

Reading Level 2: News RoundupSunday, 20th May 2012**Topics:** sport, economics, charity**Learning points:**

- vocabulary
- if-sentences
- present perfect

1 Last night Chelsea beat¹ Bayern Munich in the Champions League final. It was a 1-1 draw² after extra time,
2 and then Bayern missed³ two penalties during the penalty shoot-out⁴. The goalkeeper Cech and the striker
3 Drogba were the two best Chelsea players. This is the first time that Chelsea have won the Champions
4 League.

5
6 The Olympic torch, which has travelled all around Greece in the last couple of weeks, has reached⁵ England.
7 It is starting an 8,000 mile relay⁶ through the country, in advance of the Olympic games in London in July.
8 Eight thousand people will act⁷ as torch-bearers⁸ in over one thousand different cities, towns and villages up
9 and down the country.

10
11 In the USA, the G8 summit in Camp David has finished, with an agreement that the economic recovery⁹
12 should focus on growth and job creation, which should satisfy the new French president. However, countries
13 will have to control their budgets, spending on investment, and levels of debts¹⁰.

14
15 More significant¹¹ was the statement¹² by the G8 leaders that Greece should remain a member of the
16 eurozone. There will be pressure for the next general election in Greece to become a referendum on the
17 Euro. There is a risk that if Greece doesn't stick to¹³ its austerity measures, then it will become bankrupt and
18 the eurozone won't help it, which might force¹⁴ it out of the Euro. If this happened, the situation would
19 probably get worse for Greece and could cause another crisis in confidence in the European banking system.

20
21 Italy has had a tough¹⁵ weekend. Yesterday someone detonated¹⁶ a bomb outside a school in Brindisi, in the
22 south of the country, which killed one girl and injured¹⁷ six more. In the small hours of this morning an
23 earthquake struck near Bologna. Six people have died, the news is reporting, but the figures are still coming
24 in.

25
26 Yesterday the Life Ball in Vienna took place. It was the 20th anniversary of the event which highlights and
27 raises money for the fight against HIV/ AIDS. The Life Ball is one of the biggest charity events in Europe.
28 In 2011 the donations¹⁸ raised over €2 million. For some years the Life Ball has been a significant
29 international event and important for Austria.

¹ to beat = schlagen

² draw = Unentschieden

³ to miss = nicht treffen

⁴ shoot-out = Schießerei

⁵ reach = erreichen

⁶ relay = Staffel-

⁷ to act as = als etw fungieren

⁸ torchbearer = Fackelträger(in)

⁹ recovery = Erholung

¹⁰ debts = Schulden

¹¹ significant = bedeutend

¹² statement = Erklärung

¹³ to stick to =

¹⁴ to force = zwingen

¹⁵ tough = hart

¹⁶ to detonate = detonieren, explodieren

¹⁷ to injure = verletzen

¹⁸ donations = Spenden



Level 2 questions

Vocabulary

1. Find the alternative vocabulary for these words/phrases from the Level 1 text:

- a. Chelsea won
- b. the score was 1-1
- c. before the Olympics
- d. 8,000 people will carry the torch
- e. the president will be happy
- f. stay in the eurozone
- g. to keep to
- h. a bad weekend
- i. very early this morning
- j. reports are saying
- k. it was the Life Ball
- l. it is a big international event

if-sentences

2. What are the differences (grammar and meaning) between the if-sentences in lines 17 and 18?

Present Perfect

3. For each of these sentences from level 1, find the alternative in the present perfect. In each case, note the change of the signal words (time words).

- a. It was the first time that Chelsea won the Champions League
- b. Yesterday the Olympic torch started its journey around England.
- c. The G8 summit ended yesterday.
- d. It was a bad weekend in Italy.
- e. Six people died
- f. The Life Ball is a big international event

For each case, is the event finished?

Level 2 answers

1. see level 2 text

2. Line 17: if + (present simple), then will-future

this is a likely event in the future

Line 18: if + (past simple), then would/could-future

this is an unlikely event, only an idea

3.

- a. ...has won... *the first time of how many?*
- b. has reached England.... *...it is starting its journey*
- c. has finished *there will be a focus on growth*
- d. has had *the weekend hasn't finished; and the effects are continuing*
- e. have died *so far*
- f. has been *for some years... and will continue to be*

There is no clear time point in the past; and the event/action is not finished (as the *italics* show).