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«Гомельский государственный университет  
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## **SPORTS AND GAMES**

Практическое пособие

для студентов специальностей

6-05-0231-01 Современные иностранные языки

(английский, немецкий), (английский, французский);

6-05-0113-08 Лингвистическое образование (английский);

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## ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Данное практическое пособие разработано с учетом актуальных тем и лексики, связанных со спортом. В основу упражнений и заданий положены методические принципы сознательности, последовательности и коммуникативной направленности, что способствует приобретению и закреплению практических навыков, необходимых студентам в их дальнейшей профессиональной деятельности, а также представляет теоретический и практический интерес как для преподавателей, так и для студентов.

Издание состоит из разделов, посвященных актуальным темам согласно программе курса и интересам студентов. Каждый раздел включает упражнения на отработку активной лексики, а также тексты для чтения и обсуждения. Также в практическом пособии можно найти упражнения для отработки устойчивых выражений и идиом, связанных с темой «Спорт». Помимо текстов издания содержит видеоматериалы.

Представленный в практическом пособии материал может использоваться для организации аудиторной и внеаудиторной учебной деятельности по английскому языку в рамках учебной программы высшего образования.

# UNIT 1. VOCABULARY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

### Kinds of Sports

athletics [æθ'letiks] (track-and-field)  
basketball ['bɑ:skɪtbɔ:l]  
biathlon [baɪ'æθlən]  
boxing ['bɒksɪŋ]  
chess [tʃes]  
cricket ['krɪkɪt]  
cycling ['saɪklɪŋ]  
discus throwing ['dɪskəs 'θrəʊɪŋ]  
fencing ['fensɪŋ]  
figure skating ['fɪgə skeɪtɪŋ]  
gymnastics [dʒɪm'næstɪks]  
hammer throwing ['hæmə 'θrəʊɪŋ]  
hockey ['hɒki]  
horse racing ['hɔ:s 'reɪsɪŋ]  
javelin throwing ['dʒæv(ə)lɪn 'θrəʊɪŋ]  
judo ['dʒu:dəʊ]  
long / high jump  
polo ['pəʊləʊ]  
race [reɪs]  
rowing ['raʊɪŋ]  
rugby ['rʌgbɪ]  
sambo ['sæmbəʊ]  
skating ['skeɪtɪŋ]  
skiing ['ski:ɪŋ]  
ski-jumping ['ski 'dʒʌmpɪŋ]  
soccer ['sɒkə]  
squash [skwɔʃ]  
swimming ['swɪmɪŋ]  
tennis ['tenɪs]  
volleyball ['vɒləlbɔ:l]  
weightlifting ['weɪt, lɪftɪŋ]  
wrestling ['reslɪŋ]

## Adjectives

adventurous [əd'ventʃ(ə)rəs]

extreme [ɪk'stri:m]

indoor ['indo:]

international ['ɪntə'næʃ(ə)nəl]

national ['næʃ(ə)nəl]

outdoor ['aʊt'dɔ:]

## Verbs and Expressions

to be fond of

to be good at

to be keen on

to be popular (with)

to compete

to do sports

to hold a competition

to keep fit

to lose (a game)

to participate [pɑ:'tɪsɪpeɪt]

to perform [pə'fɔ:m]

to play games

to practise ['præktɪs]

to take part in

to train [treɪn]

to win (a game / match / competition))

*Ex. 1. Name the kind of sports in the Figure 1.*

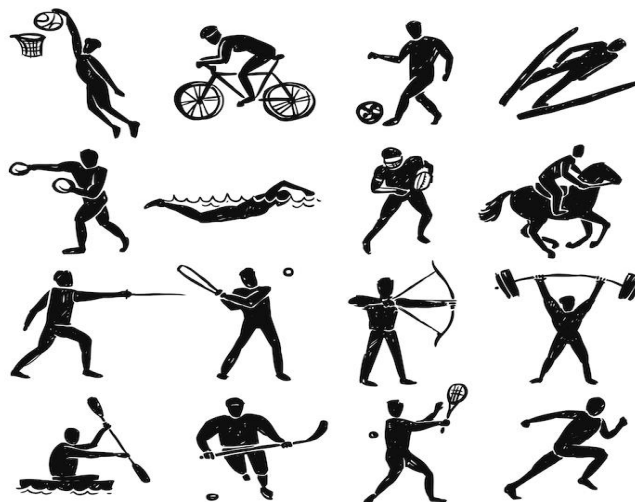


Figure 1 – Sports and Games

*Ex. 2. Name the sport if sportsmen do these things:*

- a) lift heavy things;
- b) play with an oval ball, which can be passed from hand to hand as well as being kicked;
- c) fight and knock each other down;
- d) play with rackets in a court;
- e) ride horses;
- f) run for short or long distances;
- g) kick the ball with their feet;
- h) play on a board;
- i) throw a ball across a high net.

*Ex. 3. Complete these expressions using the things on the right.*

- 1) a boxing;                      a) course;
- 2) a golf;                         b) court;
- 3) a football;                    c) pitch;
- 4) a race;                         d) pool;
- 5) a running;                    e) ring;
- 6) a skating;                     f) rink;
- 7) a squash;                     g) table;
- 8) a swimming;                 h) track.
- 9) a tennis;
- 10) a billiard.

*Ex. 4. Complete Table 1 by matching each sport with the place and equipment which go with it. Use the words: boots, costume, pool, ring, slope, stadium, rink, boat, skis, pitch, gloves, river, racket, oar, court, ball, rod, skates, helmet.*

Table 1 – Kinds of sport

Sport	Place	Equipment
1) football	stadium, pitch	ball, goal
2) boxing		
3) skiing		
4) basketball		
5) tennis		
6) ice-skating		
7) rowing		
8) hockey		
9) swimming		

*Ex. 5. Which seven of these sports take place at the Olympic Games?*  
Climbing; gymnastics; horse-riding; swimming; cycling; sailing; sprinting; boxing; ballooning; chess; car racing; beach volleyball.

*Ex. 6. Look at the personality adjectives below. Think of good sports for these types of people.*

*Example:* adventurous, brave – rock-climbing or sky-surfing.

- 1) active, fit;
- 2) quiet, shy;
- 3) weak and small;
- 4) energetic, healthy;
- 5) quick-minded, sociable;
- 6) slow, patient;
- 7) very tall, fast;
- 8) aggressive, strong.

*Ex. 7. Which of the sports are these people probably talking about?*  
Horse-riding, hang gliding, wind-surfing, snooker, pool, billiards, motor racing, bowls, darts.

1. The ball has a natural curve on it so it doesn't go in a straight line on the grass.
2. Provided it's not too windy at the top, there's no problem.
3. It is incredibly noisy, fast and dangerous, but it's really exciting to watch.
4. You get sore at first and can hardly sit down, but you get used to it after a while.
5. It's all a matter of balance really.
6. You need a good eye and a lot of concentration.
7. It isn't easy at all to hit the ball into the pocket.

