

Name:

## Day Two

# Derrick Jackson's Problem

## Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- and may not even get a diploma in return
  - Jackson writes about these teams' graduation rates
  - often feel more pressure to play than to pass their courses
  - but colleges don't prepare them for life after sports
  - But rates are improving at some football powerhouses
  - He wants fans to know that the people most responsible for the big games
- 
- diploma                      dih | **PLOH** | muh
  - columnist                      **KOL** | um | nist
  - graduation                      grad | joo | **AY** | shun
  - pressure                        **PREH** | shur
  - especially                      eh | **SPEH** | shuh | lee
  - exploit                         ek | **SPLOYT**
  - offenders                      uh | **FEN** | derz



### Decoding practice:

Circle the base word in the adjectives and nouns below. Underline the suffix—the suffix comes after the base word. The first one is done for you.

heroic

graduation

hazardous

wealthy

valuable

offenders



## Day Two

// one minute

# Derrick Jackson's Problem

### Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

Millions of people love watching college football and basketball on TV. They see heroic players who can dunk, dodge tackles, and sink three-pointers. Derrick Jackson sees something else. He sees a tragedy. He sees young men who make millions of dollars for other people, and may not even get a diploma in return.

Derrick Jackson is a columnist for the Boston Globe. Each year, powerful teams play big games. Each year, Jackson writes about these teams' graduation rates. He says that players "often feel more pressure to play than to pass their courses." He says that this is especially hazardous for Black players.

Jackson believes wealthy colleges exploit Black athletes. Their talent is valuable, but colleges don't prepare them for life after sports. Coaches push athletes for big wins, not good grades. "Head coaches now make an average of \$1 million," Jackson points out, "and not for graduating players."

Often, the best teams are the worst offenders. In 2007, fewer than half of the Black players on the college championship teams ended up graduating. But rates are improving at some football powerhouses. In 2017, both championship teams had improved graduation rates. At Clemson, 79 percent of Black football players are now getting college diplomas, and at Alabama, the rate is 81 percent. But Derrick Jackson keeps writing his columns. He wants fans to know that the people most responsible for the big games—the players—may walk away with nothing.

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Do you agree with Derrick Jackson that colleges exploit Black athletes? Why or why not?

Check in with your partner. Does your partner think that colleges exploit Black athletes? Write your partner's ideas.