

# BASKETBALL

## Warm-up task - discussion:

What do you associate with basketball?

Is it necessary to be very tall if someone wants to be a successful basketball player?

In pairs, compare basketball to other sports, such as volleyball or handball. Are there many things in common? What are the differences?

## TASK 1 *Basketball Vocabulary*

Complete the table with definitions of the terms, guess the meaning from the context if they are unknown to you.

Word	Example sentence	Meaning
assist	James won the MVP award with 28 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.	<b>Example:</b> a pass to a teammate that leads directly to a goal
bounce	Players must bounce the ball on the floor as they run.	<b>Example:</b> to rebound after hitting a surface
chest pass	Michael threw a quick chest pass, ran forward, and received a bounce pass back.	
dribble	He dribbled past two defenders and then shot for goal.	
foul	Larry's already had four fouls, so if he commits another one he'll be out of the game.	
free throw	Rodney practises his free throws for an hour every day.	
guarding	Guarding is a man-on-man defensive tactic used to counter dangerous players.	
overtime	We won the game by outscoring our opponents in overtime.	
personal foul	Younger players often get over-excited and too aggressive and commit many personal fouls.	

possession	The team whose player commits a violation loses possession of the ball.	
rebound	A lot of goals are scored from rebounds after an opponent's shot misses.	
referees	How many referees are usually on court during a game of basketball?	
shoot	Players earn more points if they shoot from outside the three-point line.	
shot clock	Players have to keep an eye on the shot clock while they are playing.	
slam dunk	Matt drove towards the basket, jumped high into the air and scored with a huge slam dunk.	
substitute	The substitutes sat on the bench and watched as their teammates on the court kept playing.	
technical foul	Their coach got a technical foul for arguing with a referee.	
time-out	Their coach indicated that he wanted a time-out, and the referee stopped the game.	
travelling	Even professional players sometimes get penalized for travelling.	
violation	Two of the most common violations in junior basketball are double-dribbling and travelling.	

## Task 2 *Basketball Vocabulary Quiz*

Fill in the missing words.

1. The coach argued with a referee and was given a \_\_\_\_\_ foul.
2. Jenny jumped in the air and scored with a slam \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Travelling, double-dribbling and carrying the ball are \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. A player must \_\_\_\_\_ the ball while running with it.
5. If a coach wants to talk to the players, he calls for \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. If a player commits a foul, the referee awards a free \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. The letters MVP stand for 'most \_\_\_\_\_ player'.
8. A pass that helps the receiver to score is called \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **TASK 3 *How the Game Works***

Complete the text with suitable forms of the verbs in brackets, either active or passive.

**Example:** Players pass the ball... (active)

The ball is passed... (passive)

Basketball \_\_\_\_\_ (play) on a rectangular court 28 metres long and 15 metres wide (approx. 92 ft by 49 ft) with a basket at a height of 3.05 metres (10 ft) at each end. Most indoor courts have a floor made of wood. Points \_\_\_\_\_ (score) by throwing the ball through the opponents' basket. A goal scored from inside the three-point line earns two points (see diagram at right), and a goal scored from outside the three-point line earns three points, and goals from free throws earn one point.

NBA games \_\_\_\_\_ (play) over four quarters of twelve minutes. Teams \_\_\_\_\_ (include) twelve players, but only five can be on court at one time. Players can be substituted as often as the coach likes. Each coach has a limited number of time-outs they can call during a game, and the game clock \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) whenever play stops. Several officials \_\_\_\_\_ (oversee) each game, including three on-court referees who call fouls, and table officials who keep score, run the game and shot clocks, and keep track of fouls and substitutions.

#### **Violations and Fouls**

The ball can be moved by throwing it to another player (called *passing*) or by bouncing it with one hand while running or walking (called *dribbling*). If a player \_\_\_\_\_ (move) both feet without bouncing the ball, he commits a violation called *travelling*. If he uses two hands while dribbling, he commits a violation called *double-dribbling*. If a player's hand moves under the ball while dribbling, he commits a violation called *carrying the ball*. Violations are also committed when time-limits \_\_\_\_\_ (exceed), and usually result in a free inbound pass for the opposition team.

A *personal foul* \_\_\_\_\_ (commit) when a player challenges another player unfairly, such as by blocking their run or hitting their arms. A player or coach who argues with a referee commits a *technical foul*. Fouls can \_\_\_\_\_ (punish) with a free inbound pass, free throws at goal, or with sending off. A player who \_\_\_\_\_ (commit) five fouls, or six in the NBA, can no longer take part in the game and is said to have been 'fouled out'.

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/sports-basketball.htm#vocab>

### **TASK 4 Follow-up**

In pairs, take it in turns to describe the main rules of the game.