, and then some clear heroics from the crew. We'll live to fight another day, I promise you that."

And there are many days yet to come during passage to eight more ports of call. Future stops include the United Arab Emirates, China, New Zealand, Brazil, the United States, Portugal and France, with the race finishing in Galway, Ireland, in early July.

In-port races are being staged at each stop. It's the closest spectators can get to the action without actually being on board one of the boats.

The second leg of the Volvo Ocean Race is expected to take three weeks, with the sailors expected to arrive in Abu Dhabi on January first in the New Year.

Parke Brewer, VOA News.

\* He should have said: "*We **are** now very happy.*"