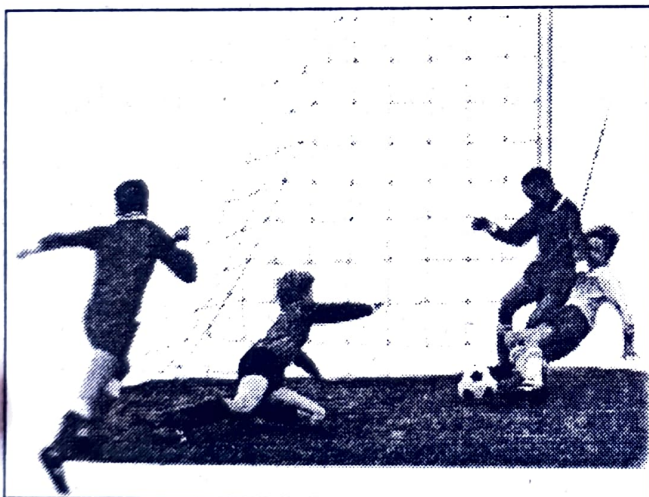


## Lesson 12

## The Black Pearl

It was 23 October 1940. A boy was born to a family in Tres Coracoes, Brazil that loved soccer. His father Dondinho was a professional soccer player and that was their only source of income. Though he grew up in poverty he learned to love and enjoy soccer in the sporty atmosphere of his home. Unfortunately, the boy's father Dondinho had to retire from playing soccer due to a knee injury. This incident worsened the financial support of the family. The poor young boy had to search for a way to get rid of poverty and he regarded soccer as the only way out.

He started playing soccer regularly. As he could not afford a proper football to play, he either used a sock stuffed with



newspapers, tied with a string or used a grapefruit. When he was not playing soccer he earned extra money by shining shoes at the Bauru Athletic Club on match days. He even formed a "Shoeless Team" with his street kids and participated in a youth tournament. During this time he was noticed by one of the

premier players of Brazil Waldemar de Brito. He called the boy to the youth squad of Baquinho managed by him and trained the boy. The boy was offered money for the first time to play soccer. In 1956, Brito took him to Santos Football Club and in front of the



directors of the club Brito commented, "This boy will be the greatest football player in the world."

Yes, Brito proved to be right. The young boy has become a legend and the best soccer player to ever play the game. He is none other than Pele. His full name is Edson Arantes Do Nascimento.

At the age of 15, he joined the Santos Club and remained as its member for almost twenty years. Pele went on to play in four World Cups and led the Brazilian National Team to three victories in 1958, 1962 and 1970. At the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, a seventeen years old Pele stunned the world scoring six goals. After the 1962 World Cup Pele was offered massive fees to play for the European Clubs. However, the government of Brazil declared Pele an official national treasure to prevent him from being transferred out of the country. In the 1970 World Cup final Pele scored Brazil's 100<sup>th</sup> World Cup goal. Remembering the goal he said, "I have a special feeling for that goal because I scored it with my head", he said, "My father was a soccer player and once scored five goals in a game, all with his head. That was one record I was never able to break."

In November 1969, Pele scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> goal in all competitions. The goal was popularly called *O Milesimo* meaning the thousandth. It occurred in a match against Vasco da Gama at the Maracana stadium. Pele scored it from a penalty kick. During his career Pele scored 1280 goals in 1363 matches. He holds the world record for hat tricks and the number of goals at the international level.

He took retirement from the game in 1974. But in the following year he signed a contract with the New York Cosmos for three years to play in the North American Soccer League (NASL). He led the Cosmos to the 1977 NASL championship in his third and final season with the club. His appearance in NASL made soccer popular among the Americans. Explaining why he had played in NASL after his retirement, Pele remarked that he did it not for money but to "make soccer truly popular in the United States."



On October 1, 1977 Pele's mission in the NASL came to an end. He ended his legendary career in an exhibition match between the Cosmos and Santos. The match was sold out six weeks beforehand and covered by 657 journalists and broadcast in 38 nations. In a speech to dignitaries, celebrities and more than 75,000 fans Pele urged his audience to pay attention to the children of the world. He asked the crowd to say the word 'love'



with him three times and the crowd followed. Then he went out and played the first half for the Cosmos and scored a goal and played the second half for Santos. After the match Pele was embraced by the players and then ran around the field holding an American flag in his left hand and the Brazilian flag in his right hand. On Pele's retirement, the then Brazil's ambassador to the UN said, "Pele had spent 22 years playing

soccer and in that time he has done more for goodwill and friendship than all of the ambassadors ever appointed."

Pele was a real athlete. He could play in any position on the field. He had a remarkable ability to anticipate other player's moves. He was blessed with great balance and the ability to shoot powerfully with either foot and with his head.

Pele was the 1978 recipient of the International Peace Award and in 1999 he was given the title of Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee. He was also officially declared Football Ambassador of the world by FIFA. Pele is also the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from BBC in 2005.

Pele excelled in other areas too apart from soccer. He published several bestselling autobiographies. Pele starred in several documentaries and composed numerous musical pieces, including the entire sound track for the film 'Pele'. Pele was very humane from the core of his heart and he had a soft corner for the

children. He did extensive work for the cause of the children through UNICEF. Pele was equally vocal for the cause of the poor and when he scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> goal, he dedicated it to the poor children of Brazil.

