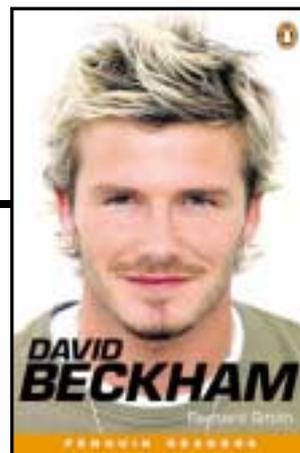


Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

David Beckham

by Bernard Smith



Summary

David Beckham was born in London in 1975 into a football-loving family. The young David was not very good at schoolwork and spent all his spare time playing football. He was encouraged by his father, who was a Manchester United fan, and joined Manchester United when he was 16. He played his first game for them a year later, and went on to help them win many trophies, including the European Champions Cup. He played his first game for England when he was 21. He was sent off against Argentina in a World Cup match, which England lost. This made Beckham very unpopular with England fans, but he showed great strength of character and they soon forgave him. When he was 25, he became the captain of England and scored the only goal when they beat Argentina in the 2002 World Cup match. One year later Manchester United sold him to Real Madrid, the best team in the world, for 25 million pounds! He is married to Victoria ('Posh Spice' of the famous pop group the Spice Girls) and they have become one of the most famous and glamorous couples in the world. David's name is always in newspapers and magazines, but never for bad behaviour. He is just an ordinary family man at heart, and a wonderful model for young people all over the world.

Fact File

Main Events

- 1991 Signs as a trainee for Manchester United
- 1992 Plays his first game for Manchester United against Brighton in the League Cup
- 1994 First goal for United, against Galatasaray in the Champions League
- 1995 Makes his league debut for Manchester United against Leeds
- 1996 Plays first game for England against Moldova
- 1999 March, first son (Brooklyn) born. July, marries Victoria Addams ('Posh Spice')
- 2000 Becomes captain of England
- 2002 Captains England to victory against Argentina in the World Cup. September, second son (Romeo) born.
- 2003 Joins Real Madrid for 25 million pounds.

Trophies and awards

- Manchester United win Premiership: 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003
- Manchester United win FA Cup: 1996, 1999
- Manchester United win UEFA Champions League: 1999
- Sky Sports Young Player of the Year: 1996
- Players Football Association Young Player of the Year: 1997

Voted second in World and European Player of the Year: 2000
Voted second in FIFA World Player of the Year: 2001

What people say about Beckham

'David Beckham is the best striker of a dead ball I've ever seen.'
Sir Alex Ferguson

'David brings intensity, that 90 minutes of complete concentration that characterizes English football. Others can learn from his sacrifice.' Carlos Queiroz, Real Madrid coach

What Beckham says about himself

'There's no bigger club in the world than Manchester United, so why should I want to leave?'

'For me, the best way to relax is to be with my family. Just a night with a video or maybe a Chinese takeaway helps you get away from it. I'm quite happy like that, just pottering around the house.'

'I've always dressed a bit weirdly; well, I've always tried to be different.'

Background and themes

Fame and stardom: David Beckham is not just a sports star. He has become an international icon, of great interest to the media and to people who don't even like football. He is, of course, a brilliant footballer. He is also good-looking, rich and married to a pop star. Some people think that he is boring. He never gets into trouble, never causes scandal and obviously adores his wife and children. So why are people so interested in him? Probably because his story offers hope to ordinary young people everywhere. It is possible for a 'nice' person to be a success in the modern cynical world without losing the sense of normality and modesty that made him popular in the first place.

Youth policy in football: After watching a young Manchester United team lose to Aston Villa in 1995, TV expert Alan Hansen said, 'You can't win anything with kids.' He was wrong. The United team that won six championships in the next eight seasons had six young players who had grown up together in the youth team – Beckham, Giggs, Scholes, Butt and the Neville brothers. It took Alex Ferguson, the manager, five years to develop his youth policy and to win his first trophy for United. Today's football clubs and supporters are less patient. They want immediate success. Teams like Real Madrid and Chelsea now buy all their players. Is a youth policy like the one at United a thing of the past or the way for the future?