*Ex. 8. Collect the words from the list to fill the three groups.*  
Basketball, cricket, golf, squash, polo, table tennis, football, tennis, volleyball, ice hockey, water polo.

*Games played with a ball:*

*Games played between two teams:*

*Games played with a racket, club, stick, bat:*

***Can you think of more games which you can add to this list?***

*Ex. 9. Put each of these sports into one of the three groups.*

Volleyball, sailing, golf, swimming, judo, cycling, handball, boxing, table tennis, football, tennis, basketball.

Group 1: sports played in teams.

Group 2: sports that can be played against one other person.

Group 3: sports that can be played alone.

*Ex. 10. Complete the story with adjectives that the boy may keep in mind talking about his favourite sport. Choose out of those words: exciting, high, good, open, happiest, interesting, adventurous, everyday, best, relaxing, expensive, careful, fit, healthy.*

There is nothing I like better than rock-climbing. The... moments are when I stand high up on a... mountain and look down at the rest of the world. It's really... because you can explore many... places. It's also... exercise, as it helps you keep... and... It's..., too. Being out in the... air can help you forget your... problems. But at the same time you have to be very... to avoid an accident. It is also rather..., as the equipment costs a lot of money. But it's the... way to exercise. Try it and see for yourself!

*Ex. 11. Say if it is true or false.*

1. You need skis to do biathlon.
2. You need a pitch to play badminton.
3. Biathlon is done indoors.
4. Billiards is a team game.
5. You need a large ball to play golf.
6. Soccer is American football.
7. Hockey is played in the summertime outdoors.
8. Cycling is riding a bicycle as a sport.

*Ex. 12. Answer the questions.*

1. What sports do you do to keep fit?
2. What sports are you keen on?
3. What games are you good at?
4. What sports are popular with your classmates?
5. What sports are you fond of watching on TV?
6. Have you ever participated in school or any other sport competitions?
7. Have any sport competitions been held at your school this year?
8. Do you like to take part in team games or to do sport on your own?

*Ex. 13. Choose the correct answer.*

1. I met Pete... his bicycle along the pavement.

- a) pulling;
- b) rolling;
- c) turning;
- d) wheeling.

2. He was... from the competition because he had not complied with the rules.

- a) banished;
- b) disqualified;
- c) forbidden;
- d) outlawed.

3. Some of the best golf... are to be found in England.

- a) courses;
- b) courts;
- c) pitches;
- d) tracks.

4. Sport is a good... for aggression.

- a) let off;
- b) offshoot;
- c) outlet;
- d) way out.

5. When she was told she had won the first prize in the competition, she had to... to make sure she wasn't dreaming.

- a) grasp;
- b) pinch;
- c) scratch;
- d) seize.

6. This is the running... where the first 4 minute mile was run.

- a) circle;
- b) course;
- c) ring;
- d) track.

7. Have you been able to book us a tennis... for tomorrow?  
a) court;  
b) field;  
c) ground;  
d) pitch.
8. The boxer... and almost fell when his opponent hit him.  
a) scrambled;  
b) shattered;  
c) staggered;  
d) stammered.
9. He has always been... supporter of his local rugby team.  
a) forcible;  
b) an unbeaten;  
c) a staunch;  
d) a sure.
10. They stood glowering at each other, their fists... ready for action.  
a) clasped;  
b) clenched;  
c) grasped;  
d) joined.
11. It seems that the world record for this event is almost impossible to...  
a) balance;  
b) beat;  
c) compare;  
d) meet.
12. The boxer... his opponent as hard as he could.  
a) knocked;  
b) punched;  
c) slapped;  
d) touched.
13. Our team faced fierce... in the relay races.  
a) attack;  
b) competition;  
c) contest;  
d) opponents.

14. She is a good runner but she's not much good at...
- a) barriers;
  - b) fences;
  - c) hurdles;
  - d) jumps.
15. He ran four... of the course in half an hour.
- a) hurdles;
  - b) laps;
  - c) sprints;
  - d) vaults.
16. Most... tennis stars learn the game at an early age.
- a) hopeful;
  - b) prospective;
  - c) will-be;
  - d) willing.
17. Mary tells me she is... my horse in the Derby.
- a) backing;
  - b) betting;
  - c) gambling;
  - d) staking.
18. ...I always feel before the start of a race.
- a) jerky;
  - b) jittery;
  - c) timid;
  - d) unsteady.
19. All the athletes were wearing... suits when they came into the stadium.
- a) jogging;
  - b) running;
  - c) sports;
  - d) track.
20. The new sports centre... for all kinds of leisure activities.
- a) caters;
  - b) deals;
  - c) furnishes;
  - d) supplies.

21. I'm afraid we shall have to call... the match on account of the bad weather.

- a) back;
- b) in;
- c) off;
- d) on.

22. I tried to... my disappointment at losing by cheering the winner loudly.

- a) hide;
- b) mask;
- c) shield;
- d) veil.

23. The fastest runner took the... just five metres before the finishing line.

- a) advance;
- b) head;
- c) lead;
- d) place.

24. There is a lot of friendly... between the supporters of the two teams.

- a) contention;
- b) contest;
- c) defiance;
- d) rivalry.

25. He's... to win. No one else in the race stands a chance.

- a) bound;
- b) liable;
- c) probable;
- d) unavoidable.

## UNIT 2. WHAT IS SPORT

*Ex. 1. Read the text and make a summary.*

### WHAT IS SPORT

A UNESCO Committee *defines* sport as: “Any physical activity which has the character of play and which *involves* a *struggle with oneself* or with others, or a *confrontation* with *natural elements*”. They added: “If this activity involves *competition*, it must then always be performed in a *spirit of sportsmanship*.”

There can be no true sports without the idea of *fair play*. Sport is governed by *a set of rules or customs*. In sports, the *key factors* are *physical capabilities* and skills of the competitor when determining the *outcome* (winning or losing).

Activities such as card games and board games, are classified as “*mind sports*” and some are recognized as Olympic sports, requiring primarily mental skills. Non-competitive activities, for example jogging or playing catch are usually classified as *forms of recreation*. Physical activity such as *scoring goals* or *crossing a line* first often defines the result of a sport.

However, the *degree of skill* and performance in some sports is *judged* according to well-defined criteria. This is in contrast with other judged activities such as *beauty pageants* and body building, where skill does not have to be shown and the criteria are not as well defined.

Records are kept and updated for most sports, while *failures* and accomplishments are widely announced in sport news. Sports are most often played just *for fun* or for the simple fact that people need exercise to stay in good *physical condition*.

However, professional sport is a major *source of entertainment*. While practices may vary, sports participants are expected to display good sportsmanship, and to be respectful of opponents and officials.

