Asian Games play wrong anthem for Korea

LEVEL A2/B1

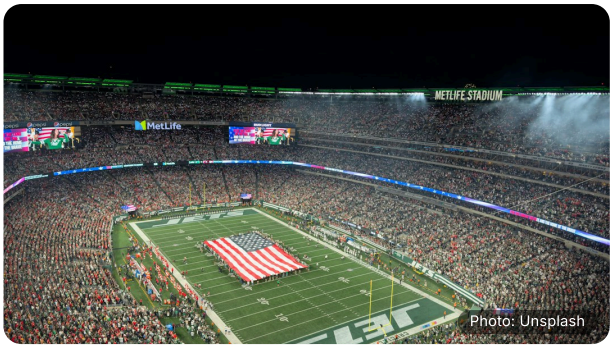


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. When do people play national anthems at events?
2. Have you ever seen a mistake at a sports game? What happened?
3. How should organisers fix a mistake during a match?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

organiser
a person or group that plans and runs an event

anthem
a country's official song played at special times

apologise
to say you are sorry for a mistake or problem

confused
not sure what is happening or what to do

announcer
a person who gives information to a crowd by microphone

protest
to say strongly that you disagree with something

ban
to say something is not allowed by law or rule

stranded
unable to leave a place because you have no way to travel

III. READING

At the Asian Games in Japan, organisers apologised after the wrong song was played for South Korea's men's hockey team. The North Korean national anthem was played by mistake, and the players looked confused. After the error, Bangladesh's anthem played, and then South Korea's real anthem.

A stadium announcer apologised for the mistake, and the team protested to staff, their coach Min Tae-seok said. Then the team thrashed Bangladesh 5-0. North Korea's anthem and other symbols are banned in South Korea. Before the Games, some teams complained about accommodation.

A South Korea basketball player posted a video of a leaking pipe and a soaked floor, saying "Please help me." Some teams were stranded at the airport for up to six hours. Field hockey runs until 3 October.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "North Korean anthem played for South Korea at...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did the mistake happen?
2. Which anthem was played for South Korea by mistake?
3. What was the score against Bangladesh?
4. What played after the error before South Korea's anthem?
5. Until when does field hockey run at the Games?

V. DISCUSSION

1. How would you feel if the wrong anthem was played for your country? Why?
2. Why are anthems and flags important at sports events?
3. What can organisers do to avoid mistakes like this?
4. Have you had travel or hotel problems at events? What happened?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Comparative adjectives

Use -er or more + adjective to compare two things. Use -er for short adjectives (smaller) and more + adjective for longer ones (more confused).

"Players looked **more confused** *than before."*
"My hotel room was **smaller** *than I expected."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

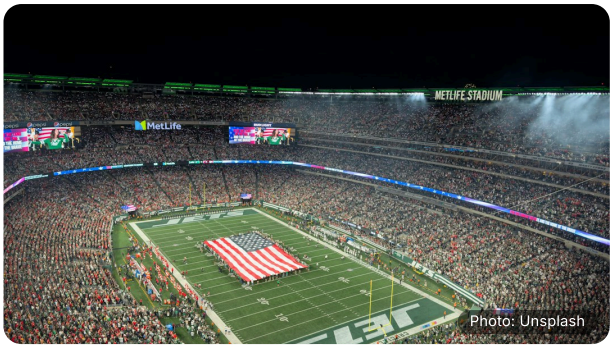
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Wet floors are (most dangerous / more dangerous) than dry ones. _____
2. The airport wait was (more tiring / most tiring) than usual. _____
3. A 5-0 win is (biggest / bigger) than a 2-1 win. _____
4. A six-hour wait is (longer / longest) than a film. _____
5. Saying sorry is (easiest / easier) than fixing a mistake. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.



I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8 minutes warm-up, 8-10 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 8 minutes comprehension, 10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach place and event words (anthem, organiser, announcer) and check the meaning of ban and protest with quick examples.
- Run a first silent read, then a second read for key facts (where, what, score, what happened after). Sensitive topic: the story includes national symbols; keep discussion on the event and sports protocol rather than wider politics.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the sequence of events in four short sentences; others use the timeline on the board (error → Bangladesh anthem → correct anthem → apology).

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Use think–pair–share; encourage emotion words (proud, angry, embarrassed) and one reason.
2. List reasons on the board (respect, identity, rules) and ask for one example per pair.
3. Have pairs create a 3-step checklist; combine lists on the board and compare ideas.
4. If students lack examples, allow imagined stories; prompt with past simple time words.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Role-play: In pairs, write and perform a 40-second stadium apology and team response about the anthem error.

Writing: Write a 70-word timeline of the incident using at least four time words (before, after, then, later).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Comparative adjectives

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.

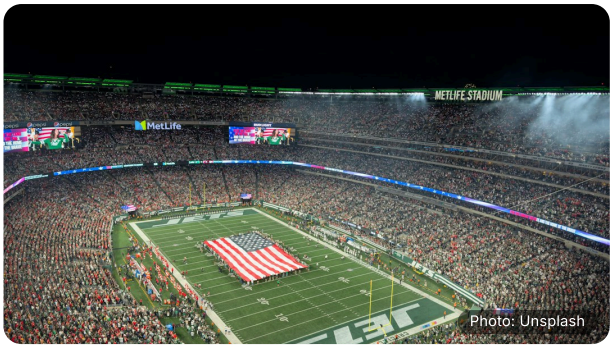


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did the mistake happen?
   At the Asian Games in Japan.
2. Which anthem was played for South Korea by mistake?
   The North Korean national anthem.
3. What was the score against Bangladesh?
   5-0 to South Korea.
4. What played after the error before South Korea's anthem?
   Bangladesh's national anthem.
5. Until when does field hockey run at the Games?
   Until 3 October.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Wet floors are (most dangerous / more dangerous) than dry ones. **more dangerous**
2. The airport wait was (more tiring / most tiring) than usual. **more tiring**
3. A 5-0 win is (biggest / bigger) than a 2-1 win. **bigger**
4. A six-hour wait is (longer / longest) than a film. **longer**
5. Saying sorry is (easiest / easier) than fixing a mistake. **easier**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use -er or more + adjective to compare two things. Use -er for short adjectives (smaller) and more + adjective for longer ones (more confused). (Examples constructed.)

> *"Players looked* **more confused** *than before."*
>
> *"My hotel room was* **smaller** *than I expected."*