Pele is a person of dark complexion. But for his great accomplishment in soccer, people compare him to the valuable pearl. So, he is better known as the 'Black Pearl'. Pele, the national hero of Brazil, himself said, "It seems that God brought me to Earth with a mission to play soccer."

DAILY ASSAM

### Wordnote

soccer (n)	: football
stuffed (adj)	: full
squad (n)	: team
stunned (v)	: surprised, shocked
massive (adj)	: very large
legendary (adj)	: very famous and admired by people
dignitaries (n)	: people with important official positions
urged (v)	: advised somebody to do something
anticipate (v)	: to see what might happen in the future
humane (adj)	: kind and soft hearted
vocal (adj)	: telling people one's opinions confidently
recipient (n)	: a person who receives something
accomplishment (n)	: a skill or special ability



## EXERCISE

## Comprehension

1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences. 1×10=10
- a) How did Pele's father earn his livelihood ?
  - b) Why did Pele's father leave playing soccer ?
  - c) Who first offered Pele money to play soccer ?
  - d) What is the full name of Pele ?
  - e) When and where was Pele born ?
  - f) How many goals did Pele score during his career ?
  - g) When did Pele receive the International Peace Award ?
  - h) What is the meaning of 'O Miliesimo' ?
  - i) To whom did Pele dedicate his 1000<sup>th</sup> goal ?
  - j) What did Pele say about himself ?
2. Give brief answers to the following questions. 2×5=10
- a) What did Pele do when his father had to leave playing soccer ?
  - b) How did Pele remember Brazil's 100<sup>th</sup> World Cup goal scored in the 1970 World Cup ?
  - c) Why did Pele sign a contract with New York Cosmos to play NASL ?
  - d) What were the qualities of Pele as an athlete ?
  - e) Why do the people call Pele the 'Black Pearl' ?
3. What were the other activities that Pele did besides playing soccer ? 3
4. Describe the last match of Pele. 4
5. Write a note on Pele's childhood. 5

6. Write true or false.
- The name of Pele's father was Dondinho.
  - Pele belonged to a well-to-do family.
  - In 1969 Pele scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> goal.
  - Pele joined New York Cosmos for money.
  - In the last match Pele played for the Santos.

### Grammar and usage

[ **Prefix** and **Suffix** : Prefix is a letter or group of letters added in front of a word to change its meaning. For example, 'un' in 'unhappy', 'dis' in 'dislike' etc. Suffix is a letter or group of letters added at the end of a word to make another word. For example, '-ship' added to 'friend' makes 'friendship', '-er' added to 'work' makes 'worker'. Prefixation and Suffixation are two important methods of formation of new words in English language.]

7. Fill in the blanks adding the prefixes given in the box to the words in brackets.

super, multi, un, vice, in, trans, mis

- My sister was \_\_\_\_\_ (happy) to see the kitten suffering.
- He was the first \_\_\_\_\_ (chancellor) of this University.
- She is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ (coloured) dress.
- He is very \_\_\_\_\_ (attentive) in the class.
- The magician \_\_\_\_\_ (formed) the dog into a beautiful princess.
- Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ (understand) me.
- He behaves as if he were a \_\_\_\_\_ (man).



8. Add a suffix to the following words from the ones given in the box. Make the necessary spelling changes if needed. For example, beauty + ful=beautiful

-ment, -ful, -ness, -less, -ive,-ish, -y

Power\_\_\_\_\_, Excite\_\_\_\_\_, Air\_\_\_\_\_, Govern\_\_\_\_\_

Peace\_\_\_\_\_, Bright\_\_\_\_\_, Rust\_\_\_\_\_ Happy\_\_\_\_\_

Use\_\_\_\_\_, Meaning\_\_\_\_\_, Attract\_\_\_\_\_ Fool\_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary**

9. Listed in the table below are some words picked up from the lesson. Some are in their noun forms and the others are in their adjective forms. Complete the table with the words in required form.

Noun	Adjective
_____	Professional
Poverty	_____
_____	Sporty
Injury	_____
_____	Glorious
Excellence	_____
_____	Successful
Retirement	_____

10. Match the following.

Epilogue	extreme dry weather without any rainfall
Blasphemy	last part of a literary work
Drought	occurring after death
Sceptic	speaking one's thoughts aloud to oneself
Posthumous	notice of a person's death ,especially in a newspaper
Oratory	words uttered impiously about God

Pseudonym	person who doubts the truth of religious doctrine
Unanimous Soliloquy	art of speaking a fictitious name used by an author
Obituary	being all of one opinion

### Composition

11. Read the following information and write a biographical note within 50-75 words.

Name	: Naren Choudhury
Date of birth	: 15-02-1935
Place	: Lakhimpur
Educational qualification	: MA in Assamese Literature
Occupation	: Teaching & Writing
Publications	: Two novels, three collections of short stories, articles in magazines and newspapers and many story books for children
Award	: Recipient of many literary awards
Other Activities	: Social worker, editor of a local magazine
Family members	: Wife, two daughters and one son
Death	: 25-04-2007

DAILY ASSAM

### Spoken activity

12. Tell your friends about your favourite game and player.

### Note to the teacher

In this lesson emphasis should be given on the formation of new words transforming one word into different parts of speech. The use of prefixes and suffixes should be taught in detail. Moreover, at the end of the lesson, the students are expected to acquire the skill of writing biographical note.

