

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
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ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ

ЧАСТЬ 2

# Sports and Games

Методические рекомендации  
к проведению занятий  
для студентов специальности 031001



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## **READING 1**

### **Sports in Great Britain**

Britain doesn't often produce sportsmen or sportswomen who are successful in the world sporting championships but it has been good at inventing sports and writing the rules of games.

Golf was first played in Scotland in the fifteenth century and the most famous golf club, Saint Andrews in Scotland, is still the most respectable authority on golf in the world.

Cricket was first played in England in the sixteenth century and its rules were written in the eighteenth century.

The nineteenth-century team sports, such as football, rugby and hockey, were first played in Britain public schools. The rules for all of those games were written between 1870 and 1890. The rules for lawn tennis were written in England in 1875.

Britain's national sport is football. During the football season (August to May) most professional footballers play two matches every week. Many people say this is too many because the players cannot devote enough time and energy to international games.

The 22 best English teams play in the Premier League, run by the Football Association (the FA). The other professional teams play in three divisions run by the Football League. Liverpool is the most successful team and have won the most games and tournaments.

The most exciting games are often between teams from the same city: Manchester United and Manchester City; Arsenal and Chelsea from London; Celtic and Rangers from Glasgow. The highlight of the football season is the FA Cup Final at Wembley "Stadium in London. Eighty thousand fans fill the stadium and there is usually a very good atmosphere. The most successful FA Cup team is Tottenham Hotspur. They have won the cup eight times.

Most people think of cricket as a slow sport, but the ball can be bowled at speed of 85 miles per hour. Cricket is a popular summer sport in England. 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.

Every year there are test matches between all these countries. A test match can last for up to five days. Usually the Commonwealth countries play much better and faster cricket than in England.

Rugby is a type of football. It is played with an oval ball and players can both kick and run with it. There are two types of rugby: in Rugby Union there are 15 players, who are amateurs, and it is played by England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland (a joint team from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland), South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. There are regular matches between these countries. In Rugby League there are 13 players in a team, the players are all professionals and rugby is mostly played in the North of England and Australia.

The majority of people live in towns and cities, where space for team sports is limited. To keep fit, most people take part in individual sports. They usually go walking, swimming, cycling, or do aerobics. Taking part in all these sports is informal and casual. Most people just want to relax. If they do aerobics, or go

swimming, they usually go to the sport center, but not many people join a sports club.

Although many British people are interested in staying healthy, not many people do very much about it. A recent survey proved that many people were not as active as they thought and incorrectly believed that they did enough exercises to stay healthy. Only 10 per cent of adults take part in sport more than twice a week.

There are 2,000 sports centers in Britain: one for every town, large or small. They were built mostly in the 1980s to encourage the public to take part in sports. The number of people who take part in sports has risen, but not many people exercise more than once a month. In the morning many people follow fitness classes shown on TV.

Fishing is one of the most popular individual sports for men in Britain, sometimes it is called angling. The most expensive type of fishing is for salmon and trout: these fish are only found in private rivers and lakes. Nearly a million anglers in Britain wait hours beside canals, rivers and lakes to catch a fish. Then they weigh it and usually throw it back into the water again.

Britain has given seven World Champion motor-car racing drivers. Daman Hill, a young and very successful motor car racing driver, is the son of Graham Hill who was World Champion in 1962 and 1968.

Athletics is a popular spectator sport in Britain. Sally Gunnell was the European, Commonwealth, World and Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion in 1994.

Cycling is one of the fast-growing sports in Britain. Recently two British cyclists have been in the news. Chris Boardman won gold medal for cycling at the 1992 Olympics. Graham Obree broke the world record in 1993 by riding 52.27 km in one hour.

### Exercises

#### 1. Answer the questions.

1. Which sports do you associate with Britain? 2. What important sports competitions which take place in Britain can you name? 3. What are the most popular sports in Britain? 4. What famous sport teams are mentioned in the text? What do you know about them? 5. Which of the sports mentioned in the text are played in your country? 6. What sports originated in Britain?

#### 2. Find the opposite to the following in the text.

1. individual sports—
2. professional players —
3. not to be able to play any sports —
4. a boring game —

#### 3. Find the synonyms to the following in the text.

1. admirer —
2. competition —
3. to be the winner of the game —
4. most often played game —
5. to be some hours long —

4. Describe one of the sports mentioned in the text. Don't forget to answer the following.

1. Is it a team sport or an individual sport?

2. Is it popular in Britain?
3. What equipment do you need to play it?
4. Who is the champion?
5. Speak in detail about sport in Britain.

