

ICHIRO SUZUKI

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Ichiro Suzuki is probably the best-known and most successful Japanese baseball player to play outside of Japan. He moved to Major League Baseball in 2001 and immediately started breaking records and making history. He is the first MLB player to join the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. He was also selected as the 2007 All-Star Game MVP.

Ichiro was born in Japan in 1973. From the age of seven he practiced for hours every day under the guidance of his father. He wrote the word 'concentration' on his glove. By the age of 12, Ichiro knew he could be a professional baseball player. Although many teams were put off by his small size, he turned professional aged 18.

Ichiro made his debut in 1992 with Kobe's Orix Blue Wave. He spent most of his first two seasons fighting to get into the first team. The manager didn't like his swing. In 1994, a new manager came and put Ichiro in the leadoff spot. He was a household name by the end of the year. Japan's media dubbed him the "human batting machine".

In 2000, Ichiro signed a three-year \$14 million contract with the Seattle Mariners. He was the first Japanese position player ever to play in America. Many American baseball fans believed Ichiro was too small to make a mark. He proved them all wrong. Ichiro has broken dozens of MLB records and has established himself as one of baseball's most outstanding players.

243 words
Flesch Kinkaid 8.3

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. probably | a. most valuable player |
| 2. selected | b. direction |
| 3. MVP | c. chosen |
| 4. guidance | d. discouraged |
| 5. concentration | e. most likely |
| 6. put off | f. focusing |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 7. fighting | g. position |
| 8. spot | h. incorrect |
| 9. dubbed | i. wonderful |
| 10. contract | j. called |
| 11. wrong | k. battling |
| 12. outstanding | l. deal |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the best-known and most successful | a. to make a mark |
| 2. immediately started breaking | b. of his father |
| 3. making | c. name by the end |
| 4. under the guidance | d. records |
| 5. many teams were put off | e. "human batting machine" |
| 6. Ichiro made his | f. Japanese baseball player |
| 7. He was a household | g. all wrong |
| 8. Japan's media dubbed him the | h. history |
| 9. too small | i. by his small size |
| 10. He proved them | j. debut in 1992 |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Ichiro Suzuki _____ best-known and most successful Japanese baseball _____ of Japan. He moved to Major League Baseball in 2001 and immediately _____ and making history. He is the first MLB player to join the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. He _____ the 2007 All-Star Game MVP.

Ichiro was born in Japan in 1973. From _____ practiced for hours every day _____ of his father. He wrote the _____ on his glove. By the age of 12, Ichiro knew he could be a professional baseball player. Although many teams were _____ size, he turned professional aged 18.

Ichiro _____ 1992 with Kobe's Orix Blue Wave. He spent most of his first two seasons _____ the first team. The manager didn't like his swing. In 1994, a new manager came and put Ichiro _____. He was a household name by the end of the year. Japan's _____ the "human batting machine".

In 2000, Ichiro _____ \$14 million contract with the Seattle Mariners. He was the first Japanese position player ever to play in America. Many American baseball fans believed Ichiro was too small _____. He proved _____. Ichiro has broken dozens of MLB records and has _____ one of baseball's most outstanding players.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Ichiro Suzuki is *probably* / *probable* the best-known and most successful Japanese baseball player to play outside *for* / *of* Japan. He moved to Major League Baseball in 2001 and immediately *started* / *starred* breaking records and making history. He is the first MLB player to *join* / *joint* the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. He was also selected as the 2007 All-Star Game MVP.

Ichiro was born in Japan in 1973. *From* / *For* the age of seven he practiced for hours every day under the *guide* / *guidance* of his father. He wrote the word 'concentration' on his glove. By *the* / *an* age of 12, Ichiro knew he could be a professional baseball player. Although many teams were put *on* / *off* by his small size, he turned professional aged 18.

Ichiro *made* / *did* his debut in 1992 with Kobe's Orix Blue Wave. He spent most of his first two seasons fighting to *for* / *get* into the first team. The manager didn't like his swing. In 1994, a new manager came and put Ichiro in the leadoff spot. He was a *household* / *homemaker* name by the end of the year. Japan's media dubbed him the "*human* / *humane* batting machine".