*Ex. 2. Find the English equivalents from the text.*

Определять, борьба с природными явлениями, дух спортивного мастерства, соревнование, честная игра, свод правил и традиций, формы отдыха, провал, пересекать линию, борьба с собой, уровень

мастерства, источник развлечения, судить, интеллектуальные игры, конкурс красоты, ради развлечения, физическое состояние, забивать гол, включать в себя, ключевой фактор, результат.

*Ex. 3. Insert the necessary word or word combination from ex. 10 and 11.*

1. Some people consider sport as a...
2. The runner... ..and became the first person in the race, it means that he won a golden medal.
3. You can rise your... ..in sports only by training.
4. Kate was a competitor in various... ..but she has won only once, since that time she has imagined herself as the most beautiful woman in the world.
5. Unfortunately, the... of competition in this kind of sport will be losing for you.
6. For now one of the... ..is the TikTok for young generation, but not sports events.
7. The... ..for winning in this game is running as much as possible.
8. I go swimming just...
9. My... is not that good, I should take up some sport.

*Ex. 4. Complete the sentences with the words from the box in the correct form.*

Recreation; to update; to judge; outcome; opponent; to involve; respectful; board games.

1. ..., are classified as “mind sports” and some are recognized as Olympic sports.
2. In sports, the key factors are the physical capabilities and skills of the competitor when determining...
3. The degree of skill and performance in some sports... according to well-defined criteria.
4. Sports participants are expected to display good sportsmanship, and to be... of... and officials.
5. Sport is any physical activity which has the character of play and which... a struggle with oneself or with others.
6. Records are kept and... for most sports.
7. Non-competitive activities are usually classified as forms of... .

Ex. 5. Match the event (1–6) with the figure 2.

- 1) diving;
- 2) rhythmic gymnastics;
- 3) cycling;
- 4) horse racing;
- 5) speed skating;
- 6) boat racing.



Figure 2 – Events

## UNIT 3. SPORTS AND PASTIMES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Watch a video (QR code): Sports in Britain and do the following exercises.



*Ex. 1. Complete the following sentences according to the video.*

1. All... want to win the tournament at Wimbledon.
2. Henley, on the River Thames, is the center of...
3. There are over 20 000... in Britain.
4. Lot's of people also do...
5. About 40 % of British people go...
6. The British love... too.
7. Some people are training for competition, some are... and some are...
8. In Britain you can also play some...
9. It's a Scottish game, called...

*Ex. 2. Answer the questions*

1. What is Wembley famous for?
2. What sport is popular in Scotland?
3. Where is the center of the game of cricket?
4. What kinds of activities do British people enjoy most of all?
5. What is the Pennine way?
6. What do British people like watching live?
7. What game which is originally a French one, is popular in Britain?
8. What do you say when you start running?
9. Which game is considered to be a very British one?

*Ex. 3. Read the text "Sports and Pastimes in Great Britain" and say what leisure activities are most popular in Great Britain.*

### **SPORTS AND PASTIMES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

The British are known to be great sports-lovers. According to the latest figures the most popular activity of all is walking: 35 million British people regularly walk two miles or more. More energetically, ten million people go to keep-fit classes or take part in aerobics or yoga and half as many do some kind of weight training in a gym. Nine million people go cycling and four million go jogging and the same number play golf. Other popular sports are bowling (six million), badminton (five million), tennis (four million) and squash (three million). Less actively, twelve million play snooker or pool, seven million play darts. For three million fishing is a popular leisure activity.

England is the home of several kinds of sport. Many of the games now played all over the world originated in Britain. The English proverb "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" does not mean that play is more important than work. It means that Jack will do his work better if he plays as well, so he is encouraged to do both. Certainly, in ordinary times, the average Englishman is more interested in games and sport than in politics. The average schoolboy may not be able to tell you the name of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but he is able to tell you which team won the football championship last year and who is the present boxing champion.

What is the British idea of a sportsman? He is one, of course, who is interested in sport. But that is only one meaning of the word. Even if a person is not interested in any sport and has no opportunity to play any game, he may be called a sportsman if he has the so-called "sporting spirit<sup>1</sup>". The "sporting spirit" is something that playing games develops in people. It is the ability to overcome hard knocks<sup>2</sup> of life without getting angry, the ability to smile in times of danger, the ability to win without boasting<sup>3</sup> afterwards and to lose without complaining. We should all try to become "good losers" and accept our disappointments cheerfully. Everyone has disappointments at some time or other.

Various kinds of sports are encouraged in all British schools, universities and clubs.

Other popular outdoor sports (field sports) that are popular on the British Isles include hunting, shooting, fishing, horse racing, motor racing and certainly football, cricket, golf and tennis. Popular indoor games are billiards, darts, chess and draughts.

Football, which originated in Britain, has become the most popular game in the world and is played in nearly all countries. There is another game called rugby football, so called because it started at Rugby, a well-known English school. In this game the players may carry the ball. Rugby is also very popular, but it is played mainly by amateurs<sup>4</sup>. This game is played by teams of 15 men with an oval ball and it's often considered to be a violent game. There is also an American kind of football different again from the other two. Hockey is not very popular in England. Tennis has become an international game. The world championships are held each year in the Davis Cup Competition. A great number of people play and watch tennis. Among many tournaments the most famous is the one in Wimbledon.

Another game which attracts great attention is soccer (European football). There are plenty of amateur and professional soccer clubs in every town. The Cup Final played in London is the culminating event of the football season.

One of the most popular British games is cricket, which foreigners can hardly understand. Cricket is sometimes called the national game of England. It's a game played between two teams of eleven players using bats<sup>5</sup>, hard balls and wickets<sup>6</sup> as targets<sup>7</sup>.

Horse racing is also extremely popular in Great Britain. The racing season includes five races. The annual race for "Derby" ['da:bi] is perhaps the most famous sporting event in Britain as the Queen comes to watch it. Englishmen also play basketball, badminton and polo. Both teenagers and grown-ups enjoy bowling. The annual Oxford-Cambridge boat race on the River Thames attracts lots of people. In Scotland, where there are good conditions for winter sports, skiing is very popular.

<sup>1</sup>**Sporting spirit** – спортивный дух; <sup>2</sup>**hard knocks** [neks] of life – тяжелые удары судьбы; <sup>3</sup>**boast** [bəʊst] – хвастаться; <sup>4</sup>**amateur** ['æmət(ʃ)ə] – любитель; <sup>5</sup>**bat** [baet] – бита; <sup>6</sup>**wicket** ['wɪkɪt] – воротца; <sup>7</sup>**target** ['tɑ:ɡɪt] – мишень.

*Ex. 4. Answer the questions*

1. What sport activity is most popular with the British? 2. What sports are the British keen on? 3. Why does sport attract millions of people? 4. What are the most popular British games? 5. What is the culminating event of the football season? 6. What is the most famous tennis tournament in Great Britain? 7. What sport activity do both teenagers and grown-ups enjoy? 8. Where are good conditions for winter sports in Britain?

