

KOBE BRYANT

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Kobe Bryant is an American All-Star basketball player who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant became famous in 1996 as the first shooting guard in basketball history to be drafted out of high school. He has helped the Lakers win three back-to-back championships and has twice been the NBA's leading scorer. He was the season's MVP in 2007-08.

Bryant was born in 1978 in Philadelphia. He was named after the beef famous in Kobe, Japan. His father was a Philadelphia 76ers player. When Bryant was six, his family moved to Italy. He learned to play soccer and once considered becoming a professional soccer player. Back in the USA, he excelled in high school basketball and joined the NBA, aged 17.

Bryant joined the Lakers in 1996. His first three seasons were spent coming off the bench but he still managed to become a favourite with fans. From 2000, Bryant was one of the top shooting guards in the league. He helped the Lakers win NBA championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and entered basketball's elite. He has become a cornerstone of the Lakers team.

The Lakers did not reach the NBA Finals again until 2008, when they finished runner-up. Bryant continued his high scoring but had trouble on and off the court. His coach called him 'uncoachable' and he hit the headlines after being accused of rape. In 2007, Bryant became the youngest player to reach 20,000 points. He remains one of basketball's true greats.

246 words
Flesch Kinkaid 7.6

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. famous | a. relocated |
| 2. drafted | b. consecutive |
| 3. back-to-back | c. thought about |
| 4. moved | d. well known |
| 5. considered | e. shone |
| 6. excelled | f. picked |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 7. managed | g. best |
| 8. elite | h. charged with |
| 9. cornerstone | i. get to |
| 10. reach | j. succeeded |
| 11. runner-up | k. heart |
| 12. accused | l. second place |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. drafted | a. becoming a professional |
| 2. win three back-to-back | b. to become a favourite |
| 3. He was named after the beef | c. true greats |
| 4. once considered | d. out of high school |
| 5. he excelled | e. being accused of rape |
| 6. he still managed | f. championships |
| 7. a cornerstone | g. 20,000 points |
| 8. hit the headlines after | h. famous in Kobe, Japan |
| 9. the youngest player to reach | i. of the Lakers team |
| 10. He remains one of basketball's | j. in high school |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

Kobe Bryant is an American All-Star basketball player _____ the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant became famous in 1996 as the first shooting guard in basketball history to be _____ high school. He has helped the Lakers win three _____ championships and has twice been the NBA's leading scorer. He was the _____ 2007-08.

Bryant was born in 1978 in Philadelphia. He was _____ beef famous in Kobe, Japan. His father was a Philadelphia 76ers player. When Bryant was six, _____ to Italy. He learned to play soccer and _____ becoming a professional soccer player. Back in the USA, _____ high school basketball and joined the NBA, aged 17.

Bryant joined the Lakers in 1996. His first three seasons were spent _____ bench but he still managed to become a favourite with fans. From 2000, Bryant was _____ shooting guards in the league. He helped the Lakers win NBA championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and entered _____. He has become a _____ the Lakers team.

The Lakers _____ the NBA Finals again until 2008, when they finished runner-up. Bryant continued _____ but had trouble on and off the court. His coach called _____ and he hit the headlines after being accused of rape. In 2007, Bryant became the youngest player to reach 20,000 points. He _____ basketball's true greats.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

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

Kobe Bryant is an American All-Star basketball player who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant became famous in 1996 as the first shooting guard in basketball *history / historical* to be *drafted / drifted* out of high school. He has helped the Lakers win three *back-to-back / back-to-front* championships and has twice been the NBA's leading scorer. He was the season's *VIP / MVP* in 2007-08.

Bryant was born in 1978 in Philadelphia. He was named *before / after* the beef famous in Kobe, Japan. His father was a Philadelphia 76ers player. When Bryant was six, his family *moving / moved* to Italy. He learned to play soccer and *once / one* considered becoming a professional soccer player. Back in the USA, he *excelled / expelled* in high school basketball and joined the NBA, aged 17.

Bryant joined the Lakers in 1996. His first three seasons were *bought / spent* coming off the bench but he *still / yet* managed to become a favourite with fans. From 2000, Bryant was one of the top shooting guards in the league. He *helpful / helped* the Lakers win NBA championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and entered basketball's elite. He has become a *cornerstone / tombstone* of the Lakers team.

