

ESL News Stories

A growing library of level-graded English lessons for classroom or self-study, with reading, listening, vocabulary, activities, and discussion practice from A1 to B2.

Lesson Info

Post Type	Level
Article	Level 3 / B1
Published	Title
Jun 14, 2026	Knicks Win NBA Championship
Webpage	
https://eslnewsstories.com/articles/2026-06-14-knicks-win-nba-championship/	

In this lesson:

Warm-up | Prediction task and general discussion questions.

Vocab List | Useful words and meanings.

Reading | Read the main text.

Listen and Fill Gaps | Listen for missing words.

Main Idea | Choose the overall message of the text.

True or False | Check understanding.

Put Events in Order | Arrange events from the story into the order they happened.

Multiple Choice | Check understanding.

Words That Go Together | Connect words and collocated phrases from the lesson.

Discussion Builder | Think about how ideas relate to each other to choose connecting expressions.

Sentence Unscramble | Reorder mixed phrases into correct sentences.

Discussion Questions | Open speaking questions for discussion (or writing practice).

Answers | Answer key for the printed tasks.

KNICKS WIN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Think Ahead: What do you think happened after the Knicks won?

- a) The two teams had a fight.
- b) Fans celebrated in New York.
- c) The city canceled all celebrations.



The New York Knicks.

Ask: (1) Do you enjoy playing or watching basketball? (2) Which sports teams are popular where you live?

VOCAB LIST

championship (n.) — The final win or title in a sports competition.

celebration (n.) — A happy event or action for something good.

crowd (n.) — A large group of people in one place.

victory (n.) — A win in a game, fight, or competition.

decade (n.) — A period of ten years.

disappointment (n.) — A sad feeling when something is not as good as hoped.

heartbreak (n.) — A very sad feeling after something bad or disappointing happens.

arena (n.) — A large building or place for sports or shows.

ticker-tape parade (n.) — A big public parade to celebrate an important person, team, or event.

near miss (n.) — A time when someone almost succeeds but does not.

KNICKS WIN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

New York Knicks fans waited more than 50 years for this moment. On Saturday night, the Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 and won their first NBA championship since 1973.

The game was played in San Antonio, Texas, but the streets of New York were full of celebration too. Crowds filled parts of Manhattan, including areas near Times Square. Fans shouted, hugged, and celebrated late into the night.

Some Knicks fans even traveled to Texas to see the game in person. Elizabeth Madigan flew from New York to San Antonio before the game. She said she had waited almost her whole life for the Knicks to win again. "Knicks forever," she said after the victory.

The win ended decades of disappointment for the team. The Knicks had not reached the NBA Finals since 1999. That year, they also played the Spurs, but they lost. This time, they finished the job.

For many fans, it did not matter that the Knicks won away from Madison Square Garden, their famous home arena. New York was still full of excitement.

The city will hold a ticker-tape parade and a ceremony at City Hall to celebrate the championship. The mayor also asked fans to enjoy the night safely. After years of near misses and heartbreak, Knicks fans finally have another championship.

AUDIO

1. LISTEN AND FILL GAPS

Listen to the audio on eslnewsstories.com and complete the gaps below:

New York Knicks fans waited more than 50 years for this moment. On Saturday night, the Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 and won their first NBA (1) _____ since 1973.

The game was played in San Antonio, Texas, but the streets of New York were full of (2) _____ too. Crowds filled parts of Manhattan, including areas near Times Square. Fans shouted, hugged, and celebrated late into the night.

Some Knicks fans even traveled to Texas to see the game in person. Elizabeth Madigan flew from New York to San Antonio before the game. She said she had waited almost her whole life for the Knicks to win again. "Knicks forever," she said after the (3) _____.

The win ended decades of (4) _____ for the team. The Knicks had not reached the NBA Finals since 1999. That year, they also played the Spurs, but they lost. This time, they finished the job.

For many fans, it did not matter that the Knicks won away from Madison Square Garden, their famous home (5) _____. New York was still full of excitement.

The city will hold a ticker-tape (6) _____ and a ceremony at City Hall to celebrate the championship. The mayor also asked fans to enjoy the night safely. After years of near misses and heartbreak, Knicks fans finally have another championship.

UNDERSTANDING

2. MAIN IDEA

Choose one:

- A famous basketball team won an important game away from its home arena.
- New York fans showed their strong support for a team after many difficult years.
- The Knicks won a long-awaited championship, and fans celebrated across New York.

3. TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Knicks won their first NBA championship since 1985. TRUE FALSE
2. The championship game was played in New York. TRUE FALSE
3. Some Knicks fans traveled to Texas to watch the game. TRUE FALSE
4. The Knicks had reached the NBA Finals every year since 1999. TRUE FALSE

4. PUT EVENTS IN ORDER

Put the events from the story in the correct order from first (1) to last (5):

- ___ The Knicks beat the Spurs 94-90 in San Antonio.
- ___ The Knicks last won an NBA championship in 1973.
- ___ The city planned a parade and a ceremony at City Hall.
- ___ The Knicks reached the NBA Finals in 1999 but lost to the Spurs.
- ___ Fans celebrated in New York late into the night.

5. MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What was special about the Knicks' win?
 - a) It was their first NBA championship since 1973.
 - b) It was their first game in San Antonio.
 - c) It was their first season in New York.
 - d) It was their first win against any team.
2. Where did crowds celebrate in New York?
 - a) Only inside Madison Square Garden
 - b) In parts of Manhattan, including near Times Square
 - c) Only at City Hall after the ceremony
 - d) At the airport before the team flew home
3. What happened when the Knicks played the Spurs in the 1999 NBA Finals?
 - a) The Knicks won the championship.
 - b) The game was canceled.
 - c) The Knicks lost.
 - d) The teams played in Times Square.
4. How will the city celebrate the championship?
 - a) By moving the next game to Texas
 - b) By closing Madison Square Garden
 - c) By asking fans to stay home and practice
 - d) By holding a parade and a ceremony

LANGUAGE

6. WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

Match each word with the words it goes with:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Win | a) _____ the night safely |
| 2. Fill | b) _____ a ticker-tape parade |
| 3. End | c) _____ the NBA Finals |
| 4. Reach | d) _____ decades of disappointment |
| 5. Hold | e) _____ parts of Manhattan |
| 6. Enjoy | f) _____ an NBA championship |

USE IT

7. DISCUSSION BUILDER

Choose the best phrase for each gap:

1. I would travel for a big game _____ it might be a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

and / because / but / so

2. Watching at home is more comfortable, _____ I like watching in comfort.

so / and / but / because

3. _____ parades are fun.

To me, / Also, / Because of that, / For example,

8. SENTENCE UNSCRAMBLE

1. _____

A. I think B. to the team C. her comment D. shows E. she stayed loyal F. for years.

2. _____

A. people should B. feel unsafe. C. if things D. friends E. In a large crowd, F. stay with
G. and H. leave

3. _____

A. part of B. People stay loyal C. one team D. because E. who they are. F. can feel like

9. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Elizabeth Madigan's comment show about Knicks fans?
2. Some fans traveled to San Antonio for the game. Would you travel to see your team play in a different city? Why or why not?
3. Which do you prefer, watching a game at an arena or watching with friends at home?
4. What are some safe ways to celebrate in a large crowd?
5. Why do cities hold parades after big sports wins?
6. Which feels better: finally winning after a long wait, or supporting a team that usually wins?
7. Why do people stay loyal to a team for many years, even when that team keeps losing?
8. New York is a big, rich city. Why don't its sports teams win more often?

ANSWERS · Knicks Win NBA Championship / Level 3

Think Ahead: b

Listening: (1) championship, (2) celebration, (3) victory, (4) disappointment, (5) arena, (6) parade

Main Idea: The Knicks won a long-awaited championship, and fans celebrated across New York.

True or False:

1. False. The first paragraph says the Knicks won their first NBA championship since 1973.
2. False. The second paragraph says the game was played in San Antonio, Texas.
3. True. The third paragraph says some Knicks fans traveled to Texas to see the game in person.
4. False. The fourth paragraph says the Knicks had not reached the NBA Finals since 1999.

Multiple Choice: a, b, c, d

Put Events in Order:

1. The Knicks last won an NBA championship in 1973.
2. The Knicks reached the NBA Finals in 1999 but lost to the Spurs.
3. The Knicks beat the Spurs 94-90 in San Antonio.
4. Fans celebrated in New York late into the night.
5. The city planned a parade and a ceremony at City Hall.

Vocabulary:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Win: an NBA championship | 4. Reach: the NBA Finals |
| 2. Fill: parts of Manhattan | 5. Hold: a ticker-tape parade |
| 3. End: decades of disappointment | 6. Enjoy: the night safely |

Discussion Builder:

Hints: 1) Reason. 2) Contrast. 3) Opinion.

1. because
2. and
3. To me,

Sentence Unscramble:

1. I think her comment shows she stayed loyal to the team for years.
2. In a large crowd, people should stay with friends and leave if things feel unsafe.
3. People stay loyal because one team can feel like part of who they are.

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