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ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ И ПЕРЕВОДА

Практическое пособие

для студентов специальностей

1-88 02 01 «Спортивно-педагогическая деятельность»,

1-03 02 01 «Физическая культура»

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В практическом пособии представлены адаптированные тексты для
чтения и перевода об истории Олимпийских и паралимпийских игр, а также
о популярных видах спорта. Все они сопровождаются лексическими
упражнениями.

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Основной целью данного пособия является формирование у студентов навыка чтения (изучающего, просмотрового, ознакомительного, поискового), умения быстро находить необходимую информацию в тексте, умения грамотно сформулировать свою мысль на иностранном языке, а также расширение знаний студентов о культуре и традициях проведения спортивных соревнований в разных странах.

Практическое пособие состоит из 13 разделов, каждый из которых содержит адаптированный текст и ряд лексических упражнений. Каждый раздел начинается с небольшого количества слов, встречающихся в тексте и их перевода. Это упрощает чтение и понимание текста.

Тексты рассказывают об истории Олимпийских и Паралимпийских игр, а также о национальных видах спорта, популярных в Великобритании и США. Все они сопровождаются лексическими упражнениями способствующими лучшему усвоению и запоминанию профессиональной лексики. С помощью подобного рода упражнений представляется возможным перевести лексические единицы из пассивного словаря в активный, что значительно сказывается на уровне владения языком.

Настоящее практическое пособие предназначено для студентов факультета физической культуры 1 и 2 курсов специальностей 1-88 02 01 «Спортивно-педагогическая деятельность», 1-03 02 01 «Физическая культура».

Оно может быть использовано на уроке, факультативных занятиях и для самостоятельной работы учащихся по спортивной тематике на английском языке, а также будет полезно широкому кругу лиц, изучающих или преподающих английский язык.

Комплексная организация учебного, на наш взгляд, материала и коммуникативная направленность пособия будет способствовать активизации и совершенствованию навыков практического владения английским языком.

UNIT 1. THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

attend – посещать;

resort – курорт, курортное место;

apart – через;

impressive – впечатляющий;

release – выпускать;

represent – представлять, символизировать;

encourage – поддерживать, поощрять;

promote – содействовать распространению, развитию;

interlock – соединять;

surround – окружать;

torch – факел;

motto – девиз.

The Olympic Games bring together thousands of the world's finest athletes to compete against one another. No other sports event attracts so much attention. Several million people attend the games, and hundreds of millions throughout the world watch them on television.

The Olympic Games consist of the Summer Games and the Winter Games. The Summer Games are held in a major city, and the Winter Games are held at a winter resort. The Olympics have normally been held every four years, with both the Summer Games and the Winter Games taking place the same year. Beginning from 1994, the Summer Games and the Winter Games are scheduled to occur on a four-year cycle two years apart. For example, the Winter Games were held in 1994 and 1998 and the Summer Games in 1996 and 2000.

Colourful ceremonies combined with athletic competitions are to create the special feeling of excitement that surrounds the Olympics. The opening ceremony is particularly impressive. The athletes -of Greece march into the stadium first, in honour of the original Olympics held in ancient Greece. The other athletes follow in alphabetical order, depending on the spelling of each nation's name in the language of the host country.

The athletes of the host country enter last. The head of state of the host country declares the Games open. The Olympic flag is raised, trumpets

play, and cannons boom in salute. Hundreds of doves are released into the air as a symbol of peace.

The most dramatic moment of the opening ceremony is the lighting of the Olympic flame. Runners in cross-country relays bring a lighted torch from the valley of Olympia, Greece, where the ancient Olympics were held. Thousands of runners take part in the journey, which starts four weeks before the opening of the Games. They represent Greece and each country that lies between Greece and the host nation. Planes and ships transport the torch across mountains and seas. The final runner carries the torch into the stadium, circles the track, and lights the Olympic flame. The flame is kept burning until the end of the Games. This custom started in 1936.

The modern Olympics were organized to encourage world peace and friendship and to promote amateur athletics. The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings that represent the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. The rings are black, blue, green, red, and yellow. The flag of every nation competing in the games has at least one of these colours. The Olympic motto is Faster Higher, Stronger.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What sports event attract thousands of people all over the world?
2. How often the Olympic Games have normally been held?
3. How does the opening ceremony take place?
4. What is the most dramatic moment of the opening ceremony?
5. When did the custom of burning the Olympic flame start?
6. What is the main aim of the modern Olympic Games?

2. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. Several thousand people attend The Olympic Games.
2. The Olympic Games consist of the Summer Games and the Winter Games.
3. The Summer Games and the Winter Games taking place not the same year.
4. The Olympics have normally been held every five years.
5. The opening ceremony is particularly impressive.
6. The athletes of the host country enter first.
7. Thousands of runners take part in the journey, which starts several days before the opening of the Games.

8. The Olympic flame is kept burning during the first day of the Games.
9. The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings that represent the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America.

3. Finish the sentences.

1. The Olympic Games bring together thousands of the...
2. The Summer Games are held in a...
3. Beginning from 1994, the Summer Games and the Winter Games are scheduled...
4. Colourful ceremonies combined with athletic competitions are to create...
5. The Olympic flag is raised, trumpets play, ...
6. Thousands of runners take part in the journey...
7. The final runner carries the torch into the stadium, ...
8. The Olympic motto is...

4. Logically organize the following sentences to summarize the text.

1. The head of state of the host country declares the Games open.
2. The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings that represent the continents.
3. The runners represent Greece and each country that lies between Greece and the host nation.
4. Colourful ceremonies combined with athletic competitions are to create the special feeling of excitement that surrounds the Olympics.
5. The Olympics have normally been held every four years, with both the Summer Games and the Winter Games taking place the same year.
6. The Olympic Games consist of the Summer Games and the Winter Games.
7. The Olympic Games bring together millions of people all over the world.
8. The most dramatic moment of the opening ceremony is the lighting of the Olympic flame.
9. The modern Olympics were organized to encourage world peace and friendship and to promote amateur athletics.
10. Runners in cross-country relays bring a lighted torch from the valley of Olympia, Greece, where the ancient Olympics were held.

UNIT 2. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

uniform – форма;

represent – представлять;

to be responsible – нести ответственность;

salary – зарплата;

tournament – турнир;

luge – санный спорт;

bout – раз;

anthem – гимн.

