

Unit 4 Sports Around the World

Sport is no longer a matter of simply playing games. It is a way of life for people all over the world. It can also be an international language, a force for peace or a political weapon as well as business.

Sport is something that touches our lives to a lesser or greater degree. Some sports are global, others are more localised. Many sports have changed through the ages, others have stayed essentially the same for hundreds of years.

QUESTIONS

Can you give examples of global and local sports? Are there any sports played exclusively in the Czech Republic?

What are the sports with a long history? What are the most recent sports and games?

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS

Stadium Team Sports

American Football, Football, Rugby, Baseball, Softball, Cricket, Hockey

Court Games

Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Tennis, Squash

Athletics

Track Events, Field Events

Gymnastics

Men's, Women's Gymnastics (Artistic); Rhythmic Gymnastics

Combat Sports

Boxing, Wrestling, Sumo Wrestling, Martial Arts

Water Sports

Swimming, Rowing, Canoeing, Windsurfing, Diving, Scuba Diving

Winter Sports

Skiing, Ski Jumping, Bobsleigh, Snowboarding, Skating, Ice Hockey

Activity/ Adventure Sports

Cycling, Mountain Biking, Skateboarding, Inline Skating, Mountaineering, Paragliding

Task 1 SPEAKING

Add to the list more sports you know.

Give characteristics of sports you like best.

Task 2 VOCABULARY

Exercise 1:

What sports are the people probably talking about?

1. It is all a matter of balance really.
2. You need a good eye and a lot of concentration.
3. The women's downhill starts at ten.
4. After his performance on the rings, he'll be hoping for something better on the horse.
5. You get sore at first and can hardly sit down, but you get used to it after a while.
6. The next big race is the 800 metres, in which Sarah Gates represents Great Britain.
7. It's incredibly noisy, fast and dangerous, but exciting to watch.
8. And so Clare Downs wins the 100 metres freestyle to add to her victory in breaststroke.

Exercise 2:

Read this text and choose the best alternative from the four choices given to fill each gap.

To be good at whatever sport you (1) _____, you need to (2) _____ a lot of time and energy on it. Professional footballers, for example, need to develop particular (3) _____, like passing the ball and tackling, but they also need to improve their endurance and general (4) _____. They (5) _____ most days. This usually involves running around the (6) _____ and doing lots of exercises.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. A do | B make | C play | D take |
| 2. A give | B spend | C use | D waste |
| 3. A abilities | B characteristics | C strategies | D skills |
| 4. A state | B fitness | C form | D image |
| 5. A prepare | B perform | C rehearse | D train |
| 6. A pitch | B court | C grass | D pool |

Exercise 3:

Complete the sentences with the expressions given below.

tournament record score beat win opponent

1. Who do you think will.....?
2. Sweden..... Portugal 2-0.
3. She's a very difficult
4. What was the final.....?
5. It's an incredible time – I think he has broken the world
6. It's a five-day.....

Exercise 4:

Complete the following phrases with either *win* or *beat*.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ...a medal | 7. ...the hot favourite |
| 2. ...a trophy | 8. ...by two seconds |
| 3. ...your rival | 9. ...the first round match |
| 4. ...a race | 10. ...the championship |
| 5. ...the champion | |
| 6. ...a competition | |

For more sports vocab you can go to:

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/sports.htm>

Task 3 SPEAKING

Identify the sports displayed below. Then take turns with your partner to give as many details about them as possible. Argue why you would/would not recommend the sport to a friend.



(http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/words/sports_pictures.htm)

EXPRESSING OPINIONS – useful phrases

Personal Point of View

We use these words and phrases to express a personal point of view:

- In my experience...
- As far as I'm concerned...
- Speaking for myself...
- In my opinion...
- Personally, I think...
- I'd say that...
- I'd suggest that...
- I'd like to point out that...
- I believe that...
- What I mean is...

Agreeing with an opinion

We use these words and phrases to agree with someone else's point of view:

- Of course.
- You're absolutely right.
- Yes, I agree.
- I think so too.
- That's a good point.
- Exactly.
- That's true.
- I agree with you entirely.
- That's just what I was thinking.
- I couldn't agree more.

Disagreeing with an opinion

We use these words and phrases to disagree with someone else's point of view:

- I don't agree with you.
- However...
- That's not entirely true.
- On the contrary...
- I'm sorry to disagree with you, but...
- Yes, but don't you think...
- I'm afraid I have to disagree.
- I'm not so sure about that.

(<http://www.vocabulary.cl/Lists/Opinions.htm>)

Task 4 Listening – Gymnastics: How hard can it be?

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDQzT_j5fqs)

Watch the video and complete the sentences.

1. The athletes need a combination of strength, _____ and gracefulness to master the six events.
2. Swinging on the parallel bars is one of the _____ moves. Gymnasts need to do that to build the _____ to do the fancy stuff.
3. Floor exercise included the headstand, the _____ and the front tuck.
4. I wasn't very good at it, so I jumped into the foam _____.
5. You have to balance on the pommel horse and keep up your strength while maintaining your _____ and holding yourself up in support.
6. You have to jump onto the _____, and plunge all the way up and over the vault and do as many _____ as you can.