

Unit 10 Reading

Hakoah Athletes: From Strength to Victory

<Historical Nonfiction>

By the mid-1930s, while swimmer Judith Deutsch was still an Austrian teenager, the **sinuous** freestyle form that she brought to competition had enabled her to claim every women's middle- and long-distance record in her country. She was awarded Austria's prestigious Golden Badge of Honor in 1936. It was not a surprise, then, when Deutsch was chosen to represent her nation in that year's Summer Olympics in Berlin; the surprise was that Deutsch refused to compete at those games. The **allure** of Olympic gold had a less powerful hold on her than the Jewish athlete's moral convictions. "I refuse to enter a contest in a land which so shamefully persecutes my people," she stated, publicly protesting the German Nazis' politics of hatred.

The pressure on the 17-year-old swimmer was enormous, but Deutsch refused to **acquiesce**. Calm and displaying a **sonorous** dignity when she spoke, she stood firm in her protest against the treatment of Jews by Germany's new fuhrer, Adolph Hitler, thus infuriating the Nazis allied with Germany. In **retribution**, the Austrian government banished Deutsch from all competition. Soon, the Austrian authorities expunged her many victories from their record books as well. In an abhorrent time, hers was a righteous human act.

To those who believe there's no education like adversity, it would seem fitting that Deutsch got her athletic training from an organization founded as a bulwark against prejudice. Hakoah was a Jewish sports club started in Vienna in 1909, a time of **contentious** Aryan Laws that barred organizations from including Jewish participants. The founders of Hakoah were **exponents** of political views **professed** by the Hungarian social critic Max Nordau. He believed that "muscular Judaism" was a way to challenge the widely held image of the intellectual but physically weak Jew. The name chosen for the sports organization, Hakoah, was thus no **misnomer**. The word means "strength." Hakoah encouraged its members to train vigorously in

order to demolish this damaging stereotype. Respect, as much as winning, is what its athletes **coveted**.

Hakoah Vienna grew rapidly, and by the 1920s, it had become one of Austria's largest sports clubs. Members found there not only a stage upon which to exhibit their athletic prowess, but also a **respite** from the growing anti-Semitism of their time. As a result, Hakoah was in the **vanguard** of community and civil rights groups, serving as a model for the many that followed.

Judith Deutsch is only one of Hakoah Vienna's success stories. Many other club athletes ranked among the finest in early 20th century Europe. Consider the 1923 men's soccer team. Its players traveled to England and defeated the fierce West Ham United players. If the humbled West Ham athletes and their fans were **crestfallen**, the victorious Jewish players were jubilant; they became the first visiting team to defeat a British squad on its own soil. Two years later, the same team won Austria's national championship. And at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Hakoah wrestler Micky Hirschl earned two medals.

After the Nazi takeover of Austria in 1938, life for Jews in Vienna became untenable as the Nazis intensified their anti-Semitic campaign. Hakoah Vienna was forced to disband. Friendships and connections forged during the club's heyday enabled many of its members to flee what was first seen as **lamentable**, then became deadly, persecution. A tip from Hakoah's swim-team president, for example, saved the life of a young swimmer named Fred Marcus. After escaping the Nazis, Marcus was placed aboard a ship, alone, to Uruguay. There he became a celebrated swimming and diving champion before emigrating to the United States.

Watermarks, a documentary film from 2004, examines the rise and fall of Hakoah Vienna and its athletes. The poignant return to the pool, where Deutsch and other members of the women's swim team had once **blithely** spent many youthful hours, shows the emotional reunion, after 65 years apart, of many of these extraordinary athletes. In celebrating both the athletes and the organization that brought them together at a dangerous time in history, the film is a powerful tribute, one that is more lasting than any medal or trophy.