Each national committee provides uniforms for its country's athletes while they prepare for and compete in the Games. Each committee also furnishes transportation for its team to the Games and back. The host country provides food and housing for all the athletes. Most countries use government funds to pay the expenses.

Every country represented in the Olympics has a National Olympic Committee that selects the athletes who compete in the Games. Each committee is responsible for ensuring that the athletes meet the Olympic and international sports federation eligibility requirements.

An athlete who represents a country in the Olympics must be a citizen of that country. Each athlete may receive expense money, plus the equivalent of the salary that he or she would earn by working instead of training.

In many countries, athletes qualify by winning, or finishing high, in competitions called selection trials. Participation in most of these trials is by invitation only.

In some Olympic sports, a nation may enter as many as three athletes in each individual event and one team in each team event. Five sports: archery, athletics, shooting, swimming, and weightlifting — require athletes to meet a minimum standard of performance if their country enters more than one competitor in an event within the sport. Up to 12 teams can compete in each men's team sport, except football, which involves 16 teams. No more than 20 teams take part in each team sport that has

competition for both men and women. If more than the maximum number of nations want to compete in sport, a qualifying tournament is held before the Olympics. Such tournaments are the responsibility of the international governing body of the sport involved.

Several methods of judging are used in various Olympic events. For example, the eight fastest athletes qualify for the finals in most swimming and athletics events. The medals in diving, figure-skating, and gymnastics are awarded on the basis of points given by judges. In bobsleighting and luge, each contestant or team makes a certain number of timed runs down the course, and the lowest total time wins. Speed-skaters are timed as they race, two at a time, over a course. The placing in shooting is based only on accuracy. In wrestling, each man competes against at least two opponents. In boxing, each man remains in competition only until he loses one bout.

The top three athletes in each Olympic event receive a medal and a diploma. The next five receive only a diploma. The first- and second place medals are made of silver, but the first-place medal has a gold coating. The third-place medal is made of bronze. All the members of a winning relay team get a medal. In team sports, all the members who have played in at least one of their team's games receive one. The design of the medals for the Winter Olympics is different from the design for the Summer Games. The design is changed for each Olympic Games.

The winners receive their medals at an impressive ceremony held after the event. The three medal winners stand to attention while the flags of their countries are raised. A band plays a short version of the national anthem of the homeland of the gold medal winner.

Olympic competition is intended to test the skill and strength of individuals, not nations. No nation "wins" the Olympics. However, newspaper and television reporters from all parts of the world tell the public how many gold, silver, and bronze medals have been won by each country.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Who provides uniform and transportation for the country's athletes?
2. What is the main responsibility of the National Olympic Committee?
3. What is called selection trials?
4. How many athletes can participate in the Olympic Games from one country?
5. How many teams from one country can participate in the Olympics?

6. What methods of judging are used in the Olympic events?
7. How does the awarding ceremony is held?

2. Match the words with their definitions.

1. A sport in which two people fight and try to throw each other to the ground.
2. A type of skating that involves circular patterns and often includes jumps.
3. A game played between two teams of eleven people, where each team tries to win by kicking a ball into the other team's goal.
4. The art or sport of shooting arrows.
5. Physical exercises and activities performed inside, often using equipment such as bars and ropes, intended to increase the body's strength and the ability to move and bend easily.
6. The general name for a particular group of sports in which people compete, including running, jumping, and throwing.
7. A sport in which two competitors fight by hitting each other with their hands.
8. The activity of lifting heavy objects either as a sport or for exercise.
9. A small vehicle with long metal blades under it, built for racing down tracks covered with ice.

(figure-skating; bobsleigh; weightlifting; archery; athletics; football; gymnastics; boxing; wrestling)

3. Finish the sentences.

1. Each national committee provides uniforms for its country's athletes...
2. ...that the athletes meet the Olympic and international sports federation eligibility requirements.
3. Each athlete may receive expense money, plus...
4. Five sports: archery, athletics, shooting, swimming, and weightlifting – require athletes...
5. The medals in diving, figure-skating, and gymnastics are awarded...
6. ...at least one of their team's games receive one.
7. ...the flags of their countries are raised.
8. The three medal winners stand to attention...
9. Olympic competition is intended...
10. ...and bronze medals have been won by each country.

4. Find in the text synonyms to the following words:

(to give; to play for; a resident; taking part in; a band; making a decision; exciting).

UNIT 3. THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

according – согласно;

can be considered – могут считаться;

contests – состязания;

to halt – останавливать, прекращать;

to attach – уделять;

framework – структура;

to maintain – поддерживать;

struggle – соревнование.

The Olympic Games have a very long history. According to Homer, Pelops, the god of fertility, staged the most memorable games in antiquity in 1370 B.C. Later on games were organized for several times. They can be considered the prehistory of the Olympics.

In 776 B.C. the first Olympics were held at the foot of Mount Olympus to honour the Greek chief God, Zeus. By 676 B.C. the Games included Greeks from every corner of the Greek World. The Greeks emphasized physical fitness and strength in their education of youth. The contests in running, jumping, discus and javelin throwing, boxing and horse and chariot racing were held in individual cities, and the winners competed every four years at Mount Olympus. The ceremonies also included contests in oratory, poetry, music and art. Winners were greatly honoured. Originally the games were held as games of friendship, and any wars in progress were halted to allow the games take place. The Greeks attached so much importance to these games that they calculated time in four-year cycles called *Olympiads*.

In 394 A.D. the Games were abolished and were not renewed until many centuries later. The renewal of the Games came in 1896, due to the French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The first Olympiad was held in Athens and followed the pattern set by the ancient Olympic Games.

Otherwise, the framework elaborated for the first Games, has stood the test of time. The modern Games have maintained the original idea of amateurism.

Russia joined the Olympic movement in 1952. Since then, Soviet sportsmen and sportswomen have collected a great lot of gold, silver and bronze medals. In 1980 Moscow hosted the 22nd Summer Olympic Games and in 2014 Sochi hosted the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. The importance of the Olympic Games was well expressed by Coubertin: “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle”.

The Olympic Games have always included a number of ceremonies, many of which emphasize the themes of international friendship and peaceful cooperation. At the opening ceremony the national anthem of the host country is played, and all the participants march past the Lodge of Honour. The Head of the host country declares the Games open, then the Olympic flag is raised and the Olympic hymn is sung. After that the Olympic flame is lit and will burn till the end of the Games. The Olympic torch has been carried from Olympia by torch bearers, one for each kilometre. The Olympic flag has five coloured interlaced rings, representing the five parts of the world, on a white background. The motto of the Olympic Games is “Citius, Altius, Fortius” (Faster, Higher, Stronger).

