# Teachers’ Notes – Irish Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level:</th>
<th>C1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Topic:</td>
<td><strong>Irish Sports</strong> – How a growing number of hurling players are now emigrating and joining clubs in their new cities and towns all over the world.</td>
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<td>Author:</td>
<td>Aoife McLoughlin</td>
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<td>Lesson Aim:</td>
<td>To introduce students to the game of hurling, read an article adapted from <em>The Irish Times</em> and focus on key lexical items within the text. Students work together to deduce meaning from context and practice using in discussion.</td>
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<td>CEFR Student Learning Outcomes:</td>
<td><strong>Listening:</strong> I can understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract topics  <strong>Reading:</strong> I can scan relatively quickly through articles within my field of interests  <strong>Spoken Interaction:</strong> I can keep up with animated discussions on abstract and complex topics with a number of speakers and can participate effectively even when people start talking simultaneously.</td>
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<td>Lexical Aim:</td>
<td><strong>Lexical Items:</strong> To take a stab at, upbringing, key, pledged to tackle, decimating, to lament, influx of, flourishing, enriched by, turn up to, pastoral, prevalent.</td>
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<td>Interaction Patterns:</td>
<td>Pair work  Group work  Whole class</td>
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<td>Preparation:</td>
<td>Wi Fi connection for two YouTube clips</td>
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<td>Task Time:</td>
<td>90 mins</td>
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**Procedure**

**Handout One:**
Draw students’ attention to the picture beneath the ‘Fancy a game?’ question. Give students two minutes with their partners to discuss the following two questions:

**What game is it?** *Hurling, an ancient Irish sport which is still hugely popular today.*  
**Would you like to play it?** Get reasons why/why not from the group.

In small groups, students now discuss the five questions. Discourage use of dictionaries – students should work together to deduce meaning from context.

Now ask students if they would like to see this game. Play the following YouTube clip.

**Best of Hurling – YouTube Clip**  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2841QYpAQO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2841QYpAQO)

Back in their groups, students give their opinions on this sport and whether they would now like to play it. Ask them to discuss what they THINK the rules of the game are. **How do you score? How do you play?** You can visit the following website for the rules of the game before the class.

**Rules of Hurling:**  

**Handout Two:**
Students are now going to read an adapted article from The Irish Times.

*Article adapted from The Irish Times, April 27th 2012. Read original version here:*  

Again, discourage use of dictionaries. There are some challenging lexical items here; students must now explain two words that they know to their partners.

**Handout Three:**
Students now match the vocabulary to the definitions given, again with their partners. This should be easier now that they have had time to discuss and work out the meaning for themselves.

Students now answer the four questions together, giving their opinions on each one. Get feedback.
Procedure

Handout Four:

YouTube Clip: ‘Home From Home’
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyy90ueUPyQ

Play first time:
Discourage note-taking. Ask students to listen and discuss with partner what information they heard.

Play second time:
Students answer the two questions and discuss with their partners

Play third time:
Students read along and complete the text with the words they hear. What do they understand by these words? Can they explain them to their partners?

Transcript:
There was a time in the not too distant past when it seemed like emigration from Ireland was largely confined to the history books. The economic woes of recent years have seen a new and very different breed of immigrant emerge. Better educated, better travelled and better paid. This generation has taken a new version of Irishness with them on their travels.

Win every game with style, win every game with class. The gameplan; stick to the gameplan. But running in tandem with the rapid growth of the GAA on foreign soil is the increasingly important role played by second- and third-generation Irish. The sons and daughters of immigrants from decades past have taken on the battle. For this generation, Gaelic football, Camogie and hurling are far more than just a game; they are a form of identity and a strong connection to what many see as their spiritual home.

In small groups, students answer the last question and give feedback to the class.