## READING 2

Read some more information about sport in Britain. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-I) for each part (1-8) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>A</b> — <i>Sport for the Elite</i></p> <p><b>B</b> — <i>Sport and Money</i></p> <p><b>C</b> — <i>Sport and its Venues</i></p> <p><b>D</b> — <i>Sport on the Water</i></p> <p><b>E</b> — <i>Sport and the Media</i></p> | <p><b>F</b> — <i>Sport and the Young</i></p> <p><b>G</b> — <i>Sport on the Ball</i></p> <p><b>H</b> — <i>Sport and the Nation</i></p> <p><b>I</b> — <i>Sport in the Community</i></p> |
|--|---|

Study the meanings of the words in bold.

### Sport in Britain

#### 1 **H** *Sport and the Nation*

Sport matters to us all — to individuals, to families and in bringing people together for a common aim, to communities at every level... We know sport offers friendship, **rivalry**, challenge and employment. And we know, most of all, that sport isn't just about being healthy; sport is fun — one of the good things in life.

2

Sport has a central place in the **commercial** leisure industry. As such it is **inextricably intertwined** with market forces. Thanks mainly to the riches **generated** by **sponsorship** and the cash that TV stations pay for the right to broadcast events, competitors' wages have risen in a number of sports, and the value of the prizes on offer has **soared**.

3

BSkyB satellite broadcasting and its pay-per-channel **coverage** has transformed television sport since 1990. It has also had a major impact on some of the sports themselves. Armed with an exclusive Rugby League rights deal, BskyB created a new 'Super League.' As a result, British games were switched to the summer to fit in with the winter season in Australia and New Zealand, and so to win larger global audiences.

4

Over the next ten years we want to transform grass-roots sport. Everyone should have the same chance to take part, whatever their background. Through local authorities and the £1.5 to £2 billion that will be **invested** in local sport, we will **renew** our sports facilities and fund **schemes** to reach out to the whole community, we will develop the club structure to provide a link between schools and **elite** sport. In doing so, we will widen participation and improve our international competitiveness.

5

Millions of people in the UK take a close interest in the performance of British sports teams and individuals at the highest level. Research among the UK public

shows that 88% believe that sporting success generates a "feel good" factor; while in the wake of Sydney 2000, 95% believe that the amount of lottery money invested in sport should — at the very least — not be **reduced**.

6

Many sports were given their modern form in the UK during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Football, cricket, lawn tennis and golf are just four of them. Today, in the highly-demanding world of international competition, British teams and individuals still win **trophies** and fame in all four of these sports.

7

With so much sea around them, the people of the UK have always been at home on the water. In recent times, British rowers and sailors have proved that water can be their true sporting element too — winning five of their country's 11 gold medals at Sydney 2000.

8

In 2000 the National Cycling Centre in Manchester hosted the centenary World Track Cycling Championships, at which 35 countries were represented. This was one of more than 70 events of World, European or Commonwealth **status** that have been supported by the Government's "World Events Programme" since 1997. UK Sport, based in London, now has the lead role in **distributing** lottery funds to be used for both **bidding** for and staging major sporting events throughout the UK.

### Exercises

1. Match the words and their definitions.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. rivalry        | a. highly trained and able;  |
| 2. commercial     | b. to produce or create something;   |
| 3. inextricably   | c. the way in which a subject or event is reported;  |
| 4. be intertwined | d. to give something such as food, medicine, books etc to a large group of people, especially in a planned way;  |
| 5. generate       | e. continuous competition;   |
| 6. sponsorship    | f. an official plan that is intended to help people in some way, for example by providing education or training; |
| 7. soar           | g. things which are closely connected and cannot be separated;   |
| 8. coverage       | h. to make something smaller or less in size, amount, or price;  |
| 9. invest         | i. an offer to pay a certain price at a sale;  |
| 10. renew         | j. to replace something that is old or broken with something new;  |
| 11. scheme        | k. support, usually financial support for an activity or event;  |
| 12. elite         | l. the legal position or condition of a person, group, country etc;  |
| 13. reduce        | m. related to business and the buying and selling of goods and services;   |
| 14. trophy        | n. a prize for winning a race or other competition;  |
| 15. status        | o. to give money to a company, business or bank, in order to get a profit;                                       |
| 16. distribute    | p. to increase quickly to a high level;  |
| 17. bid           | q. be closely connected with each other.   |

2. Use the words in brackets at the end of each sentence to form the word that fits in the space in the same sentence.

1. We can make a.....if you buy this sweater. (*reduce*) 2. The lessons cost me £300, but I consider them a good .....(*invest*) 3. The.....was brisk and sales went well. (*bid*) 4. He left the government to become the most formidable .....(*rivalry*) 5. The company is the local.....for Ferrari sports cars. (*distribute*) 6. The younger.....don't know what hard work is. (*generate*) 7. Christmas has become so.....nowadays. (*commercial*) 8. Sun, wind and waves provide.....sources of energy. (*renew*)

3. Fill in the blanks with the words in bold from the reading passage.

1. BBC gave the story extensive.....in the evening news. 2. What is her immigration.....? 3. Poor health and bad housing conditions are.....linked. 4. Health care costs continue to..... 5. The problems of crime and unemployment.....closely..... 6. The expedition is looking for.....from one of the major banks. 7. A government training.....for the unemployed is a great step forward. 8. They are proud of winning the Football League ..... 9. The general sent his.....soldiers to lead the attack.

