

# Introduction

'Bend it like Beckham' is the eighth in the BritLit series of resource kits for teachers.

**The Project.** The BritLit project was started in 2002 with the intention of providing Portuguese teachers of English in the state sector additional resource material for the extensive reading requirements of years 10 and 11. It is a joint venture between the British Council in Portugal and APPI (Associação Portuguesa de Professores de Inglês). While aimed at the Portuguese market, the usefulness of the project as an international model is recognised and generic versions of the resources kits are being developed.

**The Resource Kits.** Much of the material provided is intended to be used with mixed ability classes and while the input from the materials is the same, the output from the students will vary considerably. Other materials are generally classed according to their degree of difficulty using the ALTE levels now adopted by many European countries through the Council of Europe as benchmark criteria for language assessment. ([http://www.alte.org/can\\_do/cef.cfm](http://www.alte.org/can_do/cef.cfm)). The resource kits provide a never-ending source of material for the teacher inasmuch as teachers are asked to contribute their own experiences and ideas to the project; we would like to see the materials mutate and mature with use. One of the advantages of using an electronic form is that each section can easily be personalised; we would be interested to see examples of this approach.

**This kit.** 'Bend it like Beckham' is based on the film of the same name, and is taken from the book by Narinder Dhani. Like 'Fever Pitch' (kit 6) choosing it for BritLit meant a departure from the norm, if by the norm we mean the extensive reading list provided by the Portuguese Ministry of Education. The reason that BritLit has chosen this book is because the Final Tournament of the UEFA Cup, Euro 2004, is being hosted by Portugal, and BritLit wants to be part of the game. The kit takes Chapter 7 as its key text, but also presents worksheets for the film.

While 'Fever Pitch' looked at football mainly from the perspective of the fan, 'Bend it like Beckham' looks at football more from a players viewpoint.

'Bend it like Beckham' is about a young Indian woman living in west London, who gets to play for a local amateur women's team, thereby realising many of her dreams, while breaking every taboo in her Sikh family household. It's about women in an apparent man's world, and it's about cultural clashes. Oh yes, it's also about football!

The kit consists of four parts, each divided into a number of worksheets and activities. Each worksheet or activity is independent of any other. All the material may be photocopied.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Worksheet or Activity</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>ALTE</b>
<b><i>Characterisation</i></b>	Characterisation	Quotes from text introduce Jess and her family, Joe her Irish coach, and Jules, her friend	
<b><i>Context</i></b>	Women's Football	Three articles about women in football are presented, and students have to achieve 5 problem solving activities before getting involved in a discussion	
	Sikhism	The Sikh religion is central to the story. A brief introduction to Sikh philosophy, and current London experiences	
	Fact File- David Beckham	How much do students know about 'golden balls'?	
	Scott Minto	English footballer Minto played for Benfica for 2 years. Here he recalls some of his experiences of the club, and Portugal	
	Euro 2004 Word Search	A simple word search for the 16 countries taking part in Euro 2004 – English names, of course	
	Unsung six of the best	Six players in Euro 2004, some well known, others less so. 6 biogs, plus questions to answer	
	The Film: 'Bend it like Beckham	Some brief worksheets for working on the film. Divided into three sections, the students have to build the story, and work on the language used. The film is not supplied, of course, and teachers are advised to observe copyright restrictions.	
	England fans in Lisbon	Mark Perryman's article on the Portugal experiment for English fans. Exercise in changing verbs to nouns	
	Feet in their Mouths!	Silly things said by sports people. Matching heads and tails, and suggesting endings.	
	Spot the Player	Using a BC website, footballculture, students have to research information about 6 players	
<b><i>Extra Time</i></b>	One of the Lads	Antoinette Moses' short story is introduced. How can the hero escape from the Chelsea gang?!	

<b>Word Work</b>	Language in Use	Using extracts from the text, students revise 'must have' as a past modal, and then go on to look at other past modal forms, comparing <i>must</i> , <i>must have</i> , <i>can't have</i> and <i>had to</i> .	
	Glossary	Two glossaries of confusing words in context are presented: one is English/English and the other is English/Portuguese	