

## The High Five (A2)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do people in your country usually do or say when they greet or congratulate someone?
2. Is the “high five” a popular gesture in your country?
3. How often do you use it? When? Who with?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The high five didn't exist 30 years ago.
2. Some say it originated during a baseball game between a New York team and a Houston team.
3. Dusty Baker hit Glenn Burke's open hand.
4. According to another version, it was first used by a basketball player.
5. Before the arrival of the high five, some African Americans greeted each other with a low five.
6. The noun 'high five' first appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1990.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What team did Dusty Baker play for?
2. What did he do to celebrate hitting a home run on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1977?
3. What explanation did he give for hitting Burke's hand?
4. How did the gesture spread all over the world?
5. Who was Lamont Sleets?
6. What was The Five?
7. Why did Lamont high five his teammates?
8. In which culture was the low five used in the 1920s?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. You don't need to \_\_\_\_\_. I can hear you. I'm not deaf.
2. I'm feeling a bit tired. Let's stop and have a coffee break. We can finish this job \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Luke \_\_\_\_\_ the tennis ball too hard and it went into the river.
4. After winning the football tournament, Abigail and her \_\_\_\_\_ had a pizza party to celebrate.
5. Listening to \_\_\_\_\_ music through headphones or earbuds can seriously damage your ears.
6. The shop assistant persuaded Mark to buy a new phone, \_\_\_\_\_ his old one was still working.

### E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Although the high five has now <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*became/become/begun*) a very popular way of greeting or congratulating somebody, many people still <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*make/do/get*) use of the more traditional method: shaking hands.

The handshake goes back at <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*last/less/least*) 3,000 years, to the time of the Babylonians and Assyrians. An open right hand was used by warriors to demonstrate to <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*one/every/each*) other that they were not carrying a weapon. Shaking a person's hand up and down was

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*either/also/too*) a way to check that there was <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*not/no/none*) knife or other weapon hidden up the person's sleeve.

**F – Check your pronunciation**

*One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?*

1. least   spread   team   each
2. home   although   coverage   open
3. realm   reach   believe   greeting
4. high   right   like   since
5. watch   common   low   often

**G – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. What other hand gestures are commonly used in your country?
2. What do they mean?
3. Are there any hand gestures that are used only in your country?
4. If so, which ones? Are there any hand emojis for them?

## **Answers**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – It didn't exist till about 40 years ago. 2. F – The baseball game was between a Los Angeles team and a Houston team. 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. F – It entered it in 1980.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. He played for the Los Angeles Dodgers. 2. He rushed towards his teammates. 3. He said it seemed like the thing to do. 4. It spread through the TV coverage of major sporting events. 5. He was a high-profile college basketball player. 6. It was the nickname of his father's unit during the Vietnam War. 7. He saw his father use a similar gesture when he met up with other veterans. Lamont liked the gesture, so he began to imitate it. 8. It was used as a greeting in the African-American jazz culture.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. yell 2. afterwards 3. hit 4. teammates 5. loud 6. although

### **E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?**

1. become 2. make 3. least 4. each 5. also 6. no

### **F – Check your pronunciation**

1. spread 2. coverage 3. realm 4. since 5. low