4. Where can you practice sport? What is special about the following places where you do a sport?

field, pitch, court, leisure centre, gym, swimming pool, stadium, ground, track, ring, rink, arena

### READING 3

1. Read the text about football. Make a list of football terms. Learn the text.

#### **Association Football (Soccer)**

Football has been called the most popular game in the world, and it certainly has a great many fans in Britain. But do you know the English terminology?

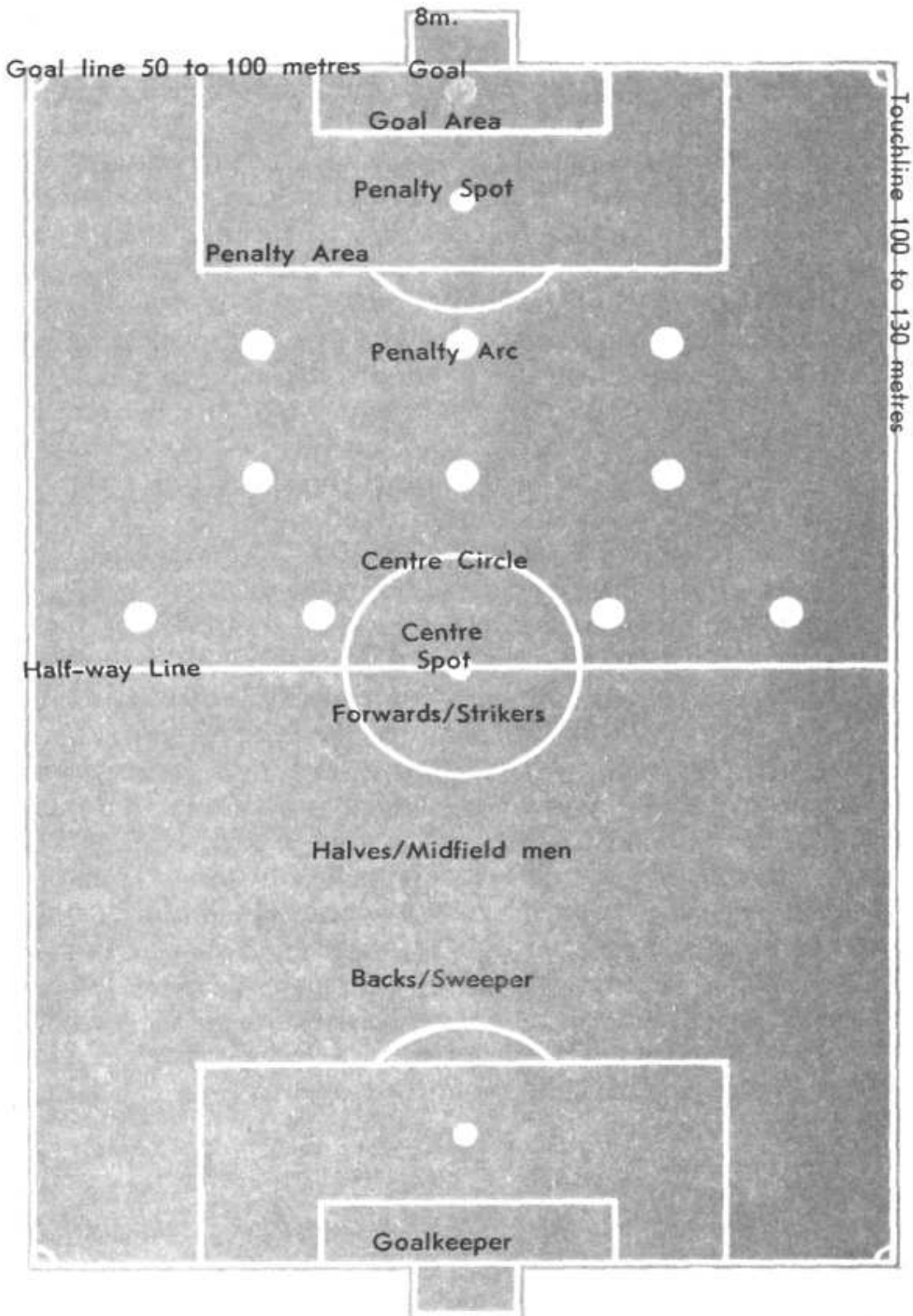
Association football (or soccer) is the game that is played in nearly all countries. A team is composed of a goalkeeper, two backs, three half-backs and five forwards. There is another game called rugby football, so called because it originated at Rugby, a well-known English public school. In this game the players may carry the ball. There is also an American kind of football, different from the other two. The captain of the team is usually the oldest or best player.