Football and money: Beckham earns well over 100 thousand pounds a week at Real Madrid. Do footballers today earn too much money?



Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the reader and supplement those exercises. Further supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book can be found in the photocopiable Students' Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/group work questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- Put these words on the board: *advertisement beat captain competition fan goal referee score win*

Ask students to write sentences using these words. Ask students to read out their sentences and write the best ones on the board.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Pages 1–7

- Students work in a group of three and act out this conversation.

Student A: You are 11-year-old David. You want to enter a football competition for 15 year olds.

Student B: You are his father. You want David to go, but you think he is too young and small.

Student C: You are his teacher. You think he should spend less time on football and more on schoolwork.

Pages 8–14

- 1 Students work in groups of three and act out this conversation.

Student A: You are David. You don't know whether to leave Manchester United for Real Madrid.

Student B: You are Victoria. You want to live in Spain because you hate the wet weather in Manchester.

Student C: You are David's father. You support Manchester United and don't want David to leave.

- 2 Class discussion. Why did David go to Real Madrid, do you think? Will he be happy there?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Ask students to work in pairs and to write five questions they would like to ask David or another person in his life. Put the pairs together to make groups of four. Students imagine that they are David (or the other person in his life) and try to answer each other's questions.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before you read' sections at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

advertisement (n) a set of words or pictures in a newspaper or magazine that advertises a product

against (prep) competing with someone or something

ball (n) a round object that you kick or throw in a game

beat (v) to be more successful than other people in a game or competition

captain (n) someone who leads a team

card (n) a small piece of plastic or stiff paper that shows information about something

competition (n) an organised event in which people or teams try to beat each other

end (v/n) finish

fan (n) someone who likes a particular sport very much, or someone who admires a famous person

final (adj/n) the last and most important game in a competition

goal (n) in football, when you kick or head the ball into the other team's net to win a point

kick (v/n) to hit the ball with your foot

marry (v) to become someone's husband or wife

referee (n) someone who makes sure that the rules are followed during a sports game

score (v) to win points in a game or competition

shout (v) to say something very loudly

sing (v, past sang) to produce songs or musical sounds with your voice

star (n) a famous actor, singer or sports player

win (v, past won) to get the most points in a game or competition

world (n) the planet we live on, including all the people and countries

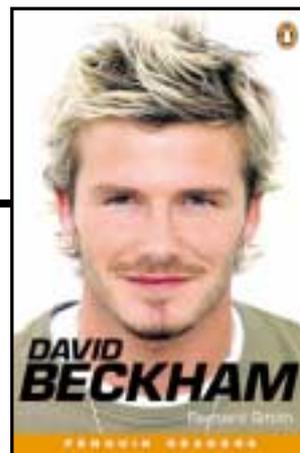


Penguin Readers Factsheets

Student's activities

David Beckham

by Bernard Smith



Level 1 – Beginner David Beckham Photocopiable

Students can do these activities alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- 1 What do you know about David Beckham? Write down five things about him. Talk in pairs about him.
- 2 Are these sentences right or wrong? Look at the pictures in the book and find out.
 - (a) David kicks the ball with his right foot.
 - (b) In the picture on page 3, David is on the left.
 - (c) David was fat when he was a boy.
 - (d) He was captain of England in 2000.
 - (e) A lot of French people are his fans.
 - (f) He scored two goals against Argentina.
 - (g) His wife's name is Brooklyn.
- 3 Look at the pictures in the book and answer these questions.
 - (a) In which picture(s) does David look happy? Why?
 - (b) In which picture(s) does David look unhappy? Why?
 - (c) Which picture of him do you like best? Why?