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What can be considered the prehistory of the Olympics?
2. When were the first Olympics held?
3. What did ancient Greeks emphasized in their education of youth?
4. How did the Olympic Games get their name?
5. What contests did first Olympics include?
6. When did the Games were abolished?
7. Who renewed the Olympic Games?
8. When did Russia join the Olympic movement?
9. What was the most important thing in the Olympic Games according to Pierre de Coubertin?

2. Insert the necessary word.

1. According to... , the god of fertility, staged the most memorable games in antiquity in 1370.
2. In 776 B.C. the first Olympics were held at the... of Mount Olympus to honour the Greek chief God, Zeus.

3. By 676 B.C. the Games included Greeks from every corner of the... .
4. The ceremonies also... contests in oratory, poetry, music and art.
5. The... of the Games came in 1896, due to the French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

6. Otherwise, the framework elaborated for the first Games, ...the test of time.

7. At the opening ceremony the national ... of the host country is played.

8. The Olympic... has been carried from Olympia by torch bearers, one for each kilometre.

(has stood; torch; Greek World; renewal; Homer, Pelops; included; anthem; foot)

3. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. The Olympic Games have a very short history.
2. The first Olympics were held at the foot of Mount Olympus to honour the Greek chief God, Apollo.
3. By 676 B.C. the Games included Greeks from every corner of the Greek World.
4. The ceremonies never included contests in oratory, poetry, music and art.
5. The first Olympiad after renewal was held in Paris and followed the pattern set by the ancient Olympic Games.
6. Russia joined the Olympic movement in 1952.
7. The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part.
8. The most important thing in the Olympic Games is to win.
9. The Olympic torch has been carried from Olympia by torch bearers, one for each kilometre.
10. The motto of the Olympic Games is "Veni. Vidi. Vici. (I came I saw I won).

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Бог плодородия, подножие горы Олимп, со всех уголков, позволить играм состояться, игры были отменены, прошли испытание временем, сохранили идею, включали ряд церемоний, переплетенные кольца.

UNIT 4. THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

governing body – руководящий орган;

representative – представитель;

in advance – вперед;

various – разнообразные;

conduct – осуществляет;

even year – четный год;

elect – избирать;

eligible – подходящий.

In 1894 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was set up. The IOC is the governing body of the Olympic Games. It is the central policy-making body of the Olympic movement, formed by the representatives of participant countries. The Committee approves the sports to be included in the Olympics. The IOC also selects the host cities, one for the Summer Games and one for the Winter Games, six years in advance. The selection process includes a presentation by the mayor of each city that wished to host the games. The games are allocated to a city, not to a country. Over 200 countries are represented in the IOC at present.

The organizing committee of the host city and the international governing body for each Olympic sport work with the IOC in planning the Games. The host city decides the number of sports to be included in the Games. The host city and various international sports federations plan the events within each sport, the maximum number of athletes allowed to enter, and the schedule of events. The international sports organizations also conduct each event and appoint the judges and referees.

The IOC was created by Pierre de Coubertin, on 23 June 1894 with Demetrios Vikelas as its first president. As of April 2019, its membership consists of 95 active members, 44 honorary members, an honorary president (Jacques Rogge) and two honour members (Henry Kissinger and Youssoupha Ndiaye).

Until 1992, both Summer and Winter Olympics were held in the same year. After that year, however, the IOC shifted the Winter Olympics to the even years between Summer Games, to help space the planning of the two

events from one another, and improve the financial balance of the IOC, which receives a proportionally greater income in Olympic years.

New members of the IOC are elected by the current members. A representative may be elected from any nation that has a national Olympic committee, but only nations that have hosted the *Olympics* may have two representatives. The IOC has no set rules regarding which eligible nations shall be represented. As a result, the size of the Committee varies as members die or retire and new members are chosen. In 1991, the Committee had 94 members. Originally, members were elected to the IOC for life. Today, any member elected after 1965 must retire at the age of 76. The members of the Committee accept no instructions on voting from any government or other group or individual.

The IOC meets annually and during the Summer and Winter Games. Between meetings, its executive board handles the Committee's business. This board consists of the president, four vice presidents, and six members who serve four-year terms. The Committee elects these officials from among its members. The president serves an eight-year term and then may be reelected to any number of four-year terms.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. When was the IOC set up?
2. Who created the IOC?
3. What are the main functions of the IOC?
4. When did the IOC the Olympic Games into Summer Games and Winter Games?
5. How the members of the IOC are elected?
6. How often does the IOC meet?
7. How long does the president of the IOC serve?

2. Finish the sentences

1. It is the central policy-making body of the Olympic movement...
2. The selection process includes...
3. The organizing committee of the host city and the international governing body...
4. The host city and various international sports federations...
5. The IOC was created by...
6. After that year, however, the IOC shifted the Winter Olympics to the even years...
7. A representative may be elected from any nation...

8. As a result, the size of the Committee varies as members die or...
9. This board consists of the president...

3. Logically organize the following sentences to summarize the text.

1. The IOC was created by Pierre de Coubertin, on 23 June 1894.
2. New members of the IOC are elected by the current members.
3. The Committee approves the sports to be included in the Olympics.
4. The IOC meets annually and during the Summer and Winter Games.
5. Until 1992, both Summer and Winter Olympics were held in the same year.
6. Over 200 countries are represented in the IOC at present.
7. In 1894 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was set up.
8. The host city decides the number of sports to be included in the Games.
9. The IOC is the governing body of the Olympic Games.
10. The president serves an eight-year term and then may be reelected to any number of four-year terms.

4. Find in the text synonyms to the following words.

(figure; choosing; authority of the city timetable; competitor; referee; profit; delegate; regulations; participant; every year; responsible organization; leader)

UNIT 5. PARALYMPIC GAMES

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

a spinal cord injury – травма спинного мозга;
disability – инвалидность;
emphasize – подчеркивать, акцентировать;
venues – места проведения;
to be obliged – быть обязанным;
to comprise – включать;
limb – конечность;
palsy – паралич;
impairment – нарушение, расстройство;
polio – полиомиелит.

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later, competitors from the Netherlands joined the games and an international movement was born. Olympic style games for athletes with a disability were organized for the first time in Rome in 1960, now called Paralympics.

