World Cup 2022 - Qatar

languagecaster.com has regular podcasts with transcripts to help English language learners who are also interested in football. There is also a glossary of football language, each linked to an explanation or discussion of the language.

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2022 World Cup Language Podcast: Day 4
Thumping Strike (Japan v Germany)

Pre listening 1

Discuss these questions with your partner/s:

1. What is your image of Japan and Germany; not just football, think about people, places, culture.
2. The post you will listen to is about a football phrase - a thumping strike. What do you think this means?

Pre listening 2

Check you understand these words/phrases:

enough/not much room, to manage to (do), an angle

Listen 1

Listen and fill in the blank spaces (the number in brackets = the number of missing words).

The Japanese substitute Asano (2) _____ brilliant winning goal by hitting the ball (3)_____ past the German keeper Neuer. Because the Japanese player was on (6)_____ goal, there was not much room (3)_____ keeper at his near post and this is why the verb 'squeeze' has been used. To (3)_____ is to get past something even though there is not much space so the Japanese forward still (3)_____ despite the fact that there was little room for the ball to go past the keeper. One way of beating the keeper at their (2)_____ is to hit the ball really hard and this is what the phrase 'thumping strike' means -

Listen 2

Listen and find the 5 mistakes.

'he thumped the ball' is to really kick the ball hard and is similar to the phrase 'smash', while a strike is another way of saying a pass and this has the meaning of having a lot of power, for example, we might hear the phrase 'a fast strike'; a really hard shot. We have already mentioned that there was not much space for the Japanese player to score because he was on the right-hand side of the goal which means that the angle is quite narrow or tight – it's quite small. A tight angle, therefore, means that there is quite a lot of space to aim at. So, the Japanese sub (or substitute), Asano, scored with a hard shot that beat the German goalkeeper at his far post even though there was very little room to do so. A fantastic goal to beat Germany.

URL: <https://languagecaster.com/2022-world-cup-language-podcast-day-4-thumping-strike-japan-v-germany/>
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For teachers

This activity can be a short warm up, filler, relevant (as in the World Cup is going on now!) activity or you can expand it by adding additional pre-listening activities, vocabulary expansion (synonyms, antonyms, create your own sentences), and post activity discussion on the topics and issues.

The Listen 1 section focuses on some key words but also unstressed words and word linking. Read at a pace that suits your class and practice linking and intonation afterwards as necessary. You can also use the audio of the script on the site.

The Listen 2 section, error awareness, focuses on important points/vocabulary in the post.

Script

2022 World Cup Language Podcast: Day 4 - Thumping Strike (Japan v Germany)

Listen 1

What a victory for Japan! To come from behind to beat the four-time World Cup winners Germany was amazing. Here is how the BBC reported on the winning goal.

The Japanese substitute Asano **scored a** brilliant winning goal by hitting the ball **hard and high** past the German keeper Neuer. Because the Japanese player was on **the right-hand side of the** goal, there was not much room **to beat the** keeper at his near post and this is why the verb 'squeeze' has been used. To **squeeze past something** is to get past something even though there is not much space so the Japanese forward still **managed to score** despite the fact that there was little room for the ball to go past the keeper. One way of beating the keeper at their **near post** is to hit the ball really hard and this is what the phrase 'thumping strike' means –

Listen 2

'he thumped the ball' is to really **hit** the ball hard and is similar to the phrase 'smash', while a strike is another way of saying a **shot** and this has the meaning of having a lot of power, for example, we might hear the phrase 'a **fierce** strike'; a really hard shot. We have already mentioned that there was not much **room** for the Japanese player to score because he was on the right-hand side of the goal which means that the angle is quite narrow or tight – it's quite small. A tight angle, therefore, means that there is **not** a lot of space to aim at. So, the Japanese sub (or substitute), Asano, scored with a hard shot that beat the German goalkeeper at his **near** post even though there was very little room to do so. A fantastic goal to beat Germany.