

Unit 12 Pressures of Competition

The Winner Instinct

Topic Discussion:

- **competition VS reconciliation**
- **competition >PK< cooperation**

Then one rainy weekend in the country we played a vicious, back-and-forth game of rummy, and when Kay finally edged me by three points, ... (L6-7)

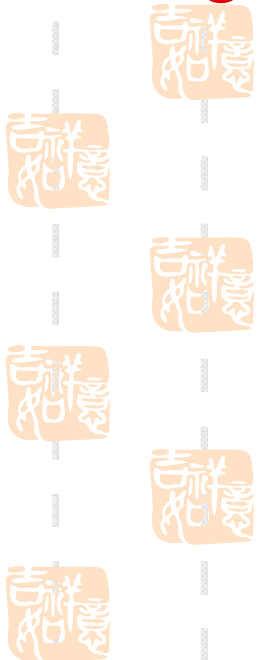
- **vicious** adj. describes an object, condition or remark that causes great physical or emotional pain:
- *a vicious medieval torture instrument*
- *I've got a vicious headache.*
- *Make sure you wrap up warmly--- there's a vicious wind out there.*
- *a vicious lie/accusation/rumour*



- **back and forth** adv. 来回地, 反复地
- Bitter and cruel remarks flew **back and forth** between them. 恶言恶语对骂
- **a back-and-forth game** = a seesaw game like a tug of war
- **rummy** noun [U] any of various card games in which two or more players try to collect cards which have the same value or whose numbers follow an ordered series



- edge: win by a narrow margin (口)险胜,以很小差分击败
- *The Mavericks **edged** the Spurs 104-103 in Game 3 of the Western Conference Semifinals.*
- *to **edge out***
- *to **edge out** the opposing team by 1 point*



... I could see that her pleasure in winning was jeopardized by her fear that I'd sulk. (L7-8)

- **jeopardize (AmE), jeopardise (BrE)** vt.
- to put sth. such as a plan or system in danger of being harmed or damaged:
- *She knew that she could jeopardize her future job hunting by failing her exams.*
- **jeopardy** n.
- **in jeopardy**: in danger of being damaged or destroyed:
- *The lives of thousands of fish are **in jeopardy** as a result of the oil spillage.*

I suddenly realized that when the subject had come up before, ...(L17)

- ▶ **come up**: to be mentioned or talked about in conversation: 被提到, 被讨论
- ▶ *What points **came up** at the meeting?*
- ▶ *The question never **came up** in discussion.*
- ▶ **come up** to move towards sb:
- ▶ *A young girl **came up to** me and*
- ▶ **come up** If a job or opportunity **comes up**, it becomes available:
- ▶ *A position has **come up** in the department.*

... but we've been inhibited from expressing competitiveness. (L20)



- **inhibit** vt. to prevent sb. from doing sth., or to slow down a process or the growth of sth.:
- *Some workers were inhibited (**from** speaking) by the presence of their superiors.*
- *This drug inhibits the growth of tumours.*
- **inhibited** adj. be introvert, not confident
- **inhibition** noun [C or U]



**So if by competition you mean imitating the
macho way men behave --- no, thanks.
(L23-4)**

- **macho** adj. (informal, mainly derogative)
- behaving forcefully or showing no emotion in a way traditionally thought to be typical of a man: 大男子主义的
- *He's too macho to admit he was hurt when his girlfriend left him.*
- *I can't stand macho men.*



