

# Student Exercises:

## Willy Voet

### A. Read the preface to Voet's book.

#### Comprehension questions:

1. In his first sentence, Voet speaks of a decision that was difficult to make. What was this decision? Why was it difficult?
2. In his preface, Voet explains why he wrote his book. What are the main reasons that he shares in the preface?
3. Comment on the structure of the preface.
4. What do you think of what Voet did? Do you have sympathy for him? Do you admire his decision or do you think of him as a snitch?

### B. Read chapter two, "Anything to declare?," of *Breaking the Chain*.

#### Comprehension Questions:

1. Summarize the main points of this story. What happened? When? Where? At what time?
2. Discuss Voet's reaction to being put in prison.
3. On page 33, Voet writes that "they treated me like a dealer." What do you think of this statement? Can you find other similar statements in the text?
4. Has your reaction to Voet's actions changed since you read the preface? Do you have more or less sympathy for him now? Explain by giving specific examples from the text.

### C. Going further:

1. Is doping a problem in other sports? In other countries? Cite examples.
2. What do you think can be done about doping in sports? Should there be more testing and more stringent punishment, or should the public understand that doping is a natural reaction to high-stakes competition?

3. Since the Festina scandal, the Tour de France's image is tarnished. Cyclists complain that journalists focus on doping rather than on the sport and the riders who are clean. The result is that the general public thinks that all the riders take performance-enhancing drugs. What do you think of this problem? How can the Tour de France get past this scandal and change its image in the public's eye?

4. What have been some effects of doping in the Tour de France? What rules have been put in place since the scandal hit? How have the riders reacted? Do some research on the web by looking for articles and cartoons that address these issues.