Unit 10 Examples

1. Management is not likely to **acquiesce** to union demands for raises because the company's profits have recently been on the decline.
2. Dreams of stardom **allure** many gifted young performers from all over the country to the bright lights of Broadway.
3. The **allure** of get-rich-quick schemes may lead people down the road to financial ruin.
4. Some people cannot refrain from straightening lampshades that are a little **askew**.
5. All our plans for a picnic on the beach went suddenly **askew** when it began to rain.
6. It is difficult to deflate the **blithe** optimism of the young.
7. The members of the on-line discussion group were annoyed by the newcomer's **contentious** and rude remarks.
8. Those who **covet** the good fortune of others are likely to be unhappy with their own lot in life.
9. Despite the loss of an important labor endorsement, the candidate appeared in no way **crestfallen**.
10. Most people look a little bit **disheveled** when they get up in the morning.
11. President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the first **exponents** of conservation.
12. In the equation $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$, the small raised 2s are all **exponents**.
13. If you are conversing with a **garrulous** individual, you may find it hard to get a word in edgewise.
14. To the composer Ludwig van Beethoven, increasing deafness was not an **insuperable** handicap.
15. After a long, hard winter, city streets may be in a truly **lamentable** state of disrepair.
16. The term *World Series* is a **misnomer** because only North American teams participate in this annual event.
17. My music teacher **professed** herself satisfied with my technical progress so far this year.
18. A vacation provides a **respite** from the worries and responsibilities of everyday life.
19. In most ancient societies **retribution** was swiftly visited on those who broke their promises.

20. The trunk of the tree was almost completely encased by **sinuous** wisteria vines.
21. The **sonorous** tolling of church bells announced the passing of the monarch.
22. If a high-tech company is to survive in today's marketplace, it must remain in the **vanguard** of innovation.
23. Many a novel has told the sorry tale of a charming but self-destructive **wastrel**.

Unit 10 Choosing the Right Word

1. The **allure** of “gold in them thar hills” brought many immigrants to California in 1849.
2. Walking out on the empty stage and speaking the opening lines of the play seemed a(n) **insuperable** difficulty to the young actors.
3. Because it was the duty of town criers to deliver public proclamations, they were often chosen for their **sonorous** voices.
4. After we had been playing our favorite music at top volume for several hours, Mother entered the room and begged for some **respite**.
5. Although we really don’t agree with Mother’s musical taste, we decided to **acquiesce** to her appeal.
6. With hair styles what they are these days, many men now seem to look somewhat **disheveled** when they come home fresh from the barber.
7. As I watched the gymnastic meet on TV, nothing impressed me more than the incredibly graceful and **sinuous** movements of the athletes.
8. Wasteful use of energy at a time when there is a critical shortage of such resources is indeed **lamentable**.
9. With her lipstick smeared, her hair disarranged, and her hat **askew**, she certainly was a strange sight.
10. The poet Shelley, entranced by the joyous song of the skylark, addressed the bird as “**blithe** spirit.”
11. The wicked may seem to prosper, but I am convinced that sometime, somehow, in this life or the next, there will be **retribution**.
12. Anyone who spends hours, days, and weeks just hanging around is a **wastrel** with the most precious thing we have—time.
13. Since Ben was confident he could play varsity ball, he was extremely **crestfallen** when the coach cut him from the squad.
14. His willingness to experiment with interesting new ideas clearly put him in the **vanguard** of social reform in his time.

15. He is so **contentious** that if someone says “Nice day,” he’ll start a full-scale debate on the weather.
16. After years of waiting, the affluent collector was able to purchase the **coveted** piece of art by Matisse.
17. When we ended up in the lake, we realized that the skipper was not the expert boatman he **professed** to be.
18. Seeking **respite** from the cold weather, the hikers entered the cave and immediately built a small fire.
19. The intently longing gaze that he fixed upon my plate told me that Rover **coveted** my lunch.
20. It would be a **misnomer** to label as biography a book that is clearly a work of fiction, even though its main character is historical.
21. Marshall McLuhan, a leading **exponent** of TV’s importance in modern life, coined the phrase “the medium is the message.”
22. She should have known that Andre was a **wastrel**, unworthy of her attentions, when he announced that he had no interest in holding a job.
23. The taxi driver was so **garrulous** during the long trip that it was a relief to return to my silent hotel room.
24. The church bells could be heard **sonorously** ringing through the valley, announcing the end of the war.
25. The **sinuous** road to Hana is both unnerving and breathtaking.

Unit 9 Synonyms

1. a slightly **inappropriate name**: **misnomer**
2. **payback** for a life of crime: **retribution**
3. looking **unkempt** and confused: **disheveled**
4. The **front line** of medical science: **vanguard**
5. proved to be something of a **squanderer**: **wastrel**
6. a **serpentine** river flowing to sea: **sinuous**
7. a **contradiction** that it is an international airport: **misnomer**
8. a still-life arrangement that seemed **off-kilter**: **askew**
9. a **long-winded** talk show host: **garrulous**
10. faced **unbeatable** odds: **insuperable**

