

# Tim Horton

*In this lesson, you will learn about a famous Canadian hockey player who was also a successful businessman. You'll also learn some useful spelling variants in Canadian and American English.*



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What do you prefer, watching or playing hockey?
2. How does an athlete become a "legend"?
3. What do you think the expression "something to fall back on" means?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. legend       | a) a person's unique signed (handwritten) name                       |
| _____ 2. defenseman   | b) a very hard, waist-high shot with a hockey stick                  |
| _____ 3. entrepreneur | c) damage to one's body  |
| _____ 4. zone         | d) a person who tries out new business ideas                         |
| _____ 5. slap shot    | e) a player whose main job is to prevent the other team from scoring |
| _____ 6. look up to   | f) a specific area on a playing field                                |
| _____ 7. realist      | g) to respect, to see as a role model                                |
| _____ 8. injury       | h) a person who thinks about what will likely happen                 |
| _____ 9. autograph    | i) a person who is well known for being really good at something     |
| _____ 10. mourn       | j) to feel and express sadness after a great loss                    |

## Quick Facts

- Name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Nationality:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading

1. Tim Horton was a hockey **legend** from Ontario, Canada. For much of his 22-year NHL career, the **defenseman** played for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Off the ice, Tim Horton was a successful **entrepreneur**.
2. During the '50s and '60s, Tim Horton was one of the strongest players in the NHL. As a defenseman, he could clear the puck from his **zone** with amazing force. Some people credit Tim Horton as being the inventor of the **slap shot**.
3. As a Toronto Maple Leaf, Tim Horton won four Stanley Cups. He also played on a number of All-Star teams. Horton spent his last year in Toronto in 1970. He played for a short time with the New York Rangers and the Pittsburgh Penguins. In 1974, Horton spent his final season playing for the Buffalo Sabres. His younger teammates **looked up to** him on and off the ice.
4. Tim Horton was a **realist**. He knew that he wouldn't be able to play hockey forever. After experiencing a bad **injury**, he decided that he needed something to fall back on. After all, he had a wife and four daughters to support. In 1964, Tim Horton opened his first donut shop. In the early days, he paid some of his fellow hockey players to sign **autographs** at his restaurants. If he didn't have enough money to pay the players, he gave them free donuts. Horton divided his time between playing hockey and growing his business.
5. On February 21, 1974, at the age of 44, Tim Horton died in a single-car automobile accident. He was on his way back to Buffalo after losing a game in Toronto. NHL players and fans **mourned** the loss of this hockey legend. Horton was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1977. At the time of his death, there were only 40 Tim Hortons coffee shops.

*“Things are quite hectic these days trying to combine business with hockey.”*

—Tim Horton

## Comprehension

### A. Quiz Your Partner

Student A asks questions 1–3. Student B asks questions 4–6. Don't look at the reading as you answer.

1. What position did Tim Horton play?
2. What does the reading say about the "slap shot"?
3. Which cities did Tim Horton represent when he was in the NHL?
4. How did an injury change Tim Horton's outlook on life?
5. What type of business did Tim Horton start?
6. How did Tim Horton die?

### B. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1–7). One item is not mentioned in the reading. Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Buffalo Sabres signed Tim Horton for what would be his final season.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Horton became a defenseman for the Toronto Maple Leafs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Horton was traded to the New York Rangers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horton suffered from a major injury that made him question his future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Horton died at the age of 44 in an automobile accident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Horton's wife sold her share of her husband's business to Tim's business partner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The first Tim Hortons coffee shop was opened.

## Spelling Variants

### DEFENCE VS. DEFENSE

The noun "defence" can be spelled in two different ways. Americans use an "s" (*defense/defenseman*). People in Canada and other English-speaking countries use a soft "c" (*defence/defenceman*). This must have been confusing for Tim Horton, a hockey player from Canada who moved to the US!

To add to the confusion, the adjective "defensive" is always spelled with an "s."

### PRACTICE VS. PRACTISE

The verb "practice" is just the opposite. In the US, the verb "practice" is spelled with a "c" just like the noun "practice". In other parts of the world, the noun is spelled with a "c" but the verb is spelled with an "s" (*practise*).

### Examples:

- Let's practice our defense. (*American*)
- Let's practise our defence. (*Canadian and other*)
- Tim Horton made a great defensive play. (*all*)

# Celebrity Sighting

## A. Discuss

Have you ever seen a famous person in real life? Have you ever approached an author, athlete, or musician for an autograph? What are some things you should and should NOT do during a celebrity sighting? Discuss with your classmates.

## B. Can I get your autograph?

Pretend you are a celebrity. Clear the tables and desks to the side, and reinvent your classroom as a red carpet event. Tape your name tag to your shirt. Carry a pen and piece of paper around as you mingle. Practice asking for and signing autographs.

### Requesting a Photo/Autograph:

- May I have your autograph?
- Can I please get your autograph?
- Could I please get my picture taken with you?
- Can I take a photo with you?

### Thanking the Celebrity:

- Thank you for the autograph!
- I really appreciate it!
- Thanks for taking the time to meet me.
- I love (the film/ book/album name).
- This means a lot to me.

## Discussion

1. Do athletes earn too much money?
2. Why is it important to always have something to fall back on?
3. What possible reasons are there for single-car accidents?

## Research

Do a little research to find out more information behind Tim Horton's death. What can you find out about the car he was driving?