In Toronto in 1976, other disability groups were added and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sport competitions was born. In the same year, the first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Sweden. Today, the Paralympics are elite sport events for athletes with a disability. They emphasize, however, the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disability. The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. Paralympic Games they have also taken place at the same venues as the Olympics. On 19 June 2001, an agreement was signed between the IOC and the IPC securing this practice for the future.

The host city is also obliged to host the Paralympics. The Russian city of Sochi hosted the Winter Paralympics in 2014 and Rio was the host of the 2016 Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic sports comprise all the sports contested in the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. The Summer Paralympics include 21 sports and about 500 events, and the Winter Paralympics include 5 sports and disciplines and about 64 events. The number and kinds of events may change from one Paralympiad to another.

Athletes who participate in Paralympic sport are grouped into six major categories, based on their type of disability:

- Amputee: Persons with a partial or total amputation of at least one limb.
- Cerebral palsy: Persons who have a non-progressive neurological disorder resulting from cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, or stroke, or similar disabilities affecting muscle control, balance or coordination.
- Intellectual disability: Persons who have a significant impairment in intellectual functioning with associated limitations in adaptive behaviour.
- Les autres: From the French for the others, this includes persons with a mobility impairment or other loss of physical function that does not fall strictly into one of the other five categories. Participants include those with dwarfism, multiple sclerosis or other disabilities.

- Visually impaired: Persons who have a non-correctable vision impairment ranging from partially sighted to total blindness.
- Wheelchair: Persons with a disability that requires them to compete using a wheelchair. This includes most athletes with spinal cord injuries as well as other athletes who require wheelchairs, including some lower limb amputees, persons with polio, and other disabilities.

The disability category determines that athletes compete and which sports they participate in. Some sports are open to multiple disability categories (e.g. cycling), while others are restricted to only one (e.g. Five-a-side football).

1. Answer the following questions.

1. When was the first competition for the World War II veterans organized?
2. What was the main injury of the first participants of the Paralympics?
3. When were other disability group added?
4. Where did the first Paralympic Winter Games take place?
5. What sports do the Paralympic Games comprise?
6. Into what categories the participants of the Paralympic Games are grouped?

2. Match the words with their definitions.

1. People with a disability that requires them to compete using a wheelchair.
2. The set of nerves inside the spine that connect the brain to other nerves in the body.
3. People with a partial or total amputation of at least one limb.
4. An illness, injury, or condition that makes it difficult for someone to do the things that other people do.
5. People who have a significant impairment in intellectual functioning with associated limitations in adaptive behavior.
6. People who have a non-correctable vision impairment ranging from partially sighted to total blindness.
7. People who have a non-progressive neurological disorder.

(wheelchair; disability; intellectual disability; spinal cord; cerebral palsy; amputee; visually impaired)

3. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. In 1948, Pierre de Coubertin organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury.
2. Olympic style games for athletes with a disability were organized for the first time in Ancient Rome.
3. The first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Toronto.
4. The Paralympics are elite sport events for athletes with a disability.
5. They emphasize, however, the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disability.
6. The Paralympic Games have always been held the next year after the Olympic Games.
7. The Paralympic sports comprise all the sports contested in the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games.
8. Athletes who participate in Paralympic sport are grouped into six major categories, based on their type of disability.

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Включая; международное движение; идея объединения; элитное спортивное соревнование; подчеркивает в большей степени спортивные достижения; закрепил эту практику для будущего; адаптивное поведение; карликовость; рассеянный склероз; категория определяет.

UNIT 6. NATIONAL SPORTS OF BRITAIN

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

treadmill – беговая дорожка;
bungee – тарзанка;
track and field – легкая атлетика;
egg-shaped – яйцевидный;
amateurs – любители;
fairness – честность;
donkey – осел.

Lots of people all over the world go in for sport. Doing sports prevents us from getting too fat and helps to stay healthy. Some people try to find time to go to a swimming pool or a gym at least once a week for aerobics, yoga classes, bodybuilding or workout on a treadmill. Others are fond of extreme sports such as rock climbing, skydiving, bungee and base jumping, zorbing and white-water rafting.

Every country has its own mix of favourite sports but the most popular sports all over the world are football and track and field. Canadians are fond of hockey, lacrosse, basketball and curling, the French enjoy cycling and tennis, Thais prefer Thai boxing, Russians adore figure skating along with football, hockey and swimming.

Britain is not an exception. British people are fond of sports, perhaps more than any other nation in the world. Almost everybody is actively engaged in this or that kind of sports.

Football is a very popular sport in Britain, played between August and May (the football season). The 22 best English teams play in the Premier League, run by the Football Association (the FA). The other professional teams play in the three divisions run by the football League. Teams play regularly against other teams according to a fixed programme.

A very important competition is the FA Cup which is also open to amateur teams that belong to the Football Association. The two teams which are the winners of the FA Cup competition, play in the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium in London. This is a very important national sporting event, and it is always watched by eighty thousands fans at the stadium and by millions of people on TV.

Rugby is a type of football played with an egg-shaped ball which may be carried and thrown (but not forward). There are two types of rugby: in Rugby Union there are teams of 15 players, who are amateurs, in Rugby League there are 13 players in a team, the players are all professionals and it is mostly played in the north of England.

Cricket is another very popular sport in Britain, played mainly in summer (May – September). It is not played much in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, but it is played in the Commonwealth countries of Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the West Indies. Many people consider cricket to be England's national game and to be typical of the English style of behaviour, which includes above all a sense of honour and fairness. One reason that cricket becomes so much a part of life is that the games are so long. An ordinary game at a boys' school takes up a whole afternoon. But the big international games, known as test matches, are up

to five days long! And that is not all; a number of test matches are played one after the other to make up a series.

Next to football, the chief spectator sport in Britain is horse-racing. A lot of people are interested in the races and risk money on the horse which they think will win. The most famous horse races are the Derby and the Royal Ascot.

Britain is also famous for motor-car racing, boat-racing, dogracing, and even races of donkeys. The famous Boat Race is held every year at the end of March or the beginning of April between teams from Oxford University and Cambridge University, attracts large crowds of people and is shown on TV. Indeed sport in one form or another forms an essential part of daily life in Britain

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do people like sport?
2. What sport competition are the most popular in Britain?
3. Where Wembley Stadium is situated?
4. What sport is popular not only in Britain but also in the Commonwealth countries?
5. What other spectator sports are popular in Britain?

