In 2020, there were 24.8 million golfers in the US, which was 500,000 more than in 2019. It was the largest increase in 17 years.

When the coronavirus pandemic started in 2020, golf clubs worried about their future. They thought that people would stop playing golf. Then the **opposite** happened, and golf became more popular than ever before. One of the reasons was the pandemic, and another reason was that people probably started to look at the sport differently. Golf was more than a sport only for business people. It became cool for young people and for people from different **backgrounds**.

There are new technologies and apps which make the game more interesting and friendly for more people. Currently, there are around 80 million golfers in the world. 50 to 60 million are playing to get better, and these technologies help them follow their **progress**.

Difficult words: **opposite** (something completely different), **background** (your family, where you live, and the places you go to school or work), **progress** (when someone can see that they are getting better at a sport or activity).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the word: *opposite, background and progress*

2. What did golf clubs worry when COVID-19 pandemic started?

3. What happened to the sport in 2020?

4. What brought the large increase in the number of golfers in the US in 2020?

5. What help people change the way they think about golf?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Do you play golf? *If yes,* how long have you been playing?
   If no, would you like to give it a try?

2. How popular is golf in your country? Who are mostly into this sport? *(older people, businessmen, young men or women?)*

3. Has golf become more popular in your country since the pandemic started?
   Which other sports have become popular?