In 2000, Ichiro signed a three-year \$14 million *contact* / *contract* with the Seattle Mariners. He was the first Japanese position player ever to play in America. Many American baseball fans *believed* / *believing* Ichiro was too small to make a *grade* / *mark*. He proved them all *wrong* / *wrongly*. Ichiro has broken dozens of MLB records and has established himself as one of baseball's most outstanding players.

SPELLING:

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. yroblbap the best-known
2. erkigabn records
3. making rtyihso
4. scdteee as the 2007 All-Star Game MVP

Paragraph 2

5. under the induecag of his father
6. He wrote the word 'nenicotantocr' on his glove
7. teams were put off by his llsma size
8. he ternud professional aged 18

Paragraph 3

9. The manager didn't like his wnsig
10. a hlosudohe name
11. Japan's eidma
12. human batting eiamhcn

Paragraph 4

13. Ichiro edisgn a three-year \$14 million contract
14. the first Japanese tinosopi player
15. He dreovp them all wrong
16. Ichiro has broken zeonsd of MLB records

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Ichiro Suzuki is probably the best-known and most successful Japanese baseball player to play outside
- () fighting to get into the first team. The manager didn't like his swing. In 1994, a new manager
- () a mark. He proved them all wrong. Ichiro has broken dozens of MLB records and has established
- () of his father. He wrote the word 'concentration' on his glove. By the age of 12, Ichiro knew he could be a professional
- () baseball player. Although many teams were put off by his small size, he turned professional aged 18.
- () Japanese position player ever to play in America. Many American baseball fans believed Ichiro was too small to make
- () In 2000, Ichiro signed a three-year \$14 million contract with the Seattle Mariners. He was the first
- () history. He is the first MLB player to join the Japanese Baseball Hall of
- () Ichiro was born in Japan in 1973. From the age of seven he practiced for hours every day under the guidance
- () himself as one of baseball's most outstanding players.
- () came and put Ichiro in the leadoff spot. He was a household name by the end
- () Fame. He was also selected as the 2007 All-Star Game MVP.
- () Ichiro made his debut in 1992 with Kobe's Orix Blue Wave. He spent most of his first two seasons
- () of the year. Japan's media dubbed him the "human batting machine".
- () of Japan. He moved to Major League Baseball in 2001 and immediately started breaking records and making

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. breaking started history making and records

2. Game 2007 MVP All selected - as Star the

3. practiced he seven From day every the age of hours for

4. his word glove He 'concentration' wrote on the

5. by teams his were small put size off many

6. manager The swing his like didn't

7. a household name by the end of the year He was

8. dubbed machine" media the batting Japan's him "human

9. to small too was Ichiro mark a make

10. records has dozens MLB Ichiro broken of

ICHIRO SUZUKI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Ichiro Suzuki?
2. Would you like to meet Ichiro Suzuki?
3. What would you like to know about Ichiro Suzuki and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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ICHIRO SUZUKI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Ichiro Suzuki?
2. What questions would you like to ask Ichiro Suzuki?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

ICHIRO SUZUKI SURVEY:

Write five questions about Ichiro Suzuki in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Ichiro Suzuki. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ICHIRO SUZUKI POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Ichiro Suzuki. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Ichiro Suzuki. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Ichiro Suzuki. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Ichiro Suzuki expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. probably | a. most likely |
| 2. selected | b. chosen |
| 3. MVP | c. most valuable player |
| 4. guidance | d. direction |
| 5. concentration | e. focusing |
| 6. put off | f. discouraged |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

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| 8. spot | h. position |
| 9. dubbed | i. called |
| 10. contract | j. deal |
| 11. wrong | k. incorrect |
| 12. outstanding | l. wonderful |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. the best-known and most successful | a. Japanese baseball player |
| 2. immediately started breaking | b. records |
| 3. making | c. history |
| 4. under the guidance | d. of his father |
| 5. many teams were put off | e. by his small size |
| 6. Ichiro made his | f. debut in 1992 |
| 7. He was a household | g. name by the end |
| 8. Japan's media dubbed him the | h. "human batting machine" |
| 9. too small | i. to make a mark |
| 10. He proved them | j. all wrong |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.