2. Match the words with their definitions

1. An activity in which someone rolls down a hill or along the surface of water in a large transparent plastic ball.
2. The sport of climbing on rocks or in mountains.
3. Energetic physical exercises, often performed with a group of people to music, that make the heart, lungs, and muscles stronger and increase the amount of oxygen in the blood.
4. A sport in which people race on horses, usually to win money for the horses' owners.
5. Special exercises that you do regularly to make your muscles bigger.
6. The sport of jumping off a very high bridge or similar structure, with a long elastic rope tied to your legs, so that the rope pulls you back before you hit the ground.
7. A sport in which people race on donkeys, usually to win money.
8. The sport of racing extremely fast and powerful cars around a track.
9. A set of physical and mental exercises, originally from India, intended to give control over the body and mind.

10. The activity of being moved quickly in small boat filled with air along rivers where the current is very strong.

11. A sport in which a person jumps from an aircraft and falls for as long as possible before opening a parachute.

(horse-racing; motor-car racing; bodybuilding; white-water rafting; bungee jumping; yoga; rock climbing; races of donkeys; zorbing; skydiving,; aerobics)

3. Logically organize the following sentences to summarize the text.

1. Next to football, the chief spectator sport in Britain is horse-racing.
2. Lots of people all over the world go in for sport.
3. One reason that cricket becomes so much a part of life is that the games are so long.
4. Football is a very popular sport in Britain.
5. Indeed sport in one form or another forms an essential part of daily life in Britain.
6. Rugby is a type of football played with an egg-shaped ball which may be carried and thrown (but not forward).
7. Britain is also famous for motor-car racing, boat-racing, dogracing, and even races of donkeys.
8. Cricket is another very popular sport in Britain, played mainly in summer.
9. Teams play regularly against other teams according to a fixed programme.

4. Find in the text synonyms to the following words.

to keep fit; spectators; the style of acting; not professional; famous; to participate; training; attractive sport; traditional game

UNIT 7. THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

oar – весло;

tide – прилив;

curve – изгиб;

crew – экипаж;
coxswain – рулевой;
steer – управлять;
bank – берег;
ribbon – лента.

Rowing has a long history in England. Rowing a boat with eight oars (or with four oars) was first started in England in the 18th century. At that time the boats took part in fetes and processions on the River Thames.

In the 19th century people started to use the boats for racing not only in London on the Thames. The first boat race between universities of Oxford and Cambridge was held in 1829.

Nearly every year since then there has been a boat race between these two universities. It is held in London on the Thames, during the Easter vacation, at the end of March or the beginning of April, according to the tides.

The course from Putney to Mortlake is 4 . miles long. It has many curves and turns, and there can be a lot of wind at this time of year. The crews usually row the 4 . miles in well under 20 minutes. The crews of the boats, chosen from the members of the college Boat Club, train together for twelve weeks before the race, first in Oxford or Cambridge and finally in London. In each boat there are eight oarsmen and a coxswain (usually called a “cox”). The cox, who is much lighter than the others, sets the speed and the rhythm, and steers.

On Boat Race Saturday the banks and bridges of the Thames are thick with people who have come to watch. Some wear dark-blue ribbons (for Oxford), and some wear pale-blue ones (for Cambridge). Every year in March or April, the two oldest universities in Britain – Oxford and Cambridge – compete in a boat race on the river Thames in London. It started 168 years ago as a private competition, when a student from one university challenged someone from the other to a race. In Britain today, a quarter of a million people watch the race from the banks of the Thames, while a further 10 million see it on television.

Worldwide, it is thought that the race is watched by over 100 million people. In Britain the competition is known simply as “ The Boat Race”. But it is much more than just a contest between two rowing boat. It is a British sporting tradition, as important as the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Royal Ascot and a Test match at Lord`s.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. When did the competition in rowing start?
2. At what season the race is usually held?
3. How many oars is there in the crew?
4. What are the main functions of the coxswain?
5. What are the colours of The Oxford team?
6. What are the colours of The Cambridge team?
7. How did the competition start?

2. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. Rowing appeared not so long ago.
2. The first boat race between universities of Oxford and Cambridge was held in 1829.
3. The crews usually row the 20 . miles in well under 20 minutes.
4. In each boat there are eighteen oarsmen and a coxswain (usually called a “cox”).
5. The cox must be much heavier, than the others.
6. On Boat Race Saturday the banks and bridges of the Thames are thick with people who have come to watch.
7. In Britain today, a quarter of a million people watch the race from the banks of the Thames, while a further 10 million see it on television.
8. In Britain the competition is as important as the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, Royal Ascot and a Test match at Lord`s.

3. Insert the necessary word.

1. At that time the boats took part in... and processions on the River Thames.
2. The first boat race between... of Oxford and Cambridge was held in 1829.
3. It is held in London on the Thames, during the Easter... .
4. It has many... , and there can be a lot of wind at this time of year.
5. It started 168 years ago as a private competition, when a student from one university... someone from the other to a race.
6. Worldwide, it is thought that the race... by over 100 million people.

4. Find in the text synonyms to the following words.

(to participate; to be organized; the loops of the river; the staff of the boat; a lot of people; to oppose).

UNIT 8. THE HISTORY OF THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

onwards – далее;
annual – ежегодный;
dead heat – ничья;
to sink – утонуть;
insignia – эмблема, символ;
endurance – выносливость.

The first race took place on 10 June 1829. It was held on the river Thames, not in the heart of London, but out in the countryside, to the west of the capital. Oxford were the winners. Cambridge took revenge seven years later.

From 1839 onwards, the race became an annual event, but it was not until 1845 that the now traditional course – from Putney to Mortlake was established. This stretch of the Thames, which runs for four and a quarter miles (about seven kilometers), is known as “The Tideway”.

The race has also been won for long periods by one university. Cambridge won 13 races in a row between 1924 and 1936, and Oxford won 10 races in a row between 1976 and 1985. From 1839 onwards, the race became an annual event, when Sue Brown coxed the Oxford boat to victory two years in a row. Since then, six other women (all coxes) have taken part. During the race’s history, there have been sinkings, collapses, collisions and controversies...

Even though there are no Olympics or World Championship medals to be won, the chance to row for the university is a great honour, and the students who participate are allowed to wear special insignia, called “blues”.

The Boat Race is regarded as one of the most challenging endurance tests in sport. The students at each university train for 28 weeks, starting in October. Each boat has a team of eight oarsmen (plus one cox) and the final teams are selected just before the race.

