CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Chris Lynn Gets One-Month Ban After Cocaine Test

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 16



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Chris Lynn, a 36-year-old Big Bash League cricketer, was given a one-month suspension. The ban came after he tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a cocaine metabolite. His positive test happened on the day of England's T20 Blast finals in July. Lynn had just helped Northamptonshire win the title that day.

2 After the finals, Lynn missed a match in Sri Lanka on 29 July. He said he had an unspecified leg injury. The suspension was handed down in August and backdated from 31 July to 30 August.

3 Lynn faced a three-month ban at first. However, this was cut to one month after he finished a substance-of-abuse treatment programme. He had no prescription or approved medical reason for cocaine use. The regulator found that his use happened outside any competition window. It was not linked to boosting his sporting results. Any further punishment is left to his BBL club, as he was not on a Cricket Australia contract.

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2 Key words

suspension /sə'spɛnʃən/ *noun*
a punishment that temporarily stops a person from playing a sport or doing their job
The player accepted a one-match suspension after his aggressive tackle.

metabolite /mɪ'tæbəlaɪt/ *noun*
a substance produced when the body breaks down a drug or food
The lab detected a drug metabolite in the athlete's blood sample days after the race.

backdated /'bækdeɪtɪd/ *verb*
to give something an official start date earlier than the actual day it was decided
The company backdated her contract to the first of March, even though she started later.

handed down /ˌhænd 'daʊn/ *idiom*
to officially announce a punishment or decision made by an authority
The tribunal handed down a ruling that shocked everyone in the stadium.

unspecified /ʌn'spɛsɪfaɪd/ *adjective*
not clearly stated or described; left without details
She resigned citing unspecified personal reasons and left no further explanation.

competition window /ˌkɒmpɪ'tɪʃən 'wɪndoʊ/ *noun*
the period of time before and during an event when athletes are tested for banned substances
The governing body clarified that testing only takes place during the official competition window.

3 Grammar focus

The passive

is / are / was / were + past participle (+ by …)

The passive puts the receiver of the action in subject position (the probe was launched). Writers choose it when the doer is unknown, obvious or less important than the result.

1. However, this was cut to one month after he finished a substance-of-abuse treatment programme.
2. Any further punishment is left to his BBL club, as he was not on a Cricket Australia contract.
3. Chris Lynn, a 36-year-old Big Bash League cricketer, was given a one-month suspension.

Who or what does the action in each sentence? Is the doer named?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Understanding the Ban

3 points

Read the questions and choose the best answer based ONLY on the text.

1 Why was Lynn's initial three-month ban reduced to one month?

(a) He appealed the decision to Cricket Australia.
(b) The regulator found his use was outside the competition window.
(c) He completed a substance-of-abuse treatment programme.
(d) His club requested a shorter suspension.

2 What can we infer about Lynn's explanation for missing the Sri Lanka match?

(a) The text confirms it was a fabricated excuse to avoid attention.
(b) The text only reports what Lynn said; we cannot confirm whether the injury was genuine.
(c) Lynn later admitted the injury was not real.
(d) Cricket Australia investigated and found the injury was false.

3 Why is any further punishment left to his BBL club rather than a national body?

(a) The BBL club requested sole authority over all discipline.
(b) He was not on a Cricket Australia contract, so the national body has no further jurisdiction.
(c) Cricket Australia had already imposed the maximum penalty.
(d) The Sri Lanka match made him ineligible for national punishment.

EXERCISE 2 Key Details

Answer each question in one full sentence using information from the text.

1 What was the substance Lynn tested positive for, and what is it?

2 For what period was the suspension backdated?

3 What two findings did the regulator make about the timing and purpose of Lynn's cocaine use?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Passive and Reporting

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 The suspension was _____ (hand) in August and backdated from 31 July to 30 August.

2 Lynn was given a one-month suspension after he _____ (test) positive for a cocaine metabolite.

3 Any further punishment _____ (leave) to his BBL club, as he was not on a Cricket Australia contract.

4 The regulator found that his use _____ (happen) outside any competition window.

EXERCISE 4 Match the Words

5 points

Match each term (1–5) with its correct definition (A–E).

1 suspension _____

2 metabolite _____

3 backdated _____

4 handed down _____

5 unspecified _____

A a punishment that temporarily stops a person from playing a sport or doing their job

B a substance produced when the body breaks down a drug or food

C officially announced by an authority as a punishment or decision

D given an official start date earlier than the day it was actually decided

E not clearly stated or described; left without details

EXERCISE 5 Put the sentences in order

4 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A His positive test happened on the day of England's T20 Blast finals in July.

B The ban came after he tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a cocaine metabolite.

C After the finals, Lynn missed a match in Sri Lanka on 29 July.

D Lynn had just helped Northamptonshire win the title that day.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____ _____

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 6 **Summarise and Comment**

Write 80–130 words summarising the key events of this news story and give one reasoned opinion about whether the punishment was fair. Use at least three of the keywords listed. Write 80 to 130 words. Use these words: suspension, handed down, backdated, treatment programme.

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Understanding the Ban

1. C. He completed a substance-of-abuse treatment programme. The text states: 'this was cut to one month after he finished a substance-of-abuse treatment programme.' The competition-window finding explains why it was not linked to boosting results, but the reduction itself was due to completing treatment.
2. B. The text only reports what Lynn said; we cannot confirm whether the injury was genuine. The text says 'He said he had an unspecified leg injury.' It uses reported speech ('he said'), so we only know his claim, not whether it was true. No further investigation is mentioned.
3. B. He was not on a Cricket Australia contract, so the national body has no further jurisdiction. The final sentence states: 'Any further punishment is left to his BBL club, as he was not on a Cricket Australia contract.' This means Cricket Australia lacks contractual authority over him.

Exercise 2 Key Details

1. He tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a cocaine metabolite. The text directly states the substance name and its classification.
2. The suspension was backdated from 31 July to 30 August. The text gives the exact date range for the backdated period.
3. The regulator found that his use happened outside any competition window and was not linked to boosting his sporting results. Both findings are stated explicitly in the final paragraph.

Exercise 3 Passive and Reporting

1. handed down Passive voice: 'was handed down' — the subject receives the action of the regulator.
2. tested Past simple for a completed past event: 'tested positive'.
3. is left Present simple passive: 'is left to' — describes the current situation and who holds the decision.
4. happened Backshifted past tense in reported thinking: 'found that … happened'.

Exercise 4 Match the Words

1. A. a punishment that temporarily stops a person from playing a sport or doing their job
2. B. a substance produced when the body breaks down a drug or food
3. D. given an official start date earlier than the day it was actually decided
4. C. officially announced by an authority as a punishment or decision
5. E. not clearly stated or described; left without details

Exercise 5 Put the sentences in order

B, A, D, C The ban came after he tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a cocaine metabolite. His positive test happened on the day of England's T20 Blast finals in July. Lynn had just helped Northamptonshire win the title that day. After the finals, Lynn missed a match in Sri Lanka on 29 July.

Exercise 6 Summarise and Comment

Chris Lynn, a Big Bash League cricketer, was given a one-month suspension after testing positive for a cocaine metabolite. The ban was handed down in August but backdated to cover July. Although he initially faced a three-month ban, this was reduced after he completed a substance-of-abuse treatment programme. The regulator found his use occurred outside any competition window and was not linked to boosting results. I believe the shortened suspension was fair because it recognised his cooperation with treatment while still penalising the breach. However, leaving any further action to his club seems inconsistent, as other players on national contracts would face different consequences. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.