

## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

### THE GREAT RACE

**Determination:** noun. When someone continues trying to do something although it is very difficult.

#### HOT TOPICS

(Each person chooses one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. Next Tuesday is Melbourne Cup Day. The Melbourne Cup is an endurance horse race. It is 3200m or 2 miles long. To be successful the horses have to be very fit. The horse that runs with the greatest determination wins.
2. Many people gamble on horse racing. Next week millions of dollars will be spent on this race. Is gambling in your country legal or illegal? Do you agree with your country's laws about gambling? Why or why not?
3. What kind of things do people in your country bet on? E.g. horse racing, soccer matches...
4. The Melbourne Cup is a handicap race. This means the faster horses have to carry extra weight, to give the other horses a chance of winning. Do you think this is fair?

Today's story is about another race, the Race of Life. We need to run it with determination. Here is a reading from the Bible (Hebrews 12:1-3). It was written to Christians who were facing persecution around 2000 years ago:

**"Let us get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!"**

#### Discussion

1. In this Bible reading, it says, "we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go." The Melbourne Cup horses have weights to slow them down. What are the weights in your life now? Write down a short list of the things that are slowing you down now, and then share with a partner.
2. What is the race you are running now? (E.g. becoming a good English speaker in 6 months). Are you running with determination or do you want to give up? (*discuss in groups of three*)
3. What does it mean, "We must keep our eyes on Jesus?" Who do you keep your eyes on to help you run your race?"

#### Vocabulary

**Gamble or bet:** to put money on the result of a game, race or competition

**Legal:** Allowed by law (opposite: illegal)

**Sin:** breaking the law of God; wrongdoing

**Throne:** a special chair that royalty sit on

**Insults:** say or do something to hurt somebody

**Discouraged:** to feel down, lose heart to feel sad.

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