Those students who are not selected for the “Blues” boats get a chance to row in the “second” boats, which are called “Isis” at Oxford and

“Goldie” at Cambridge. Their race takes place before the main race on Boat Race day, over the same course. This race is useful for seeing how new oarsmen are shaping up for the following year’s Boat Race.

Training for the Boat Race requires dedication and a lot of will power. The oarsmen start most days at six with an early morning row on the river. This is followed by hours of exercises in the gymnasium, then running, and finally an afternoon row.

The mental exercise is also challenging because, apart from the stress of preparing for the race, the rowers must also find time to study for their degrees.

Rowing is still very much an amateur sport, but it is becoming increasingly expensive. The two universities finally agreed to allow sponsorship of the teams in 1976. The current sponsors, Beefeater Gin who make an alcoholic drink, contribute £1,3 million over three years. This money pays for the boats, the coaches, and even warm-weather training in Spain when it is too cold to practise on the Thames. Prize money was introduced in 1968.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. When did the first race take place?
2. Who were the winners of the first race?
3. What is the traditional course of the Race?
4. What is called “blues”?
5. How long do the students train before the race?
6. What is “Isis” at Oxford and “Goldie” at Cambridge?
7. How do the students prepare for the competition?
8. Who is the current sponsor of the Race?

2. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. The first race was held in the heart of London.
2. The boat race is held every four years.
3. Women never take place in the competition.
4. The Boat Race is one of the most challenging endurance tests in sport.
5. Each boat has a team of eight oarsmen and the final teams are selected just before the race.
6. Training for the Boat Race requires dedication and a lot of will power.

7. Rowing is still a professional sport.
8. The two universities never agreed to allow sponsorship of the teams.

3. Logically organize the following sentences to summarize the text.

1. The students at each university train for 28 weeks.
2. During the race`s history, there have been sinkings, collapses, collisions and controversies...
3. The first race took place on 10 June 1829.
4. The two universities finally agreed to allow sponsorship of the teams in 1976.
5. From 1839 onwards, the race became an annual event.
6. From 1839 onwards, the race became an annual event.
7. Each boat has a team of eight oarsmen (plus one cox) and the final teams are selected just before the race.
8. Rowing is still very much an amateur sport, but it is becoming increasingly expensive.
9. Training for the Boat Race requires dedication and a lot of will power.

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Традиционный маршрут; участок реки; подряд; большая честь; сила воли; полезно посмотреть; становиться все более дорогой; пожертвовать.

UNIT 9. FOOTBALL IN GREAT BRITAIN

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

to celebrate – отмечать;
to flourish – расцветать;
fibers – волокна;
moss – мох;
subsequent – последующий;
to trip – толкать;
to caution – предупреждать;
spectators – зрители.

Not so long ago football fans celebrated the 130th anniversary of their favourite sports game. But in fact the game is much older. The ancient Greeks played a form of football and the Romans played a similar game. It was probably brought to England by Roman soldiers almost two thousand years ago. They called the game “Harpastum” and the rules were much like modern rugby football.

In medieval times a form of football flourished in Italy. Natives of Polynesia are known to have played a variety of the game with a football made of bamboo fibers, and the Eskimos played a form of football with a leather ball filled with moss.

Most modern versions of football originated in England, where a form of the game was known in the 12th century. In subsequent centuries football became so popular that various English monarchs, including Edward II and Henry VI, forbade the game on the theory that it took interest away from the military sport of archery.

Football is played by two teams of 11 players each. Games normally consist of two 45-minute halves. The object of the game is to score points by carrying the ball across the goal line of the opponents, or by kicking the ball through or over the goal of the opponents. The ball is controlled and advanced primarily by using the feet; only goalkeepers are allowed to handle the ball.

Players may not kick, trip, or hold opponents. The punishment for these offenses, and for players other than the goalkeeper using the hands or arms to control the ball, is the awarding of a penalty spot to the opponents. Most penalty kicks result in goals.

The referee carries two colored cards, showing the yellow card when a player is cautioned and showing the red card for an ejection. An ejected player may not be replaced for that game by a substitute.

Football is a winter game in Great Britain, because winters are never too cold. The Football Association Cup is considered the best prize a team can get, and the Cup Final is the most important football event. It is played in May, at the end of the season, at Wembley Stadium. 120,000 spectators gather at the stadium, they sing and shout and wave flags. The same thing takes place practically in every city and town in Britain, for soccer is a national game.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Where did the football start?
2. Who brought football to Great Britain?

3. At what period football became extremely popular in England?
4. Who forbade the game?
5. At what season is football played in Great Britain?
6. What is the most important football event?
7. How do fans greet their teams?

2. Match the words with their definitions.

1. An advantage given in some sports to a team or player when the opposing team or player breaks a rule.

2. A number of people or animals who do something together as a group an illegal act.

3. The player who stands in the team's goal to try to stop the other team from scoring.

4. To force someone to leave a particular place.

5. To hit someone or something with the foot, or to move the feet and legs suddenly and violently.

6. A person who is in charge of a sports game and who makes certain that the rules are followed.

7. To lose your balance after knocking your foot against something when you are walking or running, or to cause someone to do this.

(to eject; penalty; to kick; a goalkeeper; a team; a referee; to trip).

3. Insert the necessary word.

1. Not so long ago football fans celebrated the 130th... of their favourite sports game.

2. The Roman soldiers called the game... and the rules were much like modern rugby football.

3. In... centuries football became very popular.

4. Football took interest away from the... sport of archery.

5. The object of the game is to... points by carrying the ball across the goal line of the opponents.

6. Most penalty... result in goals.

7. An ejected player may not be replaced for that game by a...

8. Association Cup is considered the best... a team can get.

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Отмечать годовщину; бамбуковые волокна, наполненный мхом; военный спорт; разрешено использовать руки; заменять; считается самой высокой наградой; размахивать флагами.

UNIT 10. GOLF

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

a shepherd – пастух;
boredom – скука;
to evolve – развиваться;
to prohibit – запрещать;
to impose – накладывать;
to thrive – процветать;
to adopt – принимать;
a clasp – застежка;
enduring – стойкий.

The origins of golf are disputed. However, a popular story is that Scottish shepherds knocked stones down rabbit holes to ease their boredom. Whatever the ancient history of the distant relatives of modern golf might be, there's no disputing that golf as we know it today evolved first in Scotland.

