Wales beat New Zealand after 73 years

LEVEL A2/B1

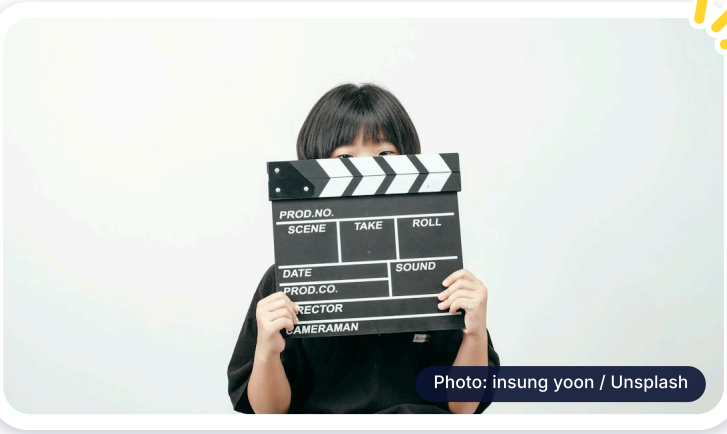


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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever watched a big match live or on TV? What was it like?
2. Do you support a team that was an underdog but surprised you?
3. What sport entrances or dances have you seen? What did you think?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

- **victory** — a win in a game or competition
- **underdog** — a team or person expected to lose
- **stadium** — a large place where sports are played and watched
- **haka** — a powerful Māori dance performed before some New Zealand games
- **coach** — the person who trains and leads a team
- **opponent** — the person or team you play against
- **score** — to get points or goals in a game
- **streak** — a run of wins or losses in a row

III. READING

Wales' men's rugby team beat New Zealand 35-28 at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. It was their first win over the All Blacks since 1953, ending a 34-match losing streak. The Nations Championship game began with the traditional New Zealand haka, chanted at their opponents in a spotlight.

Wales were the underdogs, but they scored five tries. Tomos Williams crossed in the first 90 seconds, and Dewi Lake added a second soon after, with Sam Costelow's conversion giving Wales a 14-0 lead. Archie Griffin, Eddie James, and Louis Rees-Zammit scored the other tries as New Zealand fought back.

Head coach Steve Tandy made history as the first Welsh coach to beat New Zealand. Earlier Welsh wins in 1905, 1935 and 1953 came before the team had a head coach. Fans in Cardiff celebrated a famous victory and shared their joy online.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **itv.com:** *"Wales beat New Zealand for first time in 73...". Original article linked at* theenglishwire.com.

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who did Wales beat in the match?
2. What was the final score?
3. Where was the game played?
4. How many tries did Wales score?
5. Which coach became the first Welsh coach to beat New Zealand?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you like to watch a big match in a stadium? Why or why not?
2. Which moment in sport gives you the most excitement? Why?
3. Do you enjoy pre-game traditions like the haka? Explain your view.
4. What helps an underdog team believe they can win?



VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Uncountable nouns

Some nouns are uncountable (no a/an, no -s): information, news, advice, water, time, equipment. In negatives/questions use much; in positive sentences use a lot of or some.

*"There isn't much **information** about the next game."*

*"Fans in Cardiff shared their **excitement** online."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Fans posted (much / a lot of) support online. _____
2. Is there (many / much) news about tickets? _____
3. Our class needs (some / an) equipment for rugby practice. _____
4. The team didn't have (many / much) time before kick-off. _____
5. Students brought (some water / a water) to the match. _____

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: 6–8 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 8–10 minutes reading, 8 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes discussion. If needed, fold the grammar focus into the reading/comprehension block.
- Pre-teach or quickly check: haka, underdog, streak, stadium. On the board, add All Blacks and Principality Stadium with a quick map point for Cardiff.
- Run the reading in pairs: A reads paragraph 1, B reads paragraph 2, then swap and whisper-summarise paragraph 3. Teen class tip: keep the focus on sport and team spirit; no real-life politics.
- Differentiation: Stronger students list two reasons Wales won from the text; others underline five rugby words (try, score, coach, opponents, victory) and explain them to a partner.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick show of hands, then pair students who disagree to share reasons.
2. If answers are vague, ask for a specific match, minute, or clip they remember.
3. Play a 20-second mime: one student shows a pre-game routine; partners describe and react.
4. Split the room: one side suggests mental skills, the other training habits; swap ideas.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Role-play: In pairs, act out a 60-second post-match interview: reporter and Welsh player.

Writing: Write an 80-word fan post describing one key moment from the 35-28 victory.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Uncountable nouns

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.



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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who did Wales beat in the match?
   New Zealand, also called the All Blacks.
2. What was the final score?
   35-28 to Wales.
3. Where was the game played?
   At the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.
4. How many tries did Wales score?
   Five tries.
5. Which coach became the first Welsh coach to beat New Zealand?
   Steve Tandy.

V. DISCUSSION

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

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Fans posted (much / a lot of) support online. **a lot of**
2. Is there (many / much) news about tickets? **much**
3. Our class needs (some / an) equipment for rugby practice. **some**
4. The team didn't have (many / much) time before kick-off. **much**
5. Students brought (some water / a water) to the match. **some water**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Some nouns are uncountable (no a/an, no -s): information, news, advice, water, time, equipment. In negatives/questions use much; in positive sentences use a lot of or some. (Examples constructed.)

"There isn't much **information** *about the next game."*

"Fans in Cardiff shared their **excitement** *online."*