

# WWE: The sensation of wrestling entertainment

## Upper Intermediate Reading Lesson Plan

The most famous wrestling entertainment company is undisputedly World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, thanks to its genius CEO Vincent McMahon and the WWE superstars who have been part of the business that has made them skyrocket in the world of celebrities. John Cena, Big Show, The Rock, Randy Orton, and many years before them, Hulk Hogan, Bruno Sammartino, as well as many other superstars have made their names by being part of the WWE.

The WWE is all about entertainment, and although the superstars have big muscles and well-built athletic bodies, the moves they make in the ring are all fake. They have been training hard to perform those moves, albeit dangerous, for years in order to perfect them and perform them safely. Similarly, finishing moves such as Orton's RKO, Big Show's choke-slam or WMD, Sheamus' brogue-kick or white noise, and Kofi Kingston's trouble in paradise are such fascinating moves that it is hard to tell if they are fake or not, because those superstars have learnt to perform them with utmost perfection and precision possible.

The shows presented by the WWE have evolved throughout the years and their popularity has grown immensely. Nowadays, it is possible to say that there is a show every single day of the week, in addition to the pay-per-views (PPVs) that have scheduled appearance during the year. The most popular shows are Monday Night Raw and Friday Smackdown. Other shows include Superstars, Saturday Morning Slam, and NXT. As for pay-per-view shows, they are, for example, Tables, Ladders and Chairs (TLC), Royal Rumble, Hell in a Cell, and Extreme Rules, to name but these. However, the biggest event of the year is WrestleMania.

WWE superstars are from different parts of the world. In addition to American wrestlers such as the 'all-American American' Jack Swagger, there is Great Khali and Jinder Mahal from India, Sheamus from Ireland, Wade Barret from England, and Drew McIntyre from Scotland. Africa is also represented by Kofi Kingston from Ghana and Justin Gabriel from South Africa.

WWE divas also have their impressive presence in the ring. Tamina Snuka, A.J. Lee, Kaitlyn, Natalya, Laila, and the Bella Twins are all impressive wrestlers who give their best for the entertainment of the WWE universe. The Divas' locker room is always full of excitement and action that they never wait to bring out to the ring to deliver their best performances. For them, the Divas' Championship remains the ideal prize they can aim at and none of them spares any effort to get it around her waist.

Besides wrestling entertainment, the WWE is involved in and sponsors several humanitarian programs and initiatives worldwide. The ambitious 'Be A Star' initiative encourages schoolchildren to reject bullying and embrace the life of true heroes. Through school visits, WWE superstars talk to schoolchildren and tell them how bad it is for a person to be a bully. Another important initiative is the Make-A-Wish foundation represented by WWE superstar John Cena who has granted over 300 wishes to children in critical medical conditions. WWE also fights breast cancer through its partnership with Susan G. Komen foundation for the cure of breast cancer. In 2012, WWE raised the amount of one million USD for the Susan G. Komen foundation with the support of John Cena's fans who bought the special edition of Cena's 'Rise-Above-Cancer' branded wrestling gear. The list of WWE's involvement in social work and active participation of the WWE universe continues to grow.

Nevertheless, where do all the superstars go when they stop wrestling? Well, they are always there, somewhere in the back. Their careers culminate in their induction into the prestigious WWE Hall of Fame. The first inductee into the WWE Hall of Fame was no other than the legendary André the Giant who died in 1993, a few days before the launching of the Hall of Fame. Between 1996 and 2003, the WWE Hall of Fame ceremonies went on hiatus, but were restarted again in 2004, and since then, the Hall of Fame induction ceremony has been associated with the great pay-per-view event of Wrestlemania.

With its worldwide entertainment allure and charm, the WWE has become a sensation throughout the world, and it has fans from different nationalities, as the WWE shows, including PPVs are broadcast in many languages, which gives it popularity and fame. This is not the case because people around the world enjoy watching violence or seeing people fight; WWE shows revolve around storylines involving superstars who perform their roles in perfect skill and professionalism. This has made the WWE the leader in sports entertainment in the US and in the world.

## **Comprehension**

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### **A. Answer the following questions**

1. What does WWE stand for?
2. How big is WWE's audience?
3. Who is the Chief Executive Officer of the WWE? Why is he special?
4. How did WWE superstars become so popular and famous?
5. What is a finishing move? What is the finishing move of each superstar mentioned in the text?
6. What is a pay-per-view show?
7. What nationalities of the WWE superstars are mentioned in the text?
8. What is a hall of fame?

## Vocabulary

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### B. Read the text and find words that have the same meanings as explained below.