*Ex. 5. Name the sports done by these numbers of people in Great Britain.*

35 mln; 12 mln; 10 mln; 5 mln. *Which sports are done by fewer than 5 mln people?*

*Ex. 6. Find in the text the kinds of sports about which you may say:*

1. He scored a goal. 2. She broke a string in her racket. 3. He headed the ball into the net. 4. He won with a jump of five feet six inches. 5. Clouds hid them from the view of the spectators below. 6. He pressed his opponent's shoulders to the mat. 7. Riders are often injured and may receive serious injuries. 8. An intellectual game that is played on a board. 9. He was the second past the winning ribbon. 10. They were standing at the deep end of the pool.

*Ex. 7. Give facts from the text to prove that the British are a sporty nation.*

## UNIT 4. THE OLYMPIC GAMES

*Ex. 1. Read the text and do the exercises.*

### THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games are the oldest competition. The ancient Olympic Games started in Greece about 3,000 years ago, long before our era<sup>1</sup>. They were held once every four years. The Olympic Games were a great festival of youth, beauty and sport. For seven days poets, sculptors, artists and musicians made Olympia a cultural centre. The sport programme included races, discus and javelin throw, long jump and wrestling. The champion was given a wreath<sup>2</sup> of wild olive, and that was the greatest honour. Athletes, the winners at the Games, became national heroes. After nearly 300 Olympiads, the Roman emperor stopped the Games. 1,500 years passed, and the Games were revived by a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He hoped that the Games would help promote peace among nations. Since 1896 the modern Olympics have been held every four years, with the exception of 1916, 1940 and 1944, the years of the two world wars. Since 1924 there has been a separate winter Games programme and since 1994 the winter and summer Games have been held two years apart. The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, to symbolize the continuation of the centuries-old tradition. 245 competitors represented 14 nations in 9 sports.

*Ex. 2. Answer the questions.*

1. How did the ancient Olympic Games influence the life of ancient Greece?
2. What did the sport programme of the ancient Olympic Games include?
3. How were the winners honoured in ancient times?
4. Who revived the modern Olympics?
5. What do the modern Olympics symbolize?

*Ex. 3. Complete the sentences, using the word in a correct form: competitors; take part; competitive; break; compete; amateurs; competition; coach; figures; professionals; race; medal.*

1. There are about 3 000... in the modern Olympics.
2. The latest... from *Sport England* show that over 60 % of the population do at least 150 minutes of exercise a week.
3. It's hard for poor countries to... against rich countries in certain events.
4. A Soviet gymnast holds the... for the women with the most Olympic medals.
5. There are a few Olympic amateurs, but now most of the... are...
6. The marathon (just over 42rms) is the longest... on foot in the Olympics.
7. My uncle won a silver... in the shooting... at the 1996 Olympics.
8. Michael Phelps... four individual world swimming records at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.
9. The biggest sport in the Olympics is athletics, so every event is very...
10. Boxing is now the one sport where only... can take part.
11. How many sportsmen and women... in the last Olympics?

## UNIT 5. SPORT IN BELARUS

*Ex. 1. Read the text and tell what are the most popular kinds of sport in Belarus.*

### SPORT IN BELARUS

Many sports are popular in Belarus. They are football, volleyball, tennis, track and field, swimming, hockey, figure skating. A lot of people do these kinds of sport. For them sport is a means of building up health and a way of spending leisure time. They are provided with all necessary facilities. Stadiums, gyms, water-pools, skating-rinks and sport grounds are built for daily sport activities. There are a lot of amateur clubs and keep-fit centres where people go in for shaping, yoga, bodybuilding, jogging and horse riding.

Physical culture is a compulsory subject at schools, colleges and universities. At our university, we have physical culture lessons two times a week. We have two gyms and a stadium.

Professional sport is developing rapidly in Belarus. The most famous are the Olympic complexes “Raubichi”, “Staiki” not far from Minsk, Dynamo stadium in Minsk. Numerous national and international matches and competitions are regularly held in Belarus. They attract many fans and journalists. In our native town of Gomel we have several stadiums, children’s sport schools and sport clubs. The largest among them is the Central stadium. Football matches are played there regularly.

Belarusian sportsmen take an active part in the world sports movement and in the Olympic Games. They first took in the Olympics in 1952. The first Belarusian Olympic medalist was Mikhail Krivonosov, a hammer-thrower in 1956 in Melbourne. Belarusian gymnasts have been traditionally, successful at the Olympic Games in the 60s and the 70s of the last century. They were Larisa Petric, Tamara Lazakovich and Olga Korbut. The greatest success was achieved by Olga. The papers called her “the child of the planet”. She got thousands upon thousands of letters from all parts of the world. What made Olga so popular? She performed in a new manner and showed exercises which hardly any other woman gymnast could do. One of the American newspapers suggested that gymnastics should be divided into two periods – “Before Olga” and “After Olga”. Alexander Medved became a three-time Olympic

champion in heavyweight wrestling. International competitions in honour of Medved take place every year. Vitaly Shcherba won six gold medals in gymnastics at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona in 1992. We know some other prominent names of Belarusian sportsmen, such as: Natalia Zvereva, Vladimir Parfenovich, Yulia Belova, Yulia Nesterenko and others. Our tennis-players Max Mirny and Victoria Azarenko have been especially successful lately. Daria Domracheva became a three-time winner in biathlon at the winter Olympic Games Sochi in 2015.

*Ex. 2. Think of synonyms to the following words from the text:*

1. Facilities.
2. Participate in.
3. Achievements.
4. Renowned.
5. To be given.

*Ex. 3. Multiple choice questions:*

1. Which of the following sports are mentioned as popular in Belarus?
  - a) football, volleyball, tennis, basketball;
  - b) football, volleyball, tennis, track and field, swimming, hockey, figure skating;
  - c) rugby, cricket, golf, tennis.
  
2. What facilities are available for sports in Belarus?
  - a) stadiums, gyms, water-pools, skating-rinks, sport grounds;
  - b) only stadiums and gyms;
  - c) sport centres and swimming pools only.
  
3. When did Belarus first participate in the Olympics?
  - a) 1952;
  - b) 1960;
  - c) 1972.
  
4. Who was the first Belarusian Olympic medalist?
  - a) Olga Korbut;
  - b) Mikhail Krivonosov;
  - c) Alexander Medved.

*Ex. 4. Agree or disagree with the following sentences:*

1. Belarusian gymnasts were successful in the Olympics during the 80s and 90s.
2. Olga Korbut was called “the child of the planet” for her innovative gymnastics.
3. Belarus has no professional sports facilities or clubs in Gomel.
4. Vitaly Scherba won six gold medals in gymnastics at the 1992 Olympics.
5. Physical culture is not a compulsory subject at universities.
6. Unfortunately, no national and international matches and competitions are held in Belarus.