Association football, or soccer, remains one of the most popular games played in the British Isles. Every Saturday from late August until the beginning of May, large crowds of people support their sides in football grounds up and down the country, while an almost equally large number of people play the game in clubs teams of every imaginable variety and level of skill. Over the last 20 years though, the attendance at football matches has fallen away sharply. This is because of changing lifestyles and football hooligans. As violence at and near the football grounds increased, there was an ever-increasing tendency for people to stay away, leaving the grounds to football fans.

After serious disturbances involving English supporters at the European Cup Finals in Brussels in 1985 which led to the deaths of 38 spectators, English clubs were withdrawn from European competitions for the 1985-1986 season by the

Football Association. Today, many people are only interested in football because of the pools and the chance of winning a lot of money. The Cup Final at Wembley remains, though, an event of national importance. Here is a drawing of a football field, or "pitch", as it is usually called.

**A football field or pitch.**





The football pitch should be between 100 and 130 metres long and between 50 and 100 metres wide. It is divided into two halves by the halfway line. The sides of the field are called the touch-lines and the ends are called the goal-lines. In the middle of the field there is a centre circle and there is a goal at each end. Each goal is 8 metres wide and between 2.5 and 3 metres high. In front of each goal is the goal area and the penalty area. There is a penalty spot inside the penalty area and a penalty arc outside it. A game of football usually lasts for one and a half hours. At half-time, the teams change ends. The referee controls the game. The aim of each team is obviously to score as many goals as possible. If both teams score the same number of goals, or if neither team scores any goals at all, the result is a draw.

The final of the football competition takes place every May at the famous Wembley stadium in London. Some of the best known clubs in England are Manchester United, Liverpool and the Arsenal. In Scotland either Rangers, Celtic or Aberdeen usually win the cup or the championship.

### **Football Pools<sup>1</sup>**

The English have never been against a gamble<sup>2</sup> though most of them know where to draw the line<sup>3</sup> and wisely refrain from betting too often. Since the war the most popular form of gambling is no doubt that of staking<sup>5</sup> a small sum on the football pools. (The word "pool" is connected with the picture of streams of money pouring into a common fund, or "pool" from which the winners are paid after the firm has taken its expenses and profit.) Those who do so receive every week from one of the pools firms a printed form; on this are listed the week's matches. Against each match, or against a number of them, the optimist puts down a 1, a 2 or an x to show that he thinks the result of the match will be a home win,<sup>6</sup> an away win<sup>7</sup> or a draw. The form is then posted to the pools firm, with a postal order or cheque for the sum staked (or, as the firms say, "invested"). At the end of the week the result: of the matches are announced on television and published in the news papers and the "investor" can take out his copy of his coupon and check his forecast.<sup>8</sup>

1. football pools—футбольный тотализатор {проводится еженедельно рядом специальных фирм; участникам предлагается угадать результаты нескольких матчей; размер выигрыша зависит от количества правильных предсказаний)

2. gamble — азартная игра

3. to draw the line — знать меру, поставить точку

4. betting — заключение пари

5. staking — ставка на

6. home win — в пользу команды болельщика

7. away win — в пользу команды противника

8. forecast — предсказание, прогноз

### **READING 4**

Read about different kinds of sport and games popular in Britain.

#### **Cricket**

Do you know how to play cricket? If you don't live in England, Australia, New

Zealand, South Africa or the West Indies you won't learn it at school. English people love cricket. Summer isn't summer without it. Even if you do not understand the rules, it is attractive to watch the players, dressed in white playing on the beautiful green cricket fields. Every Sunday morning from May to the end of September many Englishmen get up very early, and take a lot of sandwiches with them. It is necessary because the games are very long. Games between two village teams last for only one afternoon. Games between counties last for three days, with 6 hours play on each day. When England plays with one or other cricketing countries such as Australia and New Zealand it is called a test match and lasts for five days. Cricket is played in schools, colleges and universities and in most towns and villages by teams which play weekly games. Test matches with other cricketing countries are held annually.

Cricket is also played by women and girls. The governing body is Women's Cricket Association, founded in 1926. Women's cricket clubs have regular weekend games. Test matches and other international matches take place. The women's World Cup is held every four years.

Cricket is played by two teams of 11 each. One team must bat and the other team must field. When the first team finished batting,<sup>2</sup> the second team must begin.

The batsman<sup>3</sup> must all the time guard his "wicket",<sup>4</sup> three rather ridiculous pieces of wood which are pushed into the ground. The game is very slow.

In many ways this is the most English of all sports. It is a game for a hot June day with a slight breeze and the feeling that there is no hurry in the world.