1. Increase very rapidly (paragraph 1) .....
- not genuine (paragraph 2) .....
2. To the greatest extent or amount (paragraph 2) .....
- a television show that one can purchase to view (paragraph 3) .....
3. A female celebrity, especially an opera singer (paragraph 5) .....
4. A dressing room or changing room containing lockers for personal belongings, esp. in schools or gymnasiums (paragraph 5) .....
5. Use of superior strength or influence to intimidate someone. (paragraph 6) .....
6. Equipment, such as tools or clothing, used for a particular activity (paragraph 6) .....
7. To admit or place a member ceremoniously or formally in an office or a position. (paragraph 7) .....
8. A pause in a sequence, series, or process. (paragraph 7) .....
9. Powerful and mysterious attraction or fascination. (paragraph 8) .....
10. A state or cause of intense public interest and excitement (paragraph 8) .....

### C. Use six words and phrases from the exercise above to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

1. Our students should know that ..... is very bad and they should not do it to their fellow students at school or anywhere else.
2. Many shops in this neighborhood sell ..... brands to their customers.
3. The price of oil has ..... because of the war.
4. The shooting of the new TV series has gone into ..... because of the lack of financial resources.
5. That new pop singer has become the newest ..... among teenagers.
6. You will discover the ..... of this romantic city as you take a tour with us.

## Listening

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**D. Your teacher is going to read a text about WWE matches. Listen to it and complete the sentences below with words from that text.**

**tap out / I-quit match / sleeper-hold/ pin-fall / no-holds-barred /  
submission / pins / pinned/ no-disqualification match**

1. In a classical WWE match, the winner is declared after a..... or submission.
2. In a one-fall match, one of the wrestlers' shoulders are both .....to the mat.
3. If the match is two-out-of-three falls, the winner is the one who .....his opponent two times out of three.
4. A wrestler wins a match by .....by forcing his opponent to give in through using a painful position.
5. A wrestler is the winner of a match if he forces his opponent to ..... by tapping the mat-floor three times as a sign of giving in.
6. A wrestler can also use a .....to ender his opponent unconscious to win the match after the count of three by the referee.
7. The two opponents can use anything they can lay their hands on in their fight in a .....match.
8. A .....is a match in which disqualification does not apply.
9. An ..... is a submission match in which the loser is the one forced to say 'I quit' as a sign of giving up.

## Speaking

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WWE superstars use many finishing moves that can be very dangerous if performed by non-professionals. Select some of the finishing moves you know or from the text and explain why they are serious and how to convince children and teenagers not to perform them at home or school.

## Writing

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**E. Choose one of the following tasks.**

**Task one**

Go WWE website at [wwe.com](http://wwe.com) and write a description of the current WWE champion. Include information about how he won the championship and where; who his opponent was; the number of times the current champion has won the title; and any other information you think your classmates need to know about this superstar.

**Task two**

Go to [wwe.com](http://wwe.com), find more information about pay-per-view shows not mentioned in the text, and give more information about them.

**Task three**

Go to [wwe.com](http://wwe.com), find the names of WWE titles and describe each one of them by giving information about the current holder of the title and its importance to the WWE superstars.

**Task four**

Find more information in [wwe.com](http://wwe.com) about the Divas' division and describe the current Divas' champion.

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## Teacher's Notes and Answer Key

### General Guidelines

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- It is important to engage the students in the lesson by giving them enough space and time to participate and discuss the content of the lesson.
- It is also equally important to encourage them to use their critical mind through asking questions and discussing answers.
- It is recommended to handle mistakes and errors following the usual steps of self-correction, peer-correction, and then teacher-correction.

### Lead in

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The teacher can start the lesson by asking the students several questions about the WWE. Here are some examples of lead-in questions to ask:

1. What do you know about WWE?
2. What about girls? Do you know anything about it?
3. Do you know any WWE superstars?
4. Is it safe to replicate the moves performed by WWE superstars in the ring?

### Reading

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Ask the students to look at the title and try to guess the content of text. After discussing the potential content of the text, the teacher asks the students to look at the comprehension questions and try to build assumptions about the content of the text from those questions.

The teacher may explain some difficult or unfamiliar vocabulary. Please refer to the vocabulary section to avoid explaining words they will need to explain as part of the exercise.

Then, the teacher reads the text aloud for the students and then, asks one or two students to read the text again.

The teacher gives some time to the students to answer the comprehension questions and then discuss them.