• MLB Baseball Teams

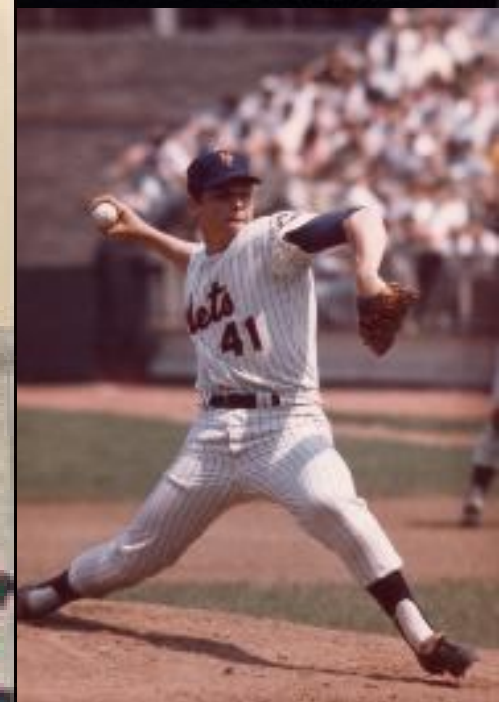
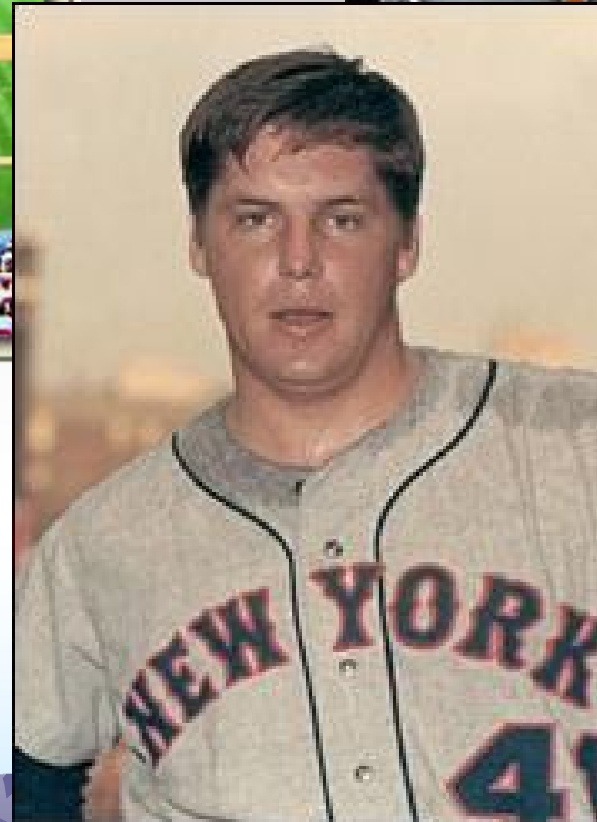
• American League

- :: [Anaheim Angels](#)
- :: [Baltimore Orioles](#)
- :: [Boston Red Sox](#)
- :: [Chicago White Sox](#)
- :: [Cleveland Indians](#)
- :: [Detroit Tigers](#)
- :: [Kansas City Royals](#)
- :: [Minnesota Twins](#)
- :: [New York Yankees](#)
- :: [Oakland Athletics](#)
- :: [Seattle Mariners](#)
- :: [Tampa Bay Devil Rays](#)
- :: [Texas Rangers](#)
- :: [Toronto Blue Jays](#)

National League

- :: [Arizona Diamondbacks](#)
- :: [Atlanta Braves](#)
- :: [Chicago Cubs](#)
- :: [Cincinnati Reds](#)
- :: [Colorado Rockies](#)
- :: [Florida Marlins](#)
- :: [Houston Astros](#)
- :: [Los Angeles Dodgers](#)
- :: [Milwaukee Brewers](#)
- :: [Montreal Expos](#)
- :: [New York Mets](#)
- :: [Philadelphia Phillies](#)
- :: [Pittsburgh Pirates](#)
- :: [San Diego Padres](#)
- :: [San Francisco Giants](#)
- :: [St Louis Cardinals](#)
- :: [Washington Nationals](#)

- **Team: New York Mets**
Championship: 1969, 1986



World Series

n. 世界职业棒球大赛

Tom Seaver, 1970

Photo copyright 2004 Michael Grossbardt

Now I saw that the thrill was in competition for its own sake.

(L29-30)

- ◆ **sake** (REASON) noun
- ◆ **for the sake of *sth* / for *sth's* sake** because of, or for the purpose of *sth.*:
- ◆ *Let's not disagree for the sake of a few quarrels.*
- ◆ *She is just talking for talking's sake.* (= because she likes talking).
- ◆ ***for God's/ Christ's/ goodness'/ heaven's ~***
- ◆ ***for old times' ~*** 看在老交情的份上

... there are elements of adolescent insecurity or latent hostility or sexual rivalry in ... (L32-33)

- **latent** adj. present but needing particular conditions to become active, obvious or completely developed:
- *Recent developments in the technology have **brought** latent certificate forgery **out into** the open.*
- *The task of learning a foreign language is to **bring out** the latent linguistic talents **into** a linguistic performance.*

(开发潜能)

- **latency** noun [U] FORMAL

- ❖ **Take male kidding around, for instance.** I always tell my friend Arthur that he exaggerates so compulsively, he'll even tell people his summerhouse is (L34)
- ❖ **kid around** US INFORMAL to be silly or not serious:
- ❖ *Stop kidding around and listen to me!*
- ❖ **compulsive** adj.
- ❖ describes a film, play, sports event, book, etc. that is so **interesting or exciting** that you do not want to stop watching or reading it:

summerhouse US



He **comes** right back **at** me: “You’re **putting on** so much weight, ...zip code. (L37-8)

- **come at sb** to move towards sb. in order to attack them: 攻击
- *He **came at** me **with** a knife.*
- **put sth on** If people or animals **put weight on**, they become heavier:
- *I'd expected to **put weight on** when I had sweetmeats, but I didn't.*
- *He's **put on** 10 pounds last month because he stops body-maintenance program.*
- **zip code** (US) n [C] **postcode**

We **indulge in** so much of this typically male insulting humor that our wives can be forgiven for thinking that ...