1. bat – бита (в крикете), бить битой
2. batting — подача
3. batsman — игрок с битой, отбивающий мяч
4. wicket — ворота в крикете

### **Wimbledon<sup>1</sup> — an Unusual Club**

People all over the world know Wimbledon as the centre of lawn tennis.<sup>2</sup> But most people do not know that it was famous for another game before tennis was invented. Wimbledon is now a part of Greater London. In 1874 it was a country village, but it had a railway station and it was the home of the All-England Croquet Club. The Club had been there since 1864. A lot of people played croquet in England at that time and enjoyed it, but the national championships did not attract many spectators. So the Club had very little money, and the members were looking for ways of getting some. "This new game of lawn tennis seems to have plenty of action, and people like watching it," they thought. "Shall we allow people to play lawn tennis on some of our beautiful croquet lawns?"

In 1875 they changed the name of the Club to the "All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club", and that is the name that you will still find in the telephone book. Two years later, in 1877, Wimbledon held the first world lawn tennis championship (men's singles<sup>3</sup>). The winner was S. W. Gore, a Londoner. There were 22 players, and 200 spectators, each paid one shilling. Those who watched were dressed in the very latest fashion — the men in hard top hats and long coats, and the ladies in dresses that reached to the ground! The Club gained £ 10. It was saved.

Wimbledon grew. There was some surprise and doubt, of course, when the Club

allowed women to play in the first women's singles championship in 1884. But the ladies played well — even in long skirts that hid their legs and feet.

The Wimbledon championships begin on the Monday nearest to June 22, at a time when England often has its finest weather. It is not only because of the tennis that people like to go there. When the weather is good, it is a very pleasant place to spend an afternoon. The grass is fresh and green, the players wear beautiful white clothes, the spectators are dressed in the latest fashion, there may be members of the Royal Family among them, and there are cool drinks in the open-air cafes next to the tennis courts.

Millions of people watch the championships on television.

1. Wimbledon — Уимблдон (предместье Лондона, в котором находится Всеанглийский теннисный и крокетный клуб)

2. lawn tennis—теннис (в отличие от настольного тенниса — table tennis)

3. single — партия (в теннисе, гольфе), в которой участвуют только два противника

### **Table Tennis**

Eighty years ago, Mr. E. Goode of Putney, South London, went to the chemist's to buy some aspirins. In the shop, he almost forgot about his tablets as he stood looking at the pimpled rubber mat on the counter. It had given him a fantastic new idea.

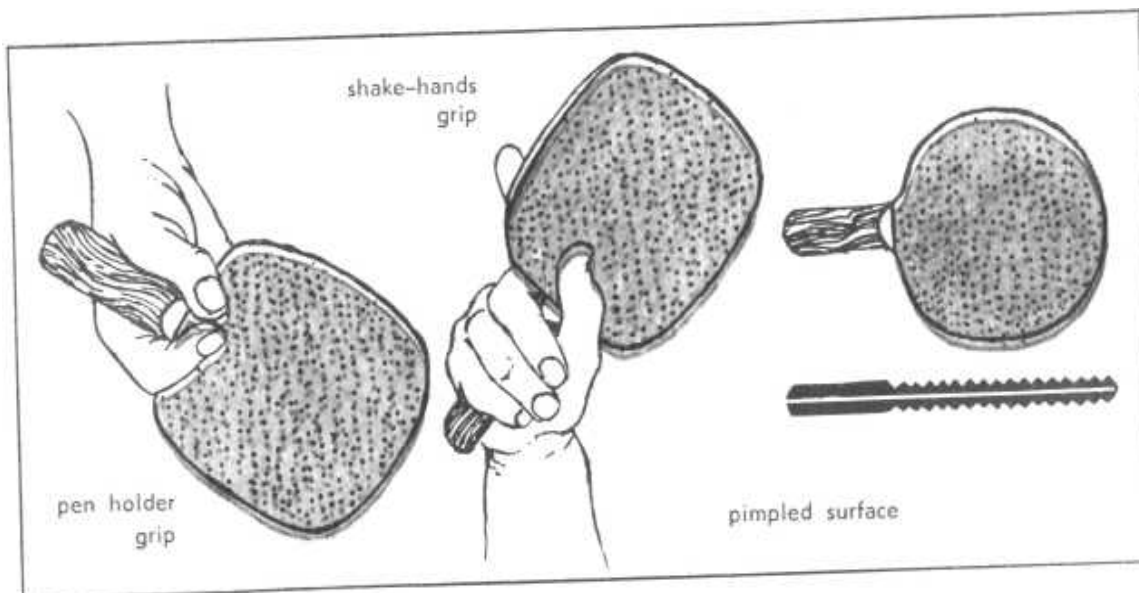
He paid for his aspirins and the rubber mat. Then he rushed home, cut the rubber mat to the right shape and size and stuck it to his plain wooden table tennis bat.<sup>2</sup> The thin layer of rubber helped him put a very fast spin<sup>3</sup> on the ball. When he became the English champion, everyone started copying him, putting rubber layers on their bats, and soon Mr. Goode's clever idea completely changed the style and speed of table tennis.

