

Name:

Day One

What the President Plays

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out how basketball played a role for former President Obama. Read silently.

Americans like knowing about the day-to-day lives of their presidents. We like knowing about their pets. We like knowing about their hobbies. And we like knowing about their favorite sports. Former President Obama always enjoyed basketball.

Obama was a standout high school player. He loved the game. “He’d be the first one to practice,” said his coach. “After practice, he’d go to the park and play more.”

When he was a young law student, Obama began dating an officemate named Michelle. Her brother, Craig, was a topnotch basketball player. Michelle asked Craig to play one-on-one with the new young man in her life. Craig did as she asked. He was impressed. He told Michelle that Obama knew how to handle himself on the court. He played hard but clean. Three years later, Barack Obama and Michelle were married.

Basketball was a highlight of Obama’s campaign for the White House. During the 2008 primaries, he had a good-luck ritual. Each day a vote was held, he played a basketball game with friends. He kept the ritual going on Election Day in both 2008 and 2012.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was one of the players in the 2012 Election Day game. He said Obama was glad to be on the court. “He was cracking jokes and talking trash and having a good time,” Duncan told *USA Today*. The basketball ritual brought good luck once again. Later that night, Obama won a second term in the White House.



Day One

// one minute

What the President Plays

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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67

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95
113
129
138

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169
184

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218
233
246

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What kind of basketball player is Obama?

What did Obama do for good luck?

Day One

What the President Plays

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.

Americans like knowing / about the day-to-day lives of their presidents. // We like knowing about their pets. // We like knowing about their hobbies. // And we like knowing about their favorite sports. // Former President Obama always enjoyed basketball. //

Obama was a standout high school player. // He loved the game. // “He’d be the first one to practice,” / said his coach. // “After practice, / he’d go to the park / and play more.” //

When he was a young law student, / Obama began dating an officemate named Michelle. // Her brother, / Craig, / was a topnotch basketball player. // Michelle asked Craig to play one-on-one / with the new young man in her life. // Craig did as she asked. // He was impressed. // He told Michelle / that Obama knew how to handle himself on the court. // He played hard but clean. // Three years later, / Barack Obama and Michelle were married. //

Basketball was a highlight / of Obama’s campaign for the White House. // During the 2008 primaries, / he had a good-luck ritual. // Each day a vote was held, / he played a basketball game with friends. // He kept the ritual going on Election Day / in both 2008 and 2012. //

Arne Duncan was one of the players / in the 2012 Election Day game. // He said Obama was glad to be on the court. // “He was cracking jokes / and talking trash / and having a good time,” / Duncan told *USA Today*. // The basketball ritual brought good luck once again. // Later that night, / Obama won a second term in the White House. //

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