

Name:

Topic: Kobe Bryant: The Player  
and The Person.

Level: B1  
(Intermediate)

## Reading Comprehension



This worksheet is designed to practice scanning for specific information, understanding vocabulary in context, and answering detailed comprehension questions.

### The Heart of a Legend

Kobe Bryant was more than just a basketball player; he was a global icon. Born in Philadelphia in 1978, Kobe spent much of his childhood in Italy, where his father played professional basketball. This experience helped him become fluent in Italian and gave him a unique view of the world.

When he was 17 years old, Kobe made a bold decision. Instead of going to college, he joined the NBA directly from high school. He was drafted in 1996 and soon became a star for the Los Angeles Lakers. Over his 20-year career, he won five NBA **championships** and two Olympic gold medals. He was known for his incredible scoring ability and his fierce defense against any **opponent**.

However, Kobe is perhaps most famous for his **mindset**, which he called the "Mamba Mentality." He chose the nickname "Black Mamba" to separate his personal life from his life on the court. The Mamba Mentality means constantly trying to be the best version of yourself. It requires hard work, **discipline**, and a refusal to give up, even when you are tired or **injured**.

Kobe retired from basketball in 2016. In his final game, he amazed the world by scoring 60 points. After retirement, he did not stop working. He won an Academy Award (Oscar) in 2018 for his animated short film, Dear Basketball. Sadly, Kobe passed away in a tragic helicopter accident in 2020, but his legacy **inspires** millions of athletes and fans today.



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### Part 1: Vocabulary Match

Match the bolded words from the text with their definitions.

Word	Definition
1. Championship	A. A person or team that you compete against in a game.
2. Opponent	B. To give someone the desire or confidence to do something well.
3. Mindset	C. Physically hurt or harmed.
4. Discipline	D. A major competition to find the best team or player.
5. Injured	E. The ability to control your own behavior and work hard.
6. Inspire	F. A person's way of thinking and their attitude.

### Answers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1- Why was Kobe's childhood different from many other American basketball players?

2- What bold decision did Kobe make when he was 17 years old?

3- Explain "Mamba Mentality" in your own words.

4- What achievement shows that Kobe was successful outside of sports?

### Part 3: Grammar Challenge (Past Simple vs. Present Perfect)

Circle the correct verb form to complete the sentences.

1- Kobe Bryant (**played / has played**) for the LA Lakers for 20 years.

2- Since his death, his work ethic (**inspired / has inspired**) a new generation of players.

3- In 2018, he (**won / has won**) an Oscar for his film Dear Basketball.

4- Many fans (**were / have been**) sad when he retired in 2016.

5- His legacy (**remained / has remained**) strong around the world until today.



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### Teacher's Notes

**Preparation:** Print one copy of the worksheet per student. (Optional) Show a short clip of Kobe playing or his "Dear Basketball" animation trailer.

**Warm-up:** Write "LEGEND" on the board. Ask students to name three athletes they consider legends and why (e.g., "Because he worked hard," "Because she changed the sport"). Introduce Kobe Bryant and ask if they know his nickname ("The Black Mamba").

### Procedure:

1. Have students read the text silently or take turns reading aloud.
2. Clarify bolded vocabulary words in context.
3. Students complete Part 1 (Vocabulary) individually.
4. Pairs work on Part 2 (Comprehension) and Part 3 (Grammar).

**Follow-up:** Ask students to write a short paragraph (80-100 words) about a goal they have and how they can use "Mamba Mentality" to achieve it.

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### Answer Key

#### Part 1: Vocabulary Match

1. D (Championship)
2. A (Opponent)
3. F (Mindset)
4. E (Discipline)
5. C (Injured)
6. B (Inspire)

#### Part 2: Reading Comprehension

1. He lived in Italy and learned to speak Italian.
2. He decided to join the NBA directly from high school instead of going to college.
3. (Student answers may vary) It means working hard, having discipline, and trying to be the best version of yourself every day.
4. He won an Academy Award (Oscar) for his animated film Dear Basketball.

#### Part 3: Grammar Challenge

1. played (The action is finished; his career is over).
2. has inspired (This is continuing from the past until now).
3. won (This happened at a specific time in the past: 2018).
4. were (This describes a feeling at a specific past moment: 2016).
5. has remained (His legacy continues to be strong today).