Table tennis was first invented in England in about 1880. At first the game had several strange names: Gossima, Whiff Whaff and Ping Pong. It wasn't until 1926 that the International Table Tennis Association was formed with international championships and rules. One of the rules was that the rubber linings of the bat (Mr. Goode's invention) couldn't be more than two millimetres thick on each side.

Although the game was invented in England British players don't have much chance in international championships.

It's the Chinese with their fantastic speed and power who win almost every title. They often use a pen holder grip,<sup>4</sup> not the "shake-hands" technique popular in Europe and the States. Their style is athletic and they often play standing several metres away from the table. Table tennis looks more like gymnastics when the Chinese start playing, with the ball flying over the net at speeds of over 150 kilometres per hour.

But don't forget that it's thanks to an Englishman that tennis is the fast and skilful game it is today. It's the pimpled rubber lining that allows players to get a good spin on the ball. Mr. Goode's headache eighty years ago was a turning point in the history of the game!



1. pimpled rubber mat — пупырчатый резиновый коврик
2. tennis bat—теннисная ракетка
3. to put a fast spin — придать быстрое вращение
4. pen holder grip—зажим ракетки в руке наподобие ручки

### **Steeplechase**

The steeplechase<sup>1</sup>, often known as crosscountry running, is very popular in most European countries.

The first known organized crosscountry race in 1837 was the Crick Run at Rugby School.

Originally, crosscountry running took place over open country<sup>2</sup> where the hazards were the natural ones to be found in the country. These included hedges, ditches, streams and the like. Schools and some clubs still run over open country. Sometimes, however, the competitors run off the course as, on one occasion, happened to all the runners in a race. Because of this, the organization of these races has to be very strict.

Nowadays, crosscountry races (or steeplechases) are often run in an enclosed area where the hazards are artificial. This makes organization easier.

1. steeplechase = crosscountry running — скачки, бег с препятствиями
2. open country—естественные условия

### **Racing**

There are all kinds of racing in England — horse-racing, motorcar racing, boat-racing, dog-racing, and even races for donkeys. On sports days at school boys and girls run races, and even train for them. There is usually a mile race for older boys, and the one who wins it is certainly a good runner.

Usually those who run a race go as fast as possible, but there are some races in which everybody has to go very carefully in order to avoid falling.

There is the "three-legged" race, for example, in which a pair of runners have the right leg of one tied to the left leg of the other. If they try to go too fast they are certain to fall. And there is the egg-and-spoon race, in which each runner must carry

an egg in a spoon without letting it drop. If the egg does fall, it must be picked up with the spoon, not the fingers.

Naturally animals don't race unless they are made to run in some way, though it often seems as if little lambs are running races with each other in the fields in spring.

Horses are ridden, of course. Dogs won't race unless they have something to chase, and so they are given a hare to go after, either a real one or an imitation one.

The most famous boat-race in England is between Oxford and Cambridge. It is rowed over a course on the River Thames, and thousands of people go to watch it. The eight rowers in each boat have great struggle, and at the end there is usually only a short distance between the winners and the losers.

The University boat-race started in 1820 and has been rowed on the Thames almost every spring since 1836. At the Henly Regatta in Oxfordshire, founded in 1839, crews from all over the world compete each July in various kinds of race over a straight course of 1 mile 550 yards (about 2.1 km).

### **Squash**

Squash is another of those peculiarly English ball games. It was once confined to Britain and her colonies and played almost exclusively by members of the upper classes, but it must now be one of the world's fastest-growing sports, for the number of participants has increased three or fourfold in the last few years, and new courts are springing up in almost every corner of the world.

The court consists of a square room in which two players, equipped with rackets similar in shape to tennis rackets, have to strike a small rubber ball. When a player strikes the ball, it may rebound from any of the four walls, but it must strike the front wall of the room before it touches the ground. His opponent then has to hit the ball in his turn. The ball must not bounce on the floor more than once before each player hits it; if a player fails to return the ball to the front wall or to hit the ball before it bounces twice, he loses the point.

One advantage of the game is that, since the court is covered, you don't have to rely on the weather. Moreover you needn't be a great athlete and it isn't necessary to possess exceptional coordination to play the game competently. At top levels players have to be extremely fit and talented, but the average person can get good exercise and enjoy himself thoroughly even at his first attempt.

### **The Highland Games**

Scottish Highland Games<sup>1</sup>, at which sports (including tossing the caber<sup>2</sup>, putting the weight<sup>3</sup> and throwing the hammer<sup>4</sup>), dancing and piping<sup>5</sup> competitions take place, attract large numbers of spectators from all over the world.