### Comprehension: Answers

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1. WWE stands for World Wrestling Entertainment.
2. The WWE universe is very large in number as it is broadcast in different languages in several countries in the world. ?
3. The Chief Executive Officer of the WWE is Vincent McMahon. He has made of the WWE a worldwide sensation.
4. They have become famous thanks to the popularity of the WWE.
5. A finishing move is the signature move a superstar uses to pin his or her opponent. The finishing moves mentioned in the text are Orton's RKO, Big Show's choke-slam or WMD, Sheamus' brogue-kick or white noise, and Kofi Kingston's trouble in paradise.
6. A pay-per-view show is a show that you have to pay money to watch.

7. In addition to American wrestlers such as the 'all-American American' Jack Swagger, there is Great Khali and Jinder Mahal from India, Sheamus from Ireland, Wade Barret from England, and Drew McIntyre from Scotland. Africa is also represented by Kofi Kingston from Ghana and Justin Gabriel from South Africa.
8. A hall of fame is a memorial structure honoring outstanding and distinguished individuals for example in sports or another activity.

## Vocabulary

Ask the students to go back to the text and identify the words and phrases explained in the exercise. Ask them to rely on the context to find the words. When they have finished, ask them to do the next exercise.

### B. Answers

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|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Skyrocket     | 5. divas       | 9. induction  |
| 2. Fake          | 6. locker room | 10. Hiatus    |
| 3. utmost        | 7. bullying    | 11. allure    |
| 4. pay-per-views | 8. Gear        | 12. sensation |

### C. Answers

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|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| 7. bullying | 9. skyrocketed | 11. sensation |
| 8. fake     | 10. hiatus     | 12. allure    |

## Listening

Listening skill can sometimes be difficult for EFL and ESL students to understand. The teacher can start this activity by first giving the students enough time to review the exercise they need to do before the teacher reads the excerpt one time and the students just listen. Then, the teacher reads the excerpt a second time and asks the students to do the exercise.

The teacher needs to keep in mind the reading pace. The teacher should read the excerpt in a clear, natural pace. If the teacher is a native speaker, he or she can record the excerpt and play it in class. Other teachers who are non-native speakers can ask a native speaker to record the excerpt for them.

It is important for the teacher to make sure the students do the exercise by listening to the excerpt. If they cannot do the exercise after the first reading, the teacher can read the text or just the part of it the students find difficulty in doing.

### Listening script: WWE Matches

In a classical WWE match, the winner is declared after a pin-fall or submission. If the match is one-fall, it means that the wrestler whose shoulders are both pinned to the mat, i.e. has both shoulders touching the mat, after a count of three by the referee is declared loser of the match. Nevertheless, if the match is two-out-of-three falls, either of the wrestlers who pins his opponent two times out of three is the winner. In the case of submission, the winner is declared after forcing their opponent by using a painful position to submit and tap out, i.e. tapping the mat-floor three times as a sign

of giving in. the same thing applies if a wrestler is rendered unconscious, as a result of a sleeper-hold for example.

Other matches are more exciting and breath catching, such as a no-holds-barred match, a no-disqualification match, a street-fight match, , and I quit match. In a no-holds-barred match, the opponents can use anything they can lay their hands on in their fight. The same thing applies to a street-fight match, with slight difference. A no-disqualification match is a match in which neither of the opponents can intentionally disqualify themselves to avoid losing the match. This may happen, for example, in a championship match in which the titleholder decides to use some illegal move intentionally just to get disqualified. In this case, the champion retains the championship. An I-quit match is a submission match in which the loser is the one forced to say 'I quit' as a sign of giving up. Other matches with great intensity and excitement include a cage match, where the match is inside a steel cage; a ladders match, in which the use of ladders is legal; a tables match, in which a wrestler wins the match by putting the opponent through a table; and the-last-man standing match, in which one of the wrestlers is standing and the other cannot make it back to his feet at the count of ten.

#### D. Answers

1. pin-fall
2. pinned
3. pins
4. submission
5. tap out
6. sleeper-hold
7. no-holds-barred
8. no-disqualification match
9. I-quit match

### Speaking

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Speaking skill is very important as the students can develop their fluency and accuracy n using English by developing this skill. Therefore, it is important to keep a balance between fluency and accuracy.

Depending on the level of students in speaking, this activity can be done in several ways. The students can take a few minutes to prepare and organize their ideas before engaging in speaking. Alternatively, if their speaking skill is good enough, they can try to speak on the spot, although this way is very demanding.

### Writing

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The teacher can assign the tasks listed under writing in several ways. For example, the teacher can ask the students to do a task in class, if applicable, and choose another task to do as homework. The students may also have the possibility of choosing which task to do. The teacher can also organize the students in groups and assign a task to each group as in-class activity and another task as homework, or both.