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

Pages 1–7

- 1 Put these sentences in the right order.
 - (a) David became the captain of England.
 - (b) England played Greece in the World Cup.
 - (c) David saw an advertisement on television.
 - (d) Manchester United won three big competitions.
 - (e) England played Argentina in France.
 - (f) David played for Manchester United against Brighton.
- 2 Make the sentences right.
 - (a) David wore the number 23 shirt for Manchester United.
 - (b) David scored England's first goal against Greece.
 - (c) David kicked a French player.
 - (d) David was sent off for the second time in 1998.
 - (e) David's family lived in Manchester.
 - (f) David went to a Manchester United football school after he left school.
 - (g) David played his first game for Manchester United when he was 16.
 - (h) David played his first game for England when he was 19.
 - (i) David's first game as England captain was against France.

Pages 8–14

- 1 Are these sentences right or wrong? Change the wrong sentences.
 - (a) David's wife is a film star.
 - (b) David first met Victoria after a football match.
 - (c) In 1997, David was more famous than Victoria.
 - (d) David didn't see Victoria for a year.
 - (e) David wasn't famous in Japan before the World Cup.
 - (f) David scored the winning goal against Argentina.
 - (g) Brazil beat England in the World Cup final.
 - (h) David makes more money than Victoria.
 - (i) David's father didn't want him to go to Real Madrid.
- 2 Complete each sentence with a word from the box. You will not use one of the words.

beat gave married met moved telephoned won

- (a) In 1999 David Victoria.
 - (b) David Victoria after a football game.
 - (c) David Victoria six times a day.
 - (d) Brazil the World Cup.
 - (e) David Brooklyn a football shirt for his birthday.
 - (f) In 2003 David to Spain.
- 3 What does David spend a lot of money on? Write 'Yes' or 'No' next to the words.
 - (a) his daughters
 - (b) clothes
 - (c) boats
 - (d) cars
 - (e) books by famous writers
 - (f) ill children
 - 4 Complete each sentence with a number.
 - (a) There were Spice Girls.
 - (b) After months Posh and Becks were in love.
 - (c) England played Argentina on th June 2002.
 - (d) England beat Argentina –0.
 - (e) David has children.
 - (f) David has Ferraris.
 - (g) David wears the number shirt at Real Madrid.



Penguin Readers Factsheets

Student's activities

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Talk about these questions in pairs.

- 1 Which of these words describe David?

*bad beautiful clever famous good happy
interesting important quiet strong*

- 2 Is David's life easy, do you think? What problems does a rich, famous sports star have?
- 3 Do you like David Beckham? Why or why not?



David Beckham joins Lunaz as an investor, a company who represent the very best of British technology and design through their classic car electrification. Discover more. 16th May 2021. In an industry first, Guild Esports launch their academy with access to training programmes, tournaments and gameplay analysis. Co-owner, David Beckham sits down with TN25 to discuss this exciting moment in Guild's journey. Explore the Guild Academy here: [Read more](#). 11th May 2021. David Robert Joseph Beckham OBE (UK: /ˈbɛkɛɪm/; born 2 May 1975) is an English former professional footballer, the current president & co-owner of Inter Miami CF and co-owner of Salford City. He played for Manchester United, Preston North End, Real Madrid, Milan, LA Galaxy, Paris Saint-Germain and the England national team, for which he held the appearance record for an outfield player until 2016. He is the first English player to win league titles in four countries: England, Spain, the United States David Robert Joseph Beckham is a former English professional football player. During his playing days, he became one of the most famous footballers in the world owing to his successful stints at some of the most famous clubs and also for his skills as a midfielder that elevated him above many of his contemporaries. Beckham started off as a footballer in his home town of London and played for some local clubs before he entered the training scheme for young players at Manchester United. David Beckham: biography. David Beckham is a former professional football player of English origin, played in the position of midfielder. During the sports biography he changed a number of football clubs: he played for such clubs as Manchester United, Preston North End, Real Madrid, Milan, Los Angeles Galaxy and Paris Saint-Germain. Also Beckham was one of the players who represented the colors of the England national team at international competitions.