

**Reading Level 3: News Roundup**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012**Topics:** sport, economics, charity**Learning points:**

- vocabulary
- passive
- --ing form as connective

1 Last night the Champions League final was won by Chelsea, who beat Bayern Munich on penalties after the  
2 match finished with a 1-1 draw at the end of extra time. The goalkeeper Cech and the striker Drogba were  
3 the two best Chelsea players. Chelsea had never won the Champions League before.  
4

5 The Olympic torch, which has been taken all over Greece in recent weeks, has finally reached England.  
6 It will be carried on an 8,000 mile journey up and down the country by eight thousand torch-bearers in relays  
7 in advance of the Olympic Games in London in July. The torch will be paraded through over one thousand  
8 different cities, towns and villages.  
9

10 In the USA, the G8 summit in Camp David has finished, with no substantial progress but an agreement that  
11 the economic recovery should focus on growth and job creation alongside controlling budgets and debt  
12 levels, which should have satisfied the new French president.  
13

14 Perhaps more significant was the statement by the G8 leaders that Greece should remain a member of the  
15 eurozone, putting more pressure on the forthcoming<sup>1</sup> re-run of the general election there, which might  
16 become a referendum on the Euro. There is a grave<sup>2</sup> risk that if Greece fails to implement the austerity  
17 measures agreed with the Central European Bank and the IMF, then it will go bankrupt and have to default<sup>3</sup>.  
18 If this happened and the eurozone didn't help it, then Greece might be forced to leave the Euro, although no-  
19 one seems to think that this will do anything other than make the situation worse for Greece and threaten<sup>4</sup>  
20 another crisis in confidence in the European banking system.  
21

22 Italy has been having a tough weekend, with firstly a bomb being set off<sup>5</sup> outside a school in the southern  
23 town of Brindisi, killing one girl and injuring six more, and secondly an earthquake striking in the small hours  
24 of Sunday morning near Bologna. It has been reported that six people are known to have been killed, but as  
25 the figures are still coming in, this number may rise.  
26

27 Yesterday the Life Ball in Vienna was held. It was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event which highlights and raises  
28 money for the fight against HIV/ AIDS. It is one of the biggest charity events in Europe, raising over €2 million  
29 in 2011 and being a significant international event for Austria.

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<sup>1</sup> forthcoming = bevorstehend

<sup>2</sup> grave = ernst, schwer, gravierend

<sup>3</sup> default = in Verzug geraten

<sup>4</sup> to threaten = drohen

<sup>5</sup> to set off = zünden

### Level 3 questions

#### Passive

1. Can you change these sentences from the level 1 and 2 texts into the passive form?  
Alternative verbs, which might help, are given in brackets.

- a. Chelsea won the Champions League final
- b. Chelsea beat Bayern Munich
- c. the Olympic torch has travelled all around Greece (*take*)
- d. Eight thousand people will carry the torch
- e. .... , which might force Greece out of the Euro
- f. Someone detonated a bomb outside a school (*set off*)
- g. Six people have died (*kill*)
- h. It was the Life Ball in Vienna yesterday (*hold*)

#### --ing form as a connective

2. There are three examples in this text of the –ing form as a connective.  
This is often used as a way to shorten sentences, when one subject does two actions simultaneously.

Line 14: More significant was the statement by the G8 leaders that.... , putting more pressure on the election

Line 22: A bomb being set off..., killing one girl and injuring six more

Line 28: It is one of the biggest events..., raising over €2 million and being a significant international event

Can you shorten the following sentences, using an –ing connective?

- a. Last night Chelsea won the Champions League final. They beat Bayern Munich on penalties.
- b. Greece might be forced to leave the Euro, which may make the situation worse for Greece and threaten another crisis in confidence in the European banking system
- c. In the USA, the G8 summit in Camp David has finished, which should satisfy the new French president

### Level 3 answers

1. *see level 3 text*

- 2.
- a. Last night Chelsea won the Champions League final, beating Bayern Munich on penalties
  - b. Greece might be forced to leave the Euro, making the situation worse for Greece and threatening another crisis in confidence in the European banking system
  - c. In the USA, the G8 summit in Camp David has finished, satisfying the new French president