- ◆ **indulge** v. [I or T] to allow yourself or another person to have sth. enjoyable, especially more than is good for you: 沉湎于
- ◆ *The soccer fans **indulged** their patriotism, waving flags and singing songs.*
- ◆ *We took a deliberate decision to **indulge in** a little nostalgia.*
- ◆ *After **indulging in** all the pleasures over the weekend, I must **get down to** some preparation for the final exam.*
- ◆ **indulgence** n. **indulgent** adj.

Just let some guy who's not a close friend try to get away with that kind of one-upmanship. (L 44-45)

- **one-upmanship** n [U] when sb. does or says sth. in order to prove that they are better than someone else n.高人一等的作风
- **get away with sth** to succeed in doing sth without being punished: 做成（某坏事或错事而未被发觉或受处分）
- *How did he **get away with** cheating? (得逞)*
- *The thief **get away with** all the precious stones.*

... but far more often men also experience rivalry as a **spur** to achievement, as a means of being drawn to perform at **the top** of our abilities. (L48-

49) ■ **spur** n. [C] encouragement

■ *The consumer sales' rise would be a spur **to** even greater effort this season.*

■ **spur** v. [T] **-rr-** to encourage an activity or development or make it happen faster:

■ *Spurred (**on**) by her early success, she went on to write four more novels in succession.*

■ **the top** noun [S] the limits

■ *At forty, he was **at the top of** his profession.* (职业颠峰)

... rather than let the other **get the upper hand**.

- upper hand: advantage 优势, 上风, 有利地位
- **get / gain / have the upper hand:** to be in an advantageous position 占上风
- *At last the taller boxer ~ **over** his rival and knocked him out.*

But I overheard them talking after the decision. (L51-52)

- **overhear** verb [I or T] **overheard, overheard**
to hear what other people are saying
unintentionally and without their knowledge:
- *I overheard a very funny conversation on the bus
this morning.*
- **overhear** sb. **doing /do** sth
- *I **overheard** her **telling** her teddy not to be so
naughty.*
- *We **overheard** lots of students **say** that they didn't
really like the meal.*



You really keep me on my toes.

- to be **on one's toes**: to be cautious/ alert 警觉的、准备行动的
- *The barking of the dog **keep** us **on our toes**.*
- *Better **get/keep on your toes** when you coming back at night.*

15. “Going up against you isn’t any picnic,”
the other answered. “I know I’ve got to do
my best just to stand a chance.” (L54-55)

- be not any picnic= no picnic
- **be no picnic** INFORMAL to be a difficult or unpleasant situation: (口)不是轻松的事
- *To most of the Chinese, being a single parent is no picnic.*
- **stand a chance** to have a chance of success: 有机会做...
- *She **stands a good chance of** passing her exam if she works hard.*



□ **16. ... when a competing publication suddenly **folded**. (L. 59)**

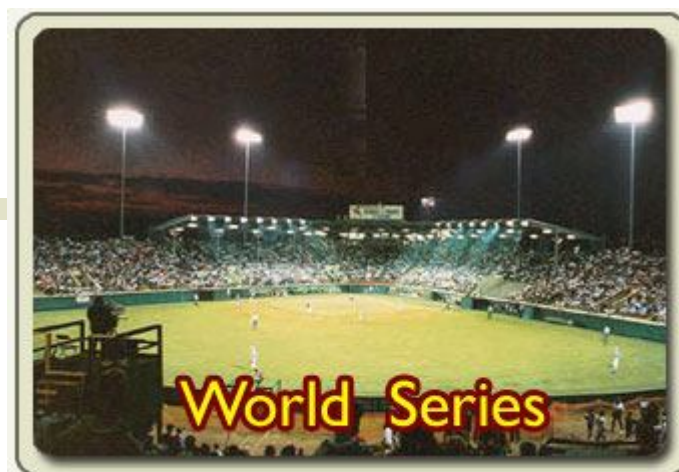
- **fold** verb [I] (of a business) to close because of failure:
- *Many cafeterias fold within the first half of the year.*