Unit 9 Antonyms

1. a **reserved** child: **garrulous**
2. an **easily overcome** opponent: **insuperable**
3. an **orderly** arrangement of knickknacks: **askew**
4. the **neat** state of the room: **disheveled**
5. remembered as a **miser**: **wastrel**

Unit 9 Completing the Sentence

1. It isn't likely that the school administration will **acquiesce** to your recommendation to do away with all examinations and grades.
2. Driving a car along those **sinuous** mountain roads at a height of ten thousand feet calls for stronger nerves than I have.
3. You certainly have a right to your opinions, but you have become so **contentious** that you immediately challenge opinions expressed by anyone else.
4. The **blithe** personality that had made her so charming and popular was unaffected by the passage of the years.
5. A staunch believer in the equality of the sexes, Susan B. Anthony was one of the most effective **exponents** of women's rights.
6. Retailers who seek to **allure** unwary consumers with false claims should feel the full penalties of the law.
7. Now that the football season has ended, don't you think our school's athletes deserve a brief **respite** before beginning basketball practice?
8. After I heard my new parrot's harsh call, I decided that "Melody," the name I had planned for it, was something of a(n) **misnomer**.
9. The body of the slain hero was accompanied to its final resting place by the **sonorous** strains of a funeral march.
10. Excessively **garrulous** people usually don't have the imagination to realize that their endless chatter is boring everyone else.
11. I do not **profess** to be heroic, but I hope I have the nerve to stand up for unpopular ideas that I believe are right.
12. With the publication of her famous book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson moved into the **vanguard** of those seeking to protect our natural environment.
13. The pioneers succeeded in settling the West because they refused to admit that any obstacle, however formidable, was **insuperable**.
14. We can all agree that the crime situation in this community is truly **lamentable**, but what are we going to do about it?

15. He says that he is spending the family fortune “to promote the art of good living,” but I consider him no more than a(n) **wastrel**.
16. In spite of her rain-soaked clothing and **disheveled** appearance, it seemed to me that she had never looked lovelier.
17. “The blinds are hanging **askew** because the pull cord is all knotted and tangled,” I said.
18. For the innumerable crimes and cruelties he had committed, the tyrant had good reason to fear **retribution**.
19. I confess I suffered a twinge of envy when I learned that my rival had won the prize I had **coveted** so dearly.
20. After all my high hopes, I was utterly **crestfallen** when the notice arrived that I had failed my driver’s test.

Unit 9 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “Mr. Rochester, I must leave you.”

“For how long, Jane? For a few minutes, while you smooth your hair—which is somewhat **disheveled**; and bathe your face—which looks feverish?”

Hair that is disheveled is

- ① coarse ② well-groomed ③ curly ④ **uncombed**

2. “The rooks cawed, and **blither** birds sang; but nothing was so merry or so musical as my own rejoicing heart.”

Blither birds are

- ① **joyful** ② unusual ③ small ④ large

3. “...[H]e was sincerely glad to see his sisters; but in their glow of fervour and flow of joy he could not sympathise. The event of the day—that is, the return of Diana and Mary—pleased him; but the accompaniments of that event, the glad tumult, the **garrulous** glee of reception irked him: I saw he wished the calmer morrow was come.”

A garrulous reception is NOT

- ① lively ② noisy ③ **quiet** ④ exciting

4. "I **coveted** a cake of bread. With that refreshment I could perhaps regain a degree of energy: without it, it would be difficult to proceed. The wish to have some strength and some vigour returned to me as soon as I was amongst my fellow-beings."

Something that is coveted is

- ① purchased ② **wanted** ③ requested ④ created

5. "Mrs. Reed surveyed me at times with a severe eye, but seldom addressed me: since my illness, she had drawn a more marked line of separation than ever between me and her own children.... I felt an instinctive certainty that she would not long endure me under the same roof with her; for her glance, now more than ever, when turned on me, expressed an **insuperable** and rooted aversion."

Something that is insuperable is

- ① painful ② natural ③ effortless ④ **unconquerable**

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The pressure on the 17-year-old swimmer was enormous, but Deutsch refused to _____. Calm and displaying a _____ dignity when she spoke, she stood firm in her protest against the treatment of Jews by Germany's new fuhrer, Adolph Hitler, thus infuriating the Nazis allied with Germany. In _____, the Austrian government banished Deutsch from all competition. Soon, the Austrian authorities expunged her many victories from their record books as well. In an abhorrent time, hers was a righteous human act.

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2. Dreams of stardom _____ many gifted young performers from all over the country to the bright lights of Broadway.
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