

Name:

## Day Two

# Back in the Game: The New York Knicks

## Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



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

- the Knicks would plummet to the bottom of the league rankings
- They signed one high-priced player after another
- the Knicks lost two out of every three games
- a trade from the Denver Nuggets gave fans hope
- Some fans feared Anthony would leave New York

- Ewing                      **YOO** | ing
- struggled                 **STRUH** | guhld
- signed                      **SYND**
- embarrassing            em | **BAIR** | es | ing
- Carmelo                    kar | **MEL** | oh
- Anthony                    **AN** | thuh | nee



### Decoding practice:

We break words into syllables between double consonants in the middle of words.

- Underline the double consonants
- Draw a line between the double consonants
- Put a short vowel sign <sup>˘</sup> over the first vowel
- Say the word with your partner

The first one is done for you.

w<sup>˘</sup>innning

plummet

bottom

Nuggets

struggled

comment



## Day Two

// one minute

# Back in the Game: The New York Knicks

### Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Knicks are a basketball team with a winning history. They won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973. The team was home to Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing, who played for the Knicks from 1985–2000. After Ewing left the team, however, the Knicks would plummet to the bottom of the league rankings. For almost ten years, they were one of the worst teams in the NBA.

From 2001 to 2010, the Knicks struggled. They hired and fired different coaches, trying to find a good fit. They signed one high-priced player after another. Still, they could not consistently win. During the 2007–2008 season, the Knicks lost two out of every three games. They lost one embarrassing game against the Celtics by 45 points. Could anyone save the Knicks?

In 2010, things began to look better. The Knicks signed some top players. They played some aggressive games. But they needed a big star. On February 22, 2011, a trade from the Denver Nuggets gave fans hope. Carmelo Anthony became a Knick.

Anthony was a star. The team, however, was only so-so. Some fans feared Anthony would leave New York unless the Knicks won a championship. Anthony commented to *ESPN*: “I’m not going to put that pressure on myself or our guys to say that it’s championship or bust.” In the end, however, Anthony gave up on the Knicks. He left New York for a team with a better shot at winning.

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

The Knicks are underdogs who keep hoping to turn things around. When you watch sports, do you usually cheer for the favorite or the underdog? Why?

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Share your answer with your partner. Who does your partner usually cheer for?

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