17. ... men regret **pulling off** a deal against a competitor, ...(L. 61)

- **pull sth off** INFORMAL to succeed in doing sth. difficult or unexpected: (成功地或艰苦地) 完成, 做成, 赢得
- *Liu Xiang **pulls off** the 110-meter hurdle race in 2004 Athens Olympic Games.*
- *He enjoys **pulling off** a miracle. (一举惊人)*
- *She **pulls off** a million-yuan deal with the joint venture.*

18. Most men I know get their real **kick** in sports not from winning but ... (L63-64)

- **kick** n. [C] a strong feeling of excitement and pleasure:
- *I get a real kick **out of** winning the lottery.*
- *He decided to steal a library from the library, just **for** kicks.*



- touch football n. 触身式橄榄球



. . . their lives were riding on
the outcome. (L71)


- ride on *sth/sb* rest on; depend on 依靠:
- *The farmers' luck now rode on a crop of turnips, since all the other vegetables have been destroyed because of the typhoon.*



-
- ... after losing something like ten sets in a row.
 - **in a row**: in succession, one after another without a break: (口)接连地, 连续地
 - *The CBA team Hongyuan has won the championship three years **in a row**.*
 - *He has not been here two days **in a row**.*

**“Yeah, I suppose so,” he said
offhandedly. (L78)**

- **offhand** adj.
- unprepared, improvisational 不假思索的，即席的
- *an **offhand** speech, an **offhand** excuse*
- not friendly, slightly rude: 唐突的
- *I hope I didn't appear offhand **with** her - it's just that I was in such a hurry.*
- **offhandedly** adverb
- **offhandedness** noun [U]

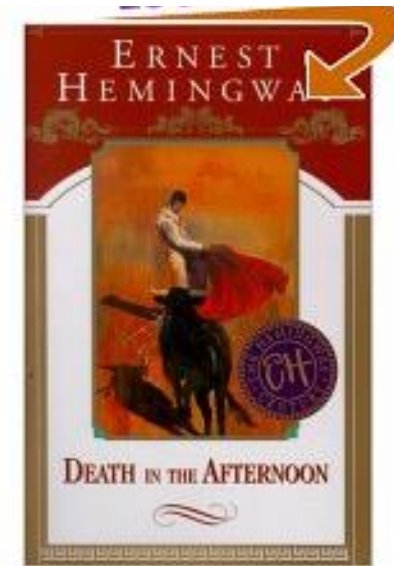


**“Well, to tell the truth,” Frennd said,
“he is so far off his game, ...” (L80)**

- **to tell (you) the truth** to be honest:
- **To tell (you) the truth**, *I didn't understand a word of what he was saying.*
- **frank** adj. honest, sincere and truthful
- **To be perfectly frank with** you, *I don't think she's up to the job.*

-
- **off** prep. below the usual standard, level or rate: 低于..., 差于... 水平
 - *He is **off** his usual tennis form.* 他今天打网球竞技状态失常。
 - *adv., adj. (□) not normal, crazy*
 - *She used to have a lovely voice but I think it's **gone off** recently (= is not as good as it was).*
 - *I'm having an **off day** today - I just can't seem to do anything right!*

Death in the Afternoon



matador



- Bullfighting has always been controversial

bullring





- Bullfighting is an established part of Spanish history and culture — especially in Andalusia.
- In parts of the country, such as Barcelona, as most Spanish cities, it has already come to an end.
- But it is certain that the residents of Seville and rest of southern Spain will long continue their **centuries-old** fascination with *Death in the Afternoon*.



...I'd much rather play way over my head and lose 2-6 than hack around and win 6-love.

- love: point of zero (in the games as tennis)
(网球等比赛中的) 零分
- love all 零比零
- He won the first set six-love.
- The score was 15-0. (fifteen-love)

... that it's a way to disguise their animosity
or assert their superiority...(L86)

- **animosity** : hatred
- *tribal animosities*
- *show no ~ **against** sb.*
*show prejudice **against** sb.*

-
- **assert** verb [T] to do sth. to show that you have power: 维护, 主张
 - *assert one's rights*
 - *She very rarely asserts her **authority** over the children.*
 - **superiority** noun [U] → **superior** adj.
 - **inferiority** noun [U] → **inferior** adj
 - *a strong **sense of inferiority/superiority***

-
- *There is a beautiful garden **at** the back **of**/US ALSO **in** back **of** (= behind) the house.*