These meetings are held every year in different places in the Scottish Highlands. They include the clans led by their pipers, dressed in their kilts, tartan plaids, and plumed bonnets, who march round the arena. The features common to Highland Games are bagpipe<sup>6</sup> and Highland dancing competitions and the performance of heavy athletic events — some of which, such as tossing the caber, are Highland in origin. All competitors wear Highland dress, as do most of the judges. The games take place in a large roped-off arena. Several events take place at the same time:

pipers and dancers perform on a platform; athletes toss the caber, put the weight, throw the hammer, and wrestle. There is also a competition for the best-dressed Highlander.

Highland dancing is performed to bagpipe music, by men and women, such as the Sword Dance<sup>7</sup> and the Reel.<sup>8</sup>

No one knows exactly when the men of the Highlands first gathered to wrestle, toss cabers, throw hammers, put weights, dance and play music. The Games reflected the tough life of the early Scots. Muscle-power was their means of livelihood — handling timber, lifting rocks to build houses, hunting. From such activities have developed the contests of tossing the caber, putting the weight and throwing the hammer. Tossing the caber originated among woodmen who wanted to cast their logs into the deepest part of a river.

Tossing the caber is not a question of who can throw it farthest. For a perfect throw the caber must land in the 12-o'clock position after being thrown in a vertical semicircle. The caber is a very heavy and long log.

1. the Highland Games — состязания шотландских горцев
2. tossing the caber — метание шеста
3. putting the weight—поднятие веса
4. throwing the hammer — метание молота
5. piping — игра на волынке
6. bagpipe — волынка
7. the Sword Dance—танец с саблями
8. the Reel — рил (шотландский народный хороводный танец)

### **Conker Contest<sup>1</sup> and British Marbles Championship**

Every year, usually on the Wednesday nearest to 20th October, about a hundred competitors gather to take part in the annual conker competition in a chosen place. The conkers are collected by children from an avenue of chestnut trees.<sup>2</sup> The conkers are carefully examined and numbered on their flat sides, then bored and threaded on nylon cord. Each competitor is allowed an agreed number of "strikes", and a referee is present to see fair play. There are prizes for winners and runners-up. The contest usually starts at about 7 p.m.

It is said that in Elizabethan times two suitors for a village beauty settled the matter by means of a marbles contest.<sup>3</sup> What is now the Marble Championship is believed to be a survival of that contest. The game of marbles dates back to Roman times. Teams of six compete on a circular, sanded rink. Forty-nine marbles are placed in the centre of the rink, and the players try to knock out<sup>4</sup> as many as possible with their marble. The marble is rested on the index finger and flicked<sup>5</sup> with the thumb. The two highest individual scores battle for the championship with only thirteen marbles on the rink. Similar contests are now held in some other English-speaking countries.

1. conker contest — соревнование-игра конскими каштанами (одним конским каштаном, привязанным к концу веревочки, бьют по другим)
2. chestnut tree — каштановое дерево
3. marbles contest—детская игра в стеклянные шарики

4. knock out—выбивать
5. flick — слегка подтолкнуть

### Exercises

#### 1. Answer the questions:

1. What English idioms which have come from the world of sport do you know? 2. Which is the English summer national sport? 3. Which kinds of sport can you name in English? 4. Which game can be called the most popular game in the world? 5. How many players are there in a football team? 6. How many words of football terminology do you know? Say them in English. 7. What is a football pool? 8. What is called a test match in cricket? 9. Which place in Britain is associated with lawn tennis championships? 10. What kinds of racing do you know? 11. What events take place at Scottish Highland Games? 12. What is a "conker"? 13. Which kinds of sport can be called working-class sports in Great Britain? 14. Which kinds of sport are becoming more and more popular among people? 15. Are you a football fan yourself? Do you play any games? 16. Which sport terms that originated in Great Britain do you know? 17. Can you play lawn tennis or table tennis? 18. How do you understand the English idiom "It's not cricket"?

#### 2. Say what you know about:

1. the most popular kinds of sport in Great Britain? 2. a recent football match which you watched? 3. recent racing which you watched? 4. the most popular kinds of sport in Russia? 5. children games in Great Britain? 6. children games in Russia? 7. the reasons why people should be physically active and participate in sports? 8. the kinds of sports which are becoming more and more popular among people? 9. the importance of team games in developing such social qualities as enthusiasm, co-operation, loyalty, unselfishness? 10. what is more important in sports: the ability to win a victory or the ability to lose without anger; absolute fairness or physical power?

#### 3. Translate from Russian into English.

##### Спорт в Великобритании

Спорт очень популярен в Британии. Другими словами, многим британцам нравится идея спорта; многие даже смотрят спортивные соревнования, особенно по телевизору. Однако число тех, кто активно занимается спортом, вероятно, достаточно мало. В целом британцы предпочитают быть скорее полными, чем сохранять хорошую форму. Многие игры, в которые сейчас играют во всем мире, возникли в Британии. Британия — родина многих популярных видов спорта, таких, как футбол, регби, крикет, гольф, теннис, бадминтон. Самые популярные в Британии виды спорта: бег, бокс, плавание, катание на коньках, охота, рыбная ловля, скачки, альпинизм и т. д. Самый зрелищный вид спорта — футбол. В футбол играют в субботу днем в большинстве английских городов, и болельщики, или сторонники, определенной команды поедут с одного конца страны в другой посмотреть на игру своей команды.