The Lakers did not *teach / reach* the NBA Finals again until 2008, when they finished runner-up. Bryant continued his high scoring but had trouble *on / in* and off the court. His coach called him 'uncoachable' and he *hit / smacked* the headlines after being accused of rape. In 2007, Bryant became the youngest player to reach 20,000 points. He remains one of basketball's true *greet / greets / greets*.

SPELLING:

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

Paragraph 1

1. Bryant became mfsuoa in 1996
2. terfadd out of high school
3. He has hlpeed the Lakers win
4. the NBA's dgeailn scorer

Paragraph 2

5. He was dmean after the beef
6. his family emdvo to Italy
7. he lxeeldc in high school
8. ndoije the NBA, aged 17

Paragraph 3

9. His first three osenssa
10. coming off the cnebh
11. a ueovrifta with fans
12. basketball's teeil

Paragraph 4

13. had utloreb on and off the court
14. hit the ehnaseidl
15. the youngest player to rcahe 20,000 points
16. He ainmesr one of basketball's true greats

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Kobe Bryant is an American All-Star basketball player who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant became
- () player. When Bryant was six, his family moved to Italy. He learned to play soccer and once considered
- () leading scorer. He was the season's MVP in 2007-08.
- () basketball's elite. He has become a cornerstone of the Lakers team.
- () becoming a professional soccer player. Back in the USA, he excelled in high school basketball and joined the NBA, aged 17.
- () scoring but had trouble on and off the court. His coach called him 'uncoachable' and he hit the headlines
- () Bryant was born in 1978 in Philadelphia. He was named after the beef famous in Kobe, Japan. His father was a Philadelphia 76ers
- () guards in the league. He helped the Lakers win NBA championships in 2000, 2001, and 2002 and entered
- () Lakers win three back-to-back championships and has twice been the NBA's
- () Bryant joined the Lakers in 1996. His first three seasons were spent coming off the
- () after being accused of rape. In 2007, Bryant became the youngest player to reach 20,000
- () famous in 1996 as the first shooting guard in basketball history to be drafted out of high school. He has helped the
- () points. He remains one of basketball's true greats.
- () bench but he still managed to become a favourite with fans. From 2000, Bryant was one of the top shooting
- () The Lakers did not reach the NBA Finals again until 2008, when they finished runner-up. Bryant continued his high

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

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

1. back championships helped the Lakers win three back - to -

2. MVP He in was 2007 the - season's 08

3. famous in Kobe , Japan He was named after the beef

4. a soccer once becoming professional player considered

5. in high school basketball Back in the USA , he excelled

6. with to fans become e a still favourite managed

7. Bryant guards shooting top the of one was

8. cornerstone He of has the become Lakers a team

9. accused the of headlines rape after he being hit

10. , player 000 to points reach the 20 youngest

KOBE BRYANT DISCUSSION:

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

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

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KOBE BRYANT DISCUSSION:

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

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

KOBE BRYANT SURVEY:

Write five questions about Kobe Bryant 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.

WRITING:

Write about Kobe Bryant for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

[illegible]

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 Kobe Bryant. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. KOBE BRYANT POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Kobe Bryant. 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 Kobe Bryant. 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 Kobe Bryant. 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 "Kobe Bryant expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. famous | a. well known |
| 2. drafted | b. picked |
| 3. back-to-back | c. consecutive |
| 4. moved | d. relocated |
| 5. considered | e. thought about |
| 6. excelled | f. shone |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 7. managed | g. succeeded |
| 8. elite | h. best |
| 9. cornerstone | i. heart |
| 10. reach | j. get to |
| 11. runner-up | k. second place |
| 12. accused | l. charged with |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. drafted | a. out of high school |
| 2. win three back-to-back | b. championships |
| 3. He was named after the beef | c. famous in Kobe, Japan |
| 4. once considered | d. becoming a professional |
| 5. he excelled | e. in high school |
| 6. he still managed | f. to become a favourite |
| 7. a cornerstone | g. of the Lakers team |
| 8. hit the headlines after | h. being accused of rape |
| 9. the youngest player to reach | i. 20,000 points |
| 10. He remains one of basketball's | j. true greats |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.