

**The 7 Steps -**  
**October**



**Rugby World Cup**

**1. CONTEXT**

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

**2. QUESTIONS**

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

**3. LISTEN**

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

**Listening Questions 1**

1. What are the two sporting events bigger than the Rugby World Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How are the 20 teams split up for the 2019 Rugby World Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How are the top 12 teams chosen for each World Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What was the controversy surrounding the 2019 Rugby World Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Historically, what 4 teams dominate the Rugby World Cup?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Listening Questions 2**

1. What number ranked sport is Rugby in terms of popularity in Japan?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. When was Rugby introduced into Japan and who played it originally?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is the name of the stadium that honors a previous JRFU President?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What level of Japanese Rugby has the biggest fanbase?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What are two of the biggest university Rugby events in Japan?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

**Discussion Questions**

1. Are you interested in attending global sporting events in Japan?
2. What are the benefits and drawbacks of holding international sporting events for a country?

#### 4. CHECK ANSWERS

☐

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

#### 5. CHECK VOCABULARY

☐

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

#### 6. READ ALOUD

☐

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

#### 7. SHADOWING

☐

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

### TRANSCRIPT 1

**Boasted** as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest sporting event in the world next to the Olympics and FIFA World Cup, the Rugby World Cup is the sport's most challenging and prestigious event. Hosted once every four years, the Rugby World Cup is comprised of 20 teams, split into 4 pools of 5 teams, with a total of 48 matches being played overall. The top two teams automatically qualify for the next stage of the tournament and a shot to win the number 1 crown in international rugby.

The road to the Rugby World Cup is not the same for all teams. 12 teams are automatically qualified due to their past world cup performances; however, the remaining 8 spots are decided from a total of 80 other nations. Those 80 teams have to go through a complicated series of regional play-off games and tournaments to get a chance to participate in the World Cup.

The 2019 Rugby World Cup has already encountered some controversy as Romania, who had qualified for the tournament, were found to have fielded **ineligible** players. This led to their **expulsion** from the tournament and Russia taking their place. History has shown that the sport is dominated by only a few teams. New Zealand, England, South Africa and Australia are the only teams who have won the tournament.

Ineligible	Champion	Bear	Boast	Expulsion
<b>Fill-in the blanks with the appropriate word / phrase above:</b>				
1. She was a shy, intelligent lady who never _____ about her great achievements.				
2. Due to his low salary, he was _____ for a bank loan.				
3. The scandal involving the CEO and CFO's unpaid taxes resulted in their _____ from the company.				
4. Last year, the Mayor _____ for free education for all children.				
5. People who have done remarkable things often have roads, buildings and stadiums that _____ their name.				

### TRANSCRIPT 2

Japan is home to the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Rugby Union population in the world, with 3,631 official teams and over 125,000 registered players. Despite the game being played in Japan for over a hundred years, it is still considered a minor sport and is ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular team sport.

Rugby was born at Rugby School in Rugby, Warwickshire, England and was first introduced into Japan in the late 1860s as a game mainly played by servicemen. Professor Edward Bramwell Clark and Ginnoosuke Tanaka, both Cambridge University graduates and lecturers at Keio University, introduced the game to their students in 1899; however, it took until the 1920s before the game's popularity grew. Prince Chichibu, named the 'Sporting Prince,' **championed** the rise of the sport as the president of the JRFU, and to this day the Chichibunomiya Rugby Stadium in Tokyo **bears** his name.

Created in 2002, Japan's professional league, 'Top League,' is dominated by company sponsored teams; however, the popularity and fanbase remains at university level. The annual game between Keio and Waseda Universities draw crowds of over 40,000 people, and the All-Japan University Rugby Championships has over 800 teams competing for the top prize. With the rise of the Sunwolves professional team and Japan's hosting of the 2019 World Cup, Rugby Union in Japan looks set to continue its evolution.