

Easy English Stories – Episode 29: Max Plays Soccer

Target Level: Move 1 and up

Grammar: **Can / Can't** for ability (e.g., *He can run. He can't kick far. Can he pass the ball?*)

Vocabulary: attack, coach, far, field, kick, pass, referee, soccer, soccer fans, team, trophy, watch, World Cup

Functions: Talking about abilities

INTRODUCTION

C.S.: Hello, boys and girls! Welcome to Easy English Stories.

Echo: Captain Story, look! I have a ball.

C.S.: A soccer ball? Do you play soccer, Echo?

Echo: Yes! I can kick the ball very far. Watch.

(Sound of a kick, then crash, smash, shatter)

C.S.: Echo! That was the TV, the mirror, and the window!

Echo: It is called a hat trick!

C.S.: It is called paying a lot of money for the TV and the window. Oh boy, look at the mirror.

Echo: Are we having seven years of bad luck?

C.S.: Echo, we don't need seven years of bad luck.

Echo: Why?

C.S.: Er... Let's listen to today's story.

MAIN STORY: Max Plays Soccer

C.S.: Max loves soccer. He watches every game. He knows every player. But Max has a problem. **He can't run fast. He can't kick far.**

Echo: I can kick far.

C.S.: **Yes, you can.** One night, the World Cup is on TV. Max and his friends watch together. Their favorite team is playing. A player scores a goal. Everyone is happy.

"He is the best!" his friends shout.

Max points at the TV. "The ball was in front of him. It was easy."

His friends shake their heads. "You don't know soccer, Max."

The next day, Max has a big game. His team plays against a very strong team.

Max is nervous. The other team is very strong. **They can run fast.**

Echo: They can run fast.

C.S.: They can kick far.

Echo: They can kick far.

C.S.: Max looks at his coach.

The coach smiles. "Max, you don't need to be fast. **You can stand** in the right place. And **you can pass** the ball."

The game starts. The other team attacks. A fast player runs to the goal. **Max can't catch him.** But Max is in the right place. He stops the ball. He looks up. He sees Leo all the way down the field.

Max passes the ball. A long pass. The ball goes far. Leo gets it. Leo kicks it. It is a GOAL!

The game goes on. The other team attacks again. Again, Max is in the right place. He stops the ball. He passes to Leo. Leo scores again. The final score is 2 to 0. They win!

The fans are happy. "Leo! Leo! Leo is the hero!" they shout.

Max smiles. He is happy. **He can play soccer.**

That night, the World Cup is on TV again. Max and his friends watch the next game. A player scores a beautiful goal.

Reporter: Yes! He is around the last defender, under his right foot. Yay! It's a Gooooooooaaaaal!

C.S.: Everyone shouts, "He is the best player in the world!"

Max is watching. He is quiet. Then he says, "Number 5 is the best."

His friends look at him. "Number 5? But he didn't score."

Max points. "Look. He stopped the ball. Then he passed it all the way across the field. He started the first goal. And he started the second goal. Number 5 started the goals."

Everyone stops. They watch the replay. Max is right. Number 5 made both goals happen. Nobody saw it. The room is quiet. Then one friend says, "Max... you are really good at soccer."

PRACTICE

C.S.: Let's practice! Please repeat after us!

C.S.: I can play soccer.

Echo: I can play soccer.

C.S.: He can run fast.

Echo: He can run fast.

C.S.: He can't kick far.

Echo: He can't kick far.

C.S.: He can pass the ball.

Echo: He can pass the ball.

C.S.: Can you see the pass?

Echo: Can you see the pass?

Q&A + Fun Fact

C.S.: Now it's time for your emails! Let's see what you sent us.

Our first email is from Diego. He asks, "Captain Story, why does the referee have a whistle?"

Great question, Diego! The referee has a whistle because shouting "Stop that!" for 90 minutes hurts the throat.

Our next email is from Yara. She is a football player. Yara asks, "Captain Story, how can I stop being so hot in the game?"

Good question, Yara! Try playing near the fans.

And our last email is from Nico. He writes, "Captain Story, I really don't like to play soccer. Which position should I play? Center back or forward?"

Try right back, Nico! You should go right back to the locker room.

Echo, do you have a fun fact?

Echo: Yes! Did you know that the World Cup trophy is made of gold, and is more than 6 kilograms?

C.S.: More than 6 kilograms! That's heavier than a big cat!

Echo: Yes!

C.S.: Well, boys and girls! That's all for today. See you next week with another story.

Echo: Goodbye! Let's play soccer in the living room.

C.S.: No.

Echo: Yes.

C.S.: No.

Echo: Yes.

WORDS FROM THE STORY

attack

(in soccer) going forward to the other team's goal to try and score



coach

the person who teaches and helps the team

far

not near; a long distance away

kick

to hit the ball with your foot

referee

the person who tells players to play the right way



trophy

a prize for winning

fans

people who love to watch and cheer for a team

whistle

a small tool the referee blows into to start or stop the game