*Ex. 5. Give short answers:*

1. Name two cities in Belarus that have Olympic complexes or stadiums.
2. Which sport did Alexander Medved compete in?
3. Mention two successful tennis players.
4. Why was Olga Korbut considered so popular worldwide?
5. Who became a three-time winner at the winter Olympic Games Sochi in 2015?

*Ex. 6. Match the words with their meanings:*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| a) facilities;       | 1) places for people where people do sports as a hobby; |
| b) amateur clubs;    | 2) large sports centers for training and competitions;  |
| c) keep-fit centres; | 3) places or equipment for sports activities;           |
| d) Olympic complex;  | 4) places for maintaining good health and fitness.      |

*Ex. 7. Discuss the importance of sports and physical culture in Belarussian society. Use information from the text to support your ideas.*

## UNIT 6. ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS AND IDIOMS

### *Study Table 2.*

Table 2 – English collocations and idioms

You <b>do</b>	gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, aerobics, yoga, wrestling, circuit training, archery, athletics
You <b>play</b>	games, badminton, billiards, hockey, bowls, rugby, golf, (table) tennis, cricket, baseball, chess, darts, cards, dominoes
You <b>go</b>	fishing, skiing, bowling, cycling, skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding, hang-gliding, climbing, hill walking, sailing, jogging, swimming

*Ex. 1. Complete the sentences with do, play or go in the correct form.*

### **NEW SPORTS CLUB OPENING NEXT WEEK**

You can... Judo!

You can... swimming!

You can... circuit training!

You can... skateboarding!

You can... badminton!

You can... weight lifting!

You can... table tennis!

You can... darts!

In fact, you can... almost any sport you can think of. So, join now!

*Ex. 2. Look at B and C. Make ten collocations by matching a word from the box on the left with a word or phrase from the box on the right.*

#### **B**

personal

set

blow

achieve

bring on

train

fail

enhance

enter

take

#### **C**

the lead

a competition

best

your performance

a substitute

a drugs test

a record

hard

a whistle

your ambitions

*Ex. 3. Complete the collocations in this report of a rugby match.*

Cambridge were happy to (1)... their last match 6:0. Oxford, the opposing team, put up a good (2)... and some people thought they (3)... to win. They were fearless in (4)... their opponents, but every time they took (5)... of the ball, Cambridge managed to win it back. Cambridge have now (6)... a place in the next (7)... of the competition. They will undoubtedly come up against some fierce (8)... However, they have already managed to (9)... an interesting world record by having four members of the same family in their winning team!

*Ex. 4. Study English idioms:*

## I

Right then, I've **started the ball rolling**<sup>1</sup> by telling you what I think our company should do now. I would like anyone who has any comments or questions to speak now. **The ball is in your court**<sup>2</sup>. Don't forget that our rival companies are **on the ball**<sup>3</sup> and if we don't act quickly and do something **off our own bat**<sup>4</sup>, they will. And they'd love to **throw us a curveball**<sup>5</sup> and make life difficult for us. I know my proposals will involve people doing overtime, but I hope that the workers may agree to **play ball**<sup>6</sup> given the circumstances we are all in. It's not our fault we are in this situation. Different rates of tax in different countries mean that we are not competing **on a level playing field**<sup>7</sup>.

1. *Started an activity and encouraged others to join in.*
2. *You have to do something now before any progress can be made.*
3. *Quick to understand and react.*
4. *On our own initiative, without being asked to by anyone else.*
5. *Surprise us with an unexpected problem.*
6. *Co-operate in order to achieve something (usually used in a negative context).*
7. *In a fair situation.*

## II

If you **play your cards right**, you behave in the right way to achieve what you want. It is informal and is often used in the expression *If (you) play (your) cards right,...*

If you **put/lay your cards on the table**, you tell someone honestly what you think or what you plan to do.

If you **pass the buck**, you blame someone or make them responsible for something that must be done next (from an object used in the card game poker).

If you **follow suit**, you do the same as everyone else has just done. (This is a reference to playing the same suit, i.e. hearts, diamonds, spades or clubs, in cards.)

If you **call someone's bluff**, you make someone prove that what they are saying is true or prove that they will really do what they say they will do, because you don't believe them. To call someone's bluff in a card game is to force them to show you their cards.

### III

Table 3 – Idioms

swimming	<b>take the plunge</b>	do something important or difficult that you've been thinking of doing for a long time
board games	<b>go back to square one</b>	go back to the beginning of a project, because previous attempts have failed
archery	<b>be wide of the mark</b>	be wrong or miss what you were trying to hit
horse-riding	<b>do something on the spur of the moment</b> (spur= metal on boot which makes horse go faster)	do something suddenly, without planning
tarot cards (used for fortune-telling)	<b>be on the cards</b>	be likely to happen
gambling	<b>your best bet</b>	the best thing you can do to achieve the result you want
roulette	<b>when the chips are down</b> (chips= gambling pieces)	when you are in a difficult situation, especially one which tests whether you can trust people

*Ex. 5. Match the beginning of each sentence on the left with its ending on the right:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) if you play your cards right;          | a) off their own bat;                          |
| 2) when the chips are down;               | b) would be your best bet;                     |
| 3) the ball is in their court;            | c) others will soon follow suit;               |
| 4) if you sign the contract;              | d) we decided to go away for the weekend;      |
| 5) on the spur of the moment;             | e) so we'll have to wait and see what they do; |
| 6) the children picked me some flowers;   | f) you learn who your real friends are;        |
| 7) going by train rather than bus or car. | g) you should get an invitation to her party.  |

*Ex. 6. Complete each sentence with an idiom from the list.*

A level playing field; put his cards on the table; follow suit; call his bluff; off his own bat; on the ball; on the cards; pass the buck; start the ball rolling; threw us a curveball.

1. Let's ask Pete for advice – he's usually...
2. The government always tries to... when there are economic problems, saying the previous regime is to blame.
3. I'd like you each to tell us why you have decided to do a creative writing course; Marie, would you..., please?
4. Applicants all have to agree to the same conditions for the interview in order to ensure...
5. No one asked him to help – he did it...
6. If you keep your things tidy, the others may...
7. It is still... that I'll get a contract for the job.
8. He's been very frank and has...; now we'll have to do the same.
9. He claims he can speak fluent Japanese; let's... and invite him to dinner with our Japanese guests.
10. The manager... when he told us that our budget would be cut next year.

## UNIT 7. READING FOR PLEASURE

*Ex. 1. QR-code. Watch a video QR-code about extreme sports and define extreme kinds of sport.*



Scene summary: skateboarding, sky-diving, surfing, riding a motorbike, kayaking, climbing, snowboarding, riding a bike, skiing, diving, dancing.

*Ex. 2. Match the two halves.*

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1) bike;  | a) diving;   |
| 2) skate; | b) boarding; |
| 3) sky.   | c) riding.   |

*Ex. 3. Points to discuss:*

1. Are you fond of extreme sports? Why?
2. Would you like to try?
3. What traits of character do you need to have to take up extreme sports?

### **Text 1. Disastrous defeats**

#### **Pre-reading**

*Ex. 1. What can go wrong while you're doing the following sports (see below)? What can cause you to lose in a competition involving these sports?*

Tennis; boxing; snowboarding; golf; ski jumping.

*Read the article once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.*

Sport is one of life's great spectacles. And winners often inspire our admiration and respect. But what about the losers? Here are some of sport's most memorable moments of defeat.

6-love. 6-love. That was the score in the final of the French Open in 1988 when Natasha Zvereva took on Steffi Graf. The game lasted 32 minutes – the shortest Grand Slam final ever. Afterwards, Zvereva reportedly said, “She was just too good”.

Heavyweight-boxing star John “The Quiet Man” Ruiz had the same problem when he met David “The Terminator” Tua in the ring in 1996. The fight lasted 19 seconds before Ruiz was knocked out cold and “seeing stars”. Still, at least both of them lived up to their nicknames.

But at other times, sports stars only have themselves to blame... like Lindsey Jacobellis. With seconds to go in the final of the Winter Olympics Snowboard Cross event, Jacobellis had a huge lead. There was just one simple jump left to complete, and then the gold medal was all but hers. But instead of just doing the jump, Jacobellis tried to do a “method grab”, a difficult (and completely unnecessary) manoeuvre. She fell over and could do nothing but watch helplessly as her opponent passed her by and gold turned to silver.

Still at least Jacobellis took her defeat well. “Snowboarding is fun; I was just having fun.” she said afterwards. Jean Van der Velde probably wasn't having so much fun on the 18th hole of The Open Championship in 1999. Virtually unknown before the tournament, Van der Velde found himself 3 shots ahead at the end of the final round. Golf's greatest prize was one hole away. Alas, it proved to be one hole too many. Van der Velde let the pressure get to him and played a series of crazy shots, ending up in the water. (He famously followed the ball into the water to see if he could still hit it out.) This defeat has gone down as one of the greatest “chokes” in modern sport.

Sometimes failure can make you more popular than ever. Take Eddie “the Eagle” Edwards from England. He entered two ski-jumping events in the 1988 Winter Olympics and came last by such a long way that he became an instant celebrity. At the closing ceremony, the Organising Committee president, Frank King, gave a speech in which he said, “Some have won gold, some have broken records, and some of you have soared like an eagle”. At that moment, 100,000 people in the stadium began to chant, “Eddie! Eddie!”

*Ex. 2. Match the words with their meanings:*

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) the French Open;                 | a) to fly high up into the air very quickly;                               |
| 2) to take on;                      | b) an unexpected loss at the last minute;                                  |
| 3) the ring                         | c) it was 99 % hers provided that she didn't make a mistake;               |
| 4) to knock out cold;               | d) an informal name;   |
| 5) to see stars;                    | e) you do what people expect you to do;                                    |
| 6) to live up to;                   | f) to let the tension/pressure/stress affect you in a negative way;        |
| 7) a nickname;                      | g) he/she is far ahead of the other competitors;                           |
| 8) to blame;                        | h) to hit and make unconscious;  |
| 9) a huge lead;                     | i) the place where boxers fight;   |
| 10) was all but hers;               | j) you try to win against them in a game;                                  |
| 11) to pass you by;                 | k) to say that someone is responsible for something (often something bad); |
| 12) to let the pressure get to you; | l) To see imaginary flashing lights after being hit on the head;           |
| 13) a choke;                        | m) a major annual tennis tournament in France;                             |
| 14) to soar.                        | o) To go past you and continue advancing.                                  |

*Ex. 3. Read the article again and say what the numbers / dates, etc. refer to.*

1. 32 minutes.
2. 1996.
3. One.
4. 1999.
5. Three.
6. 100,000.

*Ex. 4. Discussion.*

1. Are there any famous losers from your country? Who? Why are they famous?
2. What's important in sport? Participating or winning? Why?
3. Are you very competitive when it comes to sport? Why? Why not?

## Text 2. Keeping His Eye on the Ball

### Pre-reading

*Ex. 1. You are going to read an article about tennis player Andre Agassi when he was still playing. Before you read, discuss the following questions.*

1. What factors can negatively affect an athlete's form? Think about loss of confidence, personal problems, age.

2. What does the phrase "to keep one's eye on the ball" mean? Why do you think the writer has used it in the title?

*Now read the passage thoroughly and answer the questions that follow (1–7).*

*After a year marked by loss of form and injury, the comeback king is ready to do it all again. As he prepares for what could be his last season, Andre Agassi talks about why he's still doing the thing he was "born to do".*

In a hotel in Lyon, he is looking back on a year that has been made difficult by the extraordinary triumphant one which preceded it. For a variety of reasons, he says, he "has lost his focus", and the literal implication of that cliché seems to trouble him: he has taken his eye off the ball. "It's been a year that has been physically impairing and draining and that takes you down a level; it's tough, emotionally, mentally and physically, and as a result I feel very far off where I was", he says, a little tiredly. "Your experience helps speed up the process of recovery, but because you're older you end up asking yourself: do I still have the ability to do it?"

This time last year Andre Agassi was doing it better than ever, at the peak of modern tennis. Having slipped at one time to 141st in the world, and on the verge of quitting, he had rebuilt his game to reach the final of three Grand Slams, winning two, finishing the season as world No. 1 with faultless, instinctive tennis. John McEnroe watching him practice was awed by how hard he was hitting the ball; no one, he observed, had ever struck it earlier, or more sweetly.

But such perfection, as Agassi knows better than most, can be fleeting. A couple of days later, after he had won a match, he was doubled

over and washed-up, vomiting into a flowerpot at courtside. He went home under medical supervision, and his confidence, fitness and game, he insists, have still not quite recovered.

Throughout his career, Agassi has dealt only in extremes. He says, “I go hard, but that intensity extracts a toll”. Agassi puts his body under absolute strain when he competes. And the vulnerability of his highly strung frame is more than matched by his apparent emotional rawness. Agassi’s loss of form this time around has been reinforced not only by a succession of injuries but also by the devastating news that his mother and sister were both suffering from breast cancer.

There are few sports that expose the individual to psychological scrutiny as tennis. Andre Agassi refers to the game in abstract terms, presumably because it has always meant so much more to him than simply hitting balls. “You don’t know anything else when you start playing”, he explains of his growing up on court. “I did not know life away from it. There are times when you don't imagine ever doing anything different”.

It is the presentation of this internal drama that has made Agassi among the most compelling of all sports stars. No tennis player has seemed so at odds with his gifts or so questioning of his purpose. Even now, having achieved much of what he set out to achieve, when he talks about tennis, it is as if you are listening to Hamlet quibble with mortality. “At the end of the day I need to do it or not to do it: that has always been the question for me”.

