

Name:

Day One

Paul Pierce Steps Up

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about Paul Pierce’s best season. Read silently.

For many years, Paul Pierce was the best player on the Boston Celtics. He was a six-time NBA All-Star and often scored over 30 points a game. He was Boston’s biggest offensive threat. But during the 2007 off-season, the Celtics acquired two new players: Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett. Paul Pierce knew that during the 2007–2008 season, things would be different.

Pierce had played with Allen and Garnett in NBA All-Star games. In Pierce’s nine years with the Celtics, the team had never won an NBA championship. With the new players’ involvement, Pierce thought this might be the year. He wanted to be ready.

As a pro, Pierce had gained some extra weight. With Allen and Garnett to help out on offense, he wanted to be ready to play great defense. He got into better shape. He got slimmer and quicker. He came to Boston in the off-season for extra practices. He wanted to make a connection with the two new Celtics, to build on-court chemistry. “With our abilities, with our unselfishness and the way we play, it’s going to come together faster than people think,” he said.

Pierce was right. The Celtics had an impressive season and won the NBA championship. The final game, Game 6, was played in front of 18,000 joyful Celtics fans. Pierce was named the NBA Finals’ Most Valuable Player.



Day One

// one minute

Paul Pierce Steps Up

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Pierce had played with Allen and Garnett in NBA All-Star games. In Pierce’s nine years 79 with the Celtics, the team had never won an NBA championship. With the new players’ 94 involvement, Pierce thought this might be the year. He wanted to be ready. 107

As a pro, Pierce had gained some extra weight. With Allen and Garnett to help out on 124 offense, he wanted to be ready to play great defense. He got into better shape. He got 141 slimmer and quicker. He came to Boston in the off-season for extra practices. He wanted 157 to make a connection with the two new Celtics, to build on-court chemistry. “With our 173 abilities, with our unselfishness and the way we play, it’s going to come together faster 188 than people think,” he said. 193

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did Pierce think 2007–2008 would be a good season?

How did Pierce get ready for the 2007–2008 season?

Day One

Paul Pierce Steps Up

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

For many years, / Paul Pierce was the best player / on the Boston Celtics. // He was a six-time NBA All-Star / and often scored over 30 points a game. // He was Boston's biggest offensive threat. // But during the 2007 off-season, / the Celtics acquired two new players: / Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett. // Paul Pierce knew that during the 2007–2008 season, / things would be different. //

Pierce had played with Allen and Garnett / in NBA All-Star games. // In Pierce's nine years with the Celtics, / the team had never won an NBA championship. // With the new players' involvement, / Pierce thought this might be the year. // He wanted to be ready. //

As a pro, / Pierce had gained some extra weight. // With Allen and Garnett to help out on offense, / he wanted to be ready to play great defense. // He got into better shape. // He got slimmer and quicker. // He came to Boston in the off-season / for extra practices. // He wanted to make a connection / with the two new Celtics, / to build on-court chemistry. // "With our abilities, / with our unselfishness and the way we play, / it's going to come together faster than people think," / he said. //

Pierce was right. // The Celtics had an impressive season / and won the NBA championship. // The final game, / Game 6, / was played in front of 18,000 joyful Celtics fans. // Pierce was named the NBA Finals' Most Valuable Player. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.