The first documented mention of golf in Scotland appears in a 1457 Act of the Scottish Parliament, with King James II of Scotland prohibiting golf and football as these were a distraction from archery practice. Bans were imposed in the Acts of 1471 and 1491, while Mary, Queen of Scots was criticised for having apparently played this most unladylike and unprofitable of sports. Fortunately the ban on 'gowf', as it was then known, was canceled in 1502.

In the 15th century, golf was close to the Netherlands game of 'colf', which was played over rough ground or on frozen waterways, and involved hitting a ball towards a target stick fixed in the ground. 'Colvers' playing on the frozen canals even appear in 17th century Dutch paintings.

Between the mid 18th and 19th centuries, golf thrived. The world's most prominent golf clubs were established at this period. On 7 March 1744, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, the world's oldest golf club, which now resides at Muirfield, Scotland, officially came into existence. That year the first 13 rules of golf were drafted for players to compete for a silver golf club, presented by the City of Edinburgh. On 14 May 1754, 22 'Noblemen and Gentlemen' formed the Society of St Andrews Golfers, adopting the rules of their counterparts. 20 years later they changed their name to the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

In 1860 the first Open Championship was held at Prestwick, contested by eight leading professionals. The first winner was Willie Park who received a red Morocco leather belt with silver clasps as his first prize. By the end of the 19th century golf became more and more popular all over the world.

While in 1880 England had only 12 courses, by 1914 this had risen to over 1,000. Today more than 3,000 golf courses exist throughout Britain, with 188 countries belonging to the International Golf Federation, demonstrating the enduring worldwide appeal of this most Scottish of sports.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Where did golf appear?
2. Why golf was prohibited?
3. Why Mary, Queen of Scots was criticised?
4. How the Netherlands game of 'colf was played?
5. When the world's most prominent golf clubs were established?
6. When the first Open Championship was held?
7. How many courses of golf is there in Britain?

2. Finish the sentences

1. The origins of golf are....
2. Scottish shepherds knocked stones down rabbit holes to...
3. Mary, Queen of Scots was criticised for...
4. In the 15th century, golf was close to...
5. 'Colvers' playing on the frozen canals...
6. That year the first 13 rules of golf were...
7. On 14 May 1754, 22 'Noblemen and Gentlemen...
8. Today more than 3,000 golf courses...

3. Logically organize the following sentences to summarize the text.

1. In the 15th century, golf was close to the Netherlands game of ‘colf’.
2. The origins of golf are disputed.
3. In 1860 the first Open Championship was held at Prestwick.
4. The first documented mention of golf in Scotland appears in a 1457.
5. On 7 March 1744, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, the world’s oldest golf club officially came into existence.
6. King James II of Scotland prohibited golf and football as these were a distraction from archery practice.
7. Golf Federation, demonstrating the enduring worldwide appeal of this most Scottish of sports.
8. That year the first 13 rules of golf were drafted for players to compete for a silver golf club.

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Развеять скуку; какой бы не была предыстория; каким мы знаем его сегодня; первое зафиксированное упоминание; подвергаться критике за; появиться на свет; ведущие профессионалы.

UNIT 11. CRICKET

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

probably – возможно, вероятно;
to invade – вторгаться;
to derive – происходить;
a club – клюшка, бита;
the howler – подающий;
a batsman – отбивающий;
rural – сельский;
newly-town – свежескошенная.

The origins of cricket lie somewhere in the Dark Ages – probably after the Roman Empire, almost certainly before the Normans invaded England, and almost certainly somewhere in Northern Europe. All research concedes that

the game derived from a very old, widespread and uncomplicated pastime by which one player served up an object, be it a small piece of wood or a ball, and another hit it with a suitably fashioned club.

Having originated in south-east England, it became the country's national sport in the 18th century and has developed globally in the 19th and 20th centuries. International matches have been played since 1844 and Test cricket began, retrospectively recognized, in 1877.

Cricket is very much the English game. At village level, a match can be played in an afternoon. At international level it can take five days and still end in a draw. People played a form of cricket 250 years ago.

The only other countries that play cricket are Pakistan, India, the West Indies. South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Cricket is a summer game, lovely to watch from under old trees on a village «green». It looks slow, but it can be exciting if you understand what's going on. There are eleven men in each team. One man, («the howler») throws the ball, and a «batsman- hits it with his bat.

Judging by the number of people who play it and watch it, cricket is definitely not the national sport of Britain. Only in England and a small part of Wales it is played at top level. And even in England, where its enthusiasts come from all classes, the majority of people do not understand its rules. Moreover, it is rare for the English national team to be the best in the world. But when people refer to cricket as the English national game, they are not thinking so much of its level of popularity or of the standard of English players. Cricket is much more than a sport; it symbolizes the way of life, a slow and peaceful rural way of life. One game of cricket takes a terribly long time (from three to five days).

Cricket is associated with Long sunny summer afternoons, the smell of newly-mown grass and the sound of leather (the bail) connecting with the willow (the cricket bat). Cricket is, therefore, the national English game in a symbolic sense. It is special because it combines competition with the British dream of rural life. And there are millions of people in the country who don't just enjoy cricket but are passionate about it.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the origins of cricket?
2. How long does the match last?
3. What other countries play cricket?
4. Why cricket is not the national sport of Britain?

5. How many people are there in the cricket team?
6. What does cricket symbolize?
7. What does cricket combine?

2. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. The origins of cricket lie somewhere in the Middle Ages.
2. Cricket became the country's national sport in the 18th century and has developed globally in the 19th and 20th centuries.
3. Cricket is very much the English game.
4. Cricket is played in Great Britain only.
5. Cricket is a summer game.
6. There are ten men in each team.
7. Even children know know the rules.
8. One game of cricket takes a few hours.
9. Cricket is associated with Long sunny summer afternoons.

3. Finish the sentences.

1. All research concedes that the game derived from...
2. Having originated in south-east England, it became...
3. International matches have been played since...
4. The only other countries that play cricket are...
5. Judging by the number of people...
6. When people refer to cricket as the English national game...
7. Cricket is much more than a sport...
8. Cricket is associated with...

4. Find in the text synonyms to the following words.

(to conquer; having started; end without victory or failure; astonishing; provincial; fresh grass; to adore).

UNIT 12. BOXING

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

a fist – кулак;

to conduct – проводить;

to render – давать возможность;
to decline – приходить в упадок;
to revive – оживлять;
headgear – шлем;
to distinguish – различать.