Четыре нации, которые составляют Британию, обычно представляют отдельные команды в международных соревнованиях. В Британии также играют во многие другие спортивные игры, включая гольф, где ты пытаешься забить мяч в ямку в земле; крокет, где ты пытаешься пробить мяч сквозь

несколько обручей; баскетбол, в котором ты пытаешься забросить мяч в сеть; теннис, где ты пытаешься ударить мяч так, что твой противник не может отбить его... и крикет, в который играют мячом. Для многих англичан крикет это не только игра, но и норма поведения. Когда они считают что-нибудь нечестным, они иногда говорят: «Это не крикет». Как вы можете видеть: если бы мяч не был изобретен, спорта бы не было. В действительности это не совсем правда. Атлетикой занимаются без мяча, так же, как и скачками. Может быть, это и объясняет, почему они не так популярны, как футбол. Конечно, футбол — самая популярная игра в мире. Это игра, в которую играют почти во всех странах. Много людей играет в теннис и смотрит игры. Чемпионаты по теннису в Уимблдоне знают во всем мире. Рыбной ловлей занимаются тысячи людей. Это очень спокойное и мирное занятие и отличное времяпрепровождение для тех, кто не любит шума.

Скачки тоже крайне популярны в Великобритании. Сезон скачек включает 5 забегов (состязаний).

Ежегодные лодочные соревнования между Оксфордом и Кембриджем по реке Темзе также привлекают множество людей и очень популярны.

4. Speak in short about sports and games popular in Britain.

5. Speak in detail about any British sport you like.

## READING 5

### Sport in the USA

Baseball is the most popular summer sport in America. The first American baseball match was in 1839 in New York, but some people think that baseball comes from a much older game called rounders, played in Europe for many years.

To play baseball, you need two teams of nine players. The "pitcher" throws the ball, and the "batter" hits it with a bat.

Americans start playing baseball young. There are "leagues" which children of eight can join. The top players become big stars and earn a lot of money every year.

Americans play tennis, hockey and most other international sports, but they do not play football in the same way as the rest of the world. American football is a very different game. The players can run with the ball, touch and push each other. The field looks different, and even the ball is of a different shape. Players wear special clothes for American football, with helmets on their heads, because the game can be dangerous. Like international football teams, American teams have eleven players.

Basketball is another popular game in America. Only five people play in each team. One American basketball team, the Harlem Globetrotters, is famous all over the world. These extraordinary sportsmen, all very tall, have shown the world that sport can be funny as well as exciting.

Americans love winter sports, and ice hockey is a great favourite. This game, the national sport of Canada, is very fast, and can be dangerous. So if you play ice hockey, remember to wear your helmet!

### Exercises

1. Ask and answer questions on the text. Speak about sport in the USA.

2. Say: What sports are popular in your country? Is sport compulsory in schools,



colleges, university? What sports do children play?

3. Describe the sport activities at your school, college, university.

### **Sport in the USA**

Some decades ago many Americans called Monday "the day after the baseball game". Times have changed and countries, too. In the US of today, football is the most popular spectator sport. Baseball is now in the second place among the sports, people most like to watch. The "four major sports" are football, baseball, hockey and basketball. Their seasons often overlap. Some football games are still played in January in the snow and ice. Preseason baseball games start in warm, sunny regions like Florida and Arizona about the same time. In the fall of the year, all four come together.

There are many other sports and sports activities in America which attract millions of active participants. Among them are golf, swimming, tennis, marathons, track and field, bowling, archery, skiing, skating, squash and badminton, rowing and sailing, weight-lifting, boxing and wrestling. A survey in 1993, for example, showed that 44 per cent of all Americans took part in some athletic activity once a day. And 1994 statistics show that swimming, bicycling, fishing, jogging, gymnastics, and bowling (in that order) are Americans' favourite participatory sports.

The question remains why so many sports are so popular in the United States. One reason may be that the variety and size of America and the different climates found in it have provided Americans with a large choice of (summer and winter) sports. In addition public sports facilities have always been available in great number for participants, even in sports such as golf, tennis, or skating. The fact that the average high school, too, offers its students a great variety of sports, often including rowing, tennis, wrestling, and golf, may have contributed to the wide and varied interest and participation of Americans in sports. This, in turn, may explain why Americans have traditionally done well internationally in many of these sports.

Another reason might be that Americans like competition, by teams or as individuals, of any type. It's the challenge, some say. Others point out that American schools and colleges follow the tradition of all English-speaking societies in using sports activities as a way of teaching "social values". Among these are teamwork, sportsmanship and persistence. As a result, being intