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SOCCER BLASTER

The Story in Brief

Renny is ignored by the guys at his new school because he's not very good at soccer. While the other boys play soccer after school, Renny goes to the arcade and plays Soccer Blaster, a new soccer video game. Suddenly, flashing lights blind him and deafening noises make his ears ring. Renny gets pulled into the game and lands on the sidelines of a World Cup Soccer practice field. On the field is the National team.

Renny discovers that he's the team assistant. He passes out mail, carries water, chases balls and helps the coach and players however he can. In the process, he learns a lot about soccer.

Renny soon finds out that someone is trying to sabotage their team. Their bus is sent to the wrong hotel, nails are driven into the tyre of another bus and soccer shoes are slashed. Carlos, one of the stars of the team, asks Renny to keep his eyes open and help find the culprit. There's a big game coming up against the German team and the players don't need any more distractions.

Just before the big game, Renny discovers that a member of the team is 'on the take' from the German sponsor. The player is confronted and thrown out of the game with the promise that he will never again play professional soccer.

The team wins the game against Germany, and Renny is suddenly transported back to the video arcade. He can't believe what has happened but on the floor next to his books is a shoe box with soccer shoes from the sponsor of the team.

On his way home, Renny asks if he can join the guys in a pick-up soccer game. He amazes everyone with his newly learned skills!



SOCCER BLASTER

Chapter 1

Using Short Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a short vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the short vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

middle	standing	friends
instead	glanced	happened
pocket	himself	practicing
button	themselves	

Example: Renny _____ *glanced* _____ at Alonzo and Enrique.

1. Renny had made a fool of _____ the last time he played soccer.
2. Renny didn't have any _____ at the new school.
3. Renny wished he could live with his dad _____ of his grandmother.
4. Renny searched his _____ for a coin.
5. The players arranged _____ on either side of the centre line.
6. Renny hit the gold _____ and scored a goal.
7. Suddenly, Renny was _____ on the sidelines of a soccer field.
8. A group of men was _____ on the field.
9. One of the men called from the _____ of the field.
10. Renny didn't know what had _____ to him.



SOCCER BLASTER

Chapter 1

Finding Base Words

Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

Example: ignored _____ *ignored* _____

1. easier _____

11. injuries _____

2. different _____

12. quickly _____

3. treatment _____

13. referees _____

4. moved _____

14. whistles _____

5. blinking _____

15. directions _____

6. shadowy _____

16. dribbled _____

7. darkness _____

17. defensive _____

8. lines _____

18. grinning _____

9. probably _____

19. voices _____

10. studied _____

20. snapping _____