Boxing is an athletic contest between two persons, each of whom uses the fists to try to knock the other unconscious or to cause the opponent either to quit or to be judged beaten. A boxing match is conducted under established rules and procedures and has a referee, judges, and timekeeper. The primary aim of each participant is to strike blows to the head and torso of the opponent that will knock down and render the boxer incapable of rising to a standing position and defending himself within 10 seconds.

In ancient Greece, boxing was a popular amateur competitive sport and was included in the first Olympian Games. The sport declined in popularity after the fall of the Roman Empire. In the 18th century, boxing was revived in London in the form in which the contestants fought for money.

Boxers are classified in 12 weight divisions, which include light flyweight (49 kg), flyweight (51 kg.), bantam weight (66.7–69.9 kg), feather weight (57 kg), light weight (61 kg.), light welterweight (61.2kg - 63.5 kg), welter weight (67 kg.), light middleweight (66.7–69.9 kg.), middle weight (72.5 kg), light heavy weight (79 kg), heavy weight (77 kg.) and super heavyweight (91 kg). Bouts are no longer than three rounds, usually of 2 to 3 minutes each. Besides gloves such protective devices as headgear are also worn.

There are different kinds of bouts in boxing: sparring, exhibition bout, close fighting or infighting, outfighting, shadow boxing, etc. Positions and stances in boxing can be different. In general we distinguish between some kinds: sparring position, defensive position, offensive position, fundamental position, crouching on guard, left-hand stance, crouch, open on guard, right-hand stance and others. There are many kinds of hits in boxing: hammer, illegal blow, butting, left to the head, left to the body, straight blow, hit with open glove, stop hit, lead hit, hook, swing, counter, knockout, left uppercut, etc.

Boxing requires a many-sided physical training of a boxer and such mental qualities as courage, resolution, persistence, endurance. All these mental and physical qualities are developed in the process of training in boxing.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the primary aim of each participant of the competition?
2. Where boxing was a popular amateur competitive sport?
3. When was boxing revived?
4. How are boxers classified?
5. How long is the bout?
6. What does boxing require?

2. Match the columns.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) light weight | a) 66.7–69.9 kg |
| 2) bantam weight | b) 49 kg |
| 3) super heavyweight | c) 91 kg |
| 4) light welterweight | d) 67 kg |
| 5) feather weight, | e) 51 kg |
| 6) welter weight | f) 77 kg |
| 7) light flyweight | g) 67 kg |
| 8) heavy weight | h) 72.5 kg |
| 9) light heavy weight | i) 61 kg |
| 10) middle weight | j) 79 kg |
| 11) flyweight | k) 61.2–63.5 kg |
| 12) light middleweight | l) 57 kg |

3. Insert the necessary word

1. A boxing match is... under established rules and procedures and has a referee.
2. In ancient Greece, boxing was a popular amateur... sport.
3. In the 18th century, boxing was... in London.
4. Boxers are classified in 12 weight...
5. There are different kinds of... in boxing:
6. Besides gloves such protective devices as... are also worn.
7. Boxing requires a... physical training

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Нокаутировать; установленные правила; наносить удары; соревновательный спорт; утратил популярность; разносторонний.

UNIT 13. SPORTS IN THE USA

Read the text and do the exercises that follow.

decade – десятилетие;
notably – значительно;
a cheerleader – болельщик;
to root – болеть;
to broadcast – транслировать;
male – мужской;
revenue – доход;
lucrative – прибыльный.

Football, baseball, and basketball, the most popular sports in America, originated in the United States and are largely unknown outside North America. The football season starts in early autumn and is followed by basketball, an indoor winter sport, and then baseball, played in spring and summer. Besides these top three sports, ice hockey, boxing, golf, car racing, horse racing, and tennis have been popular for decades and attract large audiences.

Although many spectator sports, particularly football, ice hockey, and boxing, are aggressive and sometimes bloody, American spectators are notably less violent than are sports crowds in other countries. Baseball and football games are family affairs, and cheerleaders command the remarkably non-violent crowd to root in chorus for their teams.

For many people, sports are big business. The major television networks contract with professional sports leagues for the rights to broadcast their games. Advertisers for beer, cars, and men's products are glad of the opportunity to push their goods to the mainly male audience of the big professional sports. The networks are glad to attract audiences who might become regular viewers of other programs produced by those networks. The major sports leagues enjoy the millions of dollars the networks pay for the broad-casting rights contracts. Many sports get half of their revenues from the networks.

The commercial aspects of American professional sports can make or break an athlete's career. In women's tennis, for example, an ambitious young tennis star must not only possess a winning serve and backhand, she

must also get corporate agents on her side. Without agents who attract sponsors and publicity, a player has a very difficult time moving from amateur to professional sports. A talented young tennis player has a much better chance for success if she is also attractive. Tennis sportswear companies pay large sums of money to tennis players who promote their products. Many top players earn more money a year in product-endorsement fees than in prize money. Competition and success in sports, then, is not only a matter of game skill, but marketability as well.

College sports lost its amateurism years ago. Sports bring in money to colleges from ticket sales and television rights, so colleges like having winning teams. The better the team, the greater the ticket sales and television coverage, and the more money the college can invest in athletics and other programs. Football and basketball are the most lucrative college sports because they attract the most fans. Other college sports, particularly women`s sports, are often neglected and ignored by spectators. To recruit student athletes for a winning team, many colleges provide full academic scholarships to athletes.

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the most popular sports in the USA?
2. Are American spectators more violent than are sports crowds?
3. What games can be considered family affairs?
4. Why sport is a big business for many people?
5. How commercial aspects of American professional sports can make or break an athlete's career?
6. What are the most lucrative college sports in America?

2. Say whether these sentences are true or false.

1. Tennis, golf and cricket are the most popular sports in America.
2. American spectators are more violent than are sports crowds in other countries.
3. Baseball and football games are family affairs.
4. The major television networks contract with professional sports leagues for the rights to broadcast their games.
5. Many sports get half of their revenues from the networks.
6. Many top players earn more money a year in product-endorsement fees than in prize money.
7. College sports is still amateur in America.

3. Finish the sentences.

1. The football season starts in...
2. Although many spectator sports, particularly...
3. The major television networks contract with...
4. Many sports get...
5. A talented young tennis player has a much better chance for success...
6. Competition and success in sports, then, is not only a matter of game...
7. To recruit student athletes for a winning team, many colleges...

4. Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Зародиться; привлекать большую аудиторию; хором болеют; права на трансляцию; радоваться возможности; шансы на успех; предоставлять полную стипендию.

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