As a younger man, he seemed sometimes to be intent on squandering his talent, the prodigy who could not grow up. He turned professional in a blaze of hype at 16, but by the age of 21 he seemed already strung out, eating badly, losing games for fun, his ever changing appearance apparently reflecting his fragile self-esteem. Looking back on that time, he reflects: “Maybe I was rewarded too quickly. I came at a time when tennis needed somebody. I had so much notoriety before I had really accomplished anything great. I was doing commercials, but I had never won a Grand Slam. That left me feeling all image and no substance”.

When the time comes for him to step away from the game, does he think he will know the right moment for that? “I hope so”, he says. “Certainly I’m more afraid about how it is at the end right now than what happens after. I’ve concentrated all my efforts on tennis, but as soon as

I start thinking about how it is going to end then I guess it's over. In thinking about the end, the end is already there. What I hope is that it happens in a way I am proud of". In the meantime, all Andre Agassi wants to focus his attention on is the next ball, then the one after that.

*Ex. 2. Choose the most appropriate variant.*

1. Which of the following does the opening paragraph of the text NOT imply about Andre Agassi?

- a) He has no intention of retiring anytime soon;
- b) He has made several comebacks in the past;
- c) He believes he was destined to play tennis;
- d) He has been experiencing fitness problems.

2. According to Agassi, age can at times...

- a) prevent the process of recovery;
- b) help a player recover his confidence;
- c) quicken a player's retirement;
- d) make a player doubt himself.

3. By saying that Agassi "has dealt only in extremes", the writer...

- a) tries to present Agassi in a favourable light;
- b) makes Agassi out to be an arrogant player;
- c) tries to justify Agassi's recent bad form;
- d) implies that Agassi stretches himself to the limit.

4. As shown in paragraph 7, Agassi's overall attitude towards tennis seems to be one of...

- a) unjustified pessimism;
- b) thoughtful self-exploration;
- c) damaging obsession;
- d) stress-induced nervousness.

5. During his early tennis career, Agassi...

- a) often behaved irresponsibly;
- b) played so hard he got injured;
- c) put on a fair amount of weight;
- d) mostly competed for fun.

6. For Agassi, retiring...
- a) is something he has carefully timed;
  - b) is a process which has already begun;
  - c) is something he hopes to be proud of;
  - d) is something he hasn't really thought about.

7. Overall, the writer gives the impression that Agassi is...
- a) indifferent;
  - b) thoughtful;
  - c) angry;
  - d) unpredictable.

*Ex. 3.*

*A. Match the words on the left to their synonyms on the right.*

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1) impairing;  | a) examination;     |
| 2) awed;       | b) weakening;       |
| 3) scrutiny;   | c) overly stressed; |
| 4) strung out. | d) amazed.          |

*B. Read the article again and find three idioms. What do they mean.*

### **Text 3. Unusual sports and games**

*Ex. 1. Read the text and answer the questions that follow.*

Curling is a popular sport in Canada. However, it probably started in Scotland or Holland around three hundred years ago. There are two teams with four people on each team in curling. The teams play on a sheet of ice that is 45 meters long and 4.3 meters wide. Each player slides two heavy stones toward the “house” circle at the opposite end of the ice sheet. The stones weigh almost twenty kilos. Each stone is flat on the top and bottom and has a handle on the top. The player swings the stone off the ice and it curls as it slides along. While one player throws the stone, his teammates sweep in front of the stone. This smoothes the ice. The players believe that the stone travels faster on smooth ice. The captain of the team yells “Sweep!” and the teammates start sweeping the ice.

Lacrosse is another popular sport in Canada. It is one of the oldest organized sports in America. It is also popular in Britain and Australia. It was invented by Indians in northern New York and southern Ontario.

They used it to train for war before Columbus arrived in the New World. People play lacrosse outdoors. The lacrosse field is 70 meters long. At each end of the field there is a goal. There are ten players on each team. Each player hits a ball that is 21 centimeters around and weighs 140 grams. They try to hit the ball into the net as many times as possible. Lacrosse is a very fast game because the players can catch and pass the ball at high speed with their sticks.

Sumo wrestling is the national sport in Japan. Every year there are six tournaments, and millions of Japanese watch them on television. Sumo is almost as old as the nation of Japan itself. Stories say there was sumo wrestling over 2000 years ago. Sumo wrestlers weigh from 100 to 160 kilos. One famous wrestler weighed 195 kilos. Sumo wrestlers do not look beautiful, and sumo wrestling is a very slow sport. Sumo wrestlers start training when they are boys. They exercise to make their bodies strong. They also eat, eat, and eat. Sumo wrestlers wrestle in a round ring with a sand floor. A wrestler loses the match if he leaves the ring or if any part of his body except his feet touches the floor. Each wrestler tries to push the other down on the floor or out of the ring. People from other countries usually think sumo is very strange, but the Japanese love it.

The most recent unusual sport is the triathlon, which became popular in the US before spreading elsewhere. This most demanding sport came from a late-night discussion in a Honolulu bar in 1977 about which sport was the most exhausting: swimming, bicycle racing, or long-distance running. Someone suggested that they all be put together. The result was the first triathlon, the "Ironman", in 1978, with 15 participants. This contest was a 3.9-kilometer ocean swim, followed immediately by a 180-kilometer bicycle race, and ending with a 42 kilometer run. Five years later there were already 1,000 such competitions throughout the US, and the triathlon is becoming more and more popular in Europe, too.

*Ex. 2. Answer the questions.*

1. Where is curling popular? 2. Who invented this game? 3. How many people play curling at one time? 4. Why is the game called curling? 5. How do the players slide the stones? 6. Who invented lacrosse? 7. What countries play lacrosse? 8. How many players are on each team? 9. In what countries is lacrosse played? 10. Where is sumo wrestling popular? 11. Is sumo an old sport? 12. How do sumo wrestlers train? 13. How are sumo wrestlers different from other athletes? 14. How does a sumo

wrestler lose the match? 15. Why is triathlon referred to as “the most demanding sport”? 16. Where did it appear? 17. What country is triathlon most popular?

#### **Text 4. Vicious and dangerous sports should be banned by law**

*Ex. 1. Read the text and discuss the question that follows.*

When you think of the tremendous technological progress we have made, it's amazing how little we have developed in other respects. We may speak contemptuously of the poor old Romans because they relished the orgies of slaughter that went on in their arenas. We may despise them because they mistook these goings on for entertainment. We may forgive them because they lived 2000 years ago and obviously knew no better. But are our feelings of superiority really justified? Are we any less blood-thirsty? Why do boxing matches, for instance, attract such universal interest? Don't the spectators who attend them hope they will see some violence? Human beings remain as bloodthirsty as ever they were. The only difference between ourselves and the Romans is that while they were honest enough to admit that they enjoyed watching hungry lions tearing people apart and eating them alive, we find all sorts of sophisticated arguments to defend sports which should have been banned long ago; sports which are quite as barbarous as, say, public hangings or bearbaiting.

It really is incredible that in this day and age we should still allow hunting or bull-fighting, that we should be prepared to sit back and watch two men batter each other to pulp in a boxing ring, that we should be relatively unmoved by the sight of one or a number of racing cars crashing and bursting into flames. Let us not deceive ourselves. Any talk of 'the sporting spirit' is sheer hypocrisy. People take part in violent sports because of the high rewards they bring. Spectators are willing to pay vast sums of money to see violence. A world heavyweight championship match, for instance, is front page news. Millions of people are disappointed if a big fight is over in two rounds instead of fifteen. They feel disappointment because they have been deprived of the exquisite pleasure of witnessing prolonged torture and violence.

Why should we ban violent sports if people enjoy them so much? You may well ask. The answer is simple: they are uncivilized. For

centuries man has been trying to improve himself spiritually and emotionally – admittedly with little success. But at least we no longer tolerate the sight of madmen cooped up in cages, or public floggings or any of the countless other barbaric practices which were common in the past. Prisons are no longer the grim forbidding places they used to be. Social welfare systems are in operation in many parts of the world. Big efforts are being made to distribute wealth fairly. These changes have come about not because human beings have suddenly and unaccountably improved, but because positive steps were taken to change the law. The law is the biggest instrument of social change that we have and it may exert great civilizing influence. If we banned dangerous and violent sports, we would be moving one step further to improving mankind. We would recognize that violence is degrading and unworthy of human beings.

*Ex. 2. “Vicious sports should be banned”. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your reasons.*

*Ex. 3. Choose the answers you agree with most and discuss them with your group mates.*

1. International sport is important because...

- a) people from different countries can meet each other.
- b) countries can show how good they are.
- c) it's cheaper and less harmful than wars.
- d) it sets a standard for playing sports.
- e) it makes money for the organizing country.

2. Sport is important to the individual because...

- a) it keeps him healthy.
- b) it builds his character.
- c) it gives something to do with his leisure.
- d) it enables him to meet people.

3. People who play sports should be...

- a) unpaid amateurs.
- b) paid a certain amount but not enough to live on.
- c) paid by the government.
- d) professionals who earn their living by sport.

4. The most important aspect of an indoor game is...
- a) its educational value.
  - b) its amusement value.
  - c) the time it takes.
  - d) its cheapness.
5. Which type of sports do you prefer?
- a) sports in which one individual usually competes against another individual (e.g. tennis);
  - b) sports in which teams compete against each other (e.g. football);
  - c) sports in which there is usually no direct competition between individuals or teams (e.g. recreational skiing).
6. Which are the most popular games in your country?
- a) card games such as bridge;
  - b) board games such as chess and draughts;
  - c) commercially produced games such as Monopoly;
  - d) none of these.
7. Do you prefer to...
- a) watch other people playing sport?
  - b) play sport yourself?
  - c) watch sport on television?
  - d) have nothing to do with sport?
8. Do you think people who are not interested in sport are...
- a) lazy?
  - b) silly?
  - c) sensible?

## **Text 5. Beckham 1, Ferguson 1**

### **Prereading**

*Ex. 1. Discuss your feelings about sport. Use these questions to help you.*

1. Do you enjoy watching or playing sport? Which sports?
2. Would you like to be a professional sports player? Why? / Why not?
3. What problems are there in the world of sport today?

*Ex. 2. Read the text. What do you know about David Beckham and his private life? Why do you think he has become a superstar? What's Alex Ferguson?*

We trooped back into the dressing room afterwards. I took my boots and shin pads off straight away because I'd got a kick on my leg. The boss came in, shut the door, took his jacket off and hung it up on a hook. His first words were:

'David. What about the second goal? What were you doing?'

Was he blaming me? I was taken completely by surprise.

'It wasn't my fault. Their blokes made a run off someone in central midfield.'

The boss kept going: 'We told you about it before the game. The problem with you is you don't let anyone talk to you. You don't listen.'

I couldn't believe it. I'd been listening – and wanting to listen – my whole career! I'd listened to the boss since the first day we'd met and I was listening now.

'David. When you're wrong, you've got to own up.'

'Boss I'm sorry. I'm not wrong here. This wasn't my fault and I'm not taking the blame for it.'

'No. Take the blame is what you're going to do.'

Everybody else in the dressing room could hear what was going on. Surely everybody else knew I was right: you could have pointed your finger at half a dozen of the team in the build-up to Arsenal's second goal. But it was all my fault according to the boss. I felt like I was being bullied, and I swore at him, something no player, certainly no United player, should ever do to the manager.

The boss took a step or two towards me from the other side of the room. There was a boot on the floor. He swung his leg and kicked it. At me? At the wall? It could have been anywhere, he was that angry now. I felt a sharp pain just over my left eye where the boot had hit me. I put one hand up to it and found myself wiping blood away off my eyebrow. I went for the boss. I don't know if I've ever lost control like that in my life before. A couple of lads stood up. I was grabbed by Giggs first, then by Gary and Ruud van Nistelrooy. Suddenly it was like some mad scene out of a gangster movie, with them holding me back as I tried to get to the boss. He stepped back, I think quite shocked at what had happened. Probably a minute at most was how long the real rage lasted. I calmed down a bit and went through into the treatment room. When I came back the boss was there.

'I'm sorry David. I didn't mean to do that.'

I couldn't even bring myself to look at him. I didn't say anything, just walked straight past and through into the players' lounge. Victoria was there. I wanted to get out of Old Trafford and home.

*Ex. 3. Put the events in the correct order.*

- a) Alex Ferguson criticised Beckham;
- b) An Arsenal player scored a goal;
- c) Alex Ferguson kicked a boot at Beckham;
- d) Beckham walked past Ferguson in the lounge;
- e) Beckham attacked Ferguson;
- f) Ferguson apologized.

*Ex. 4. Match these words from the text to the definitions.*

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1) bloke;     | a) attack someone;                           |
| 2) own up;    | b) say bad words;                            |
| 3) calm down; | c) man;                                      |
| 4) swear;     | d) feeling of great anger;                   |
| 5) go for;    | e) admit your mistake;                       |
| 6) rage.      | f) return to normal after a period of anger. |

*Ex. 5. Work with a partner and discuss these questions.*

1. Who do you think behaved worse in this incident, David Beckham or Alex Ferguson?

2. In which of the following circumstances are you most likely to lose your temper?

- a) Being accused of something you didn't do.
- b) Being kept waiting by a friend or partner.
- c) Seeing someone being cruel to a child or an animal.
- d) Arguing with an official who won't back down or change their mind about something..

3. Have you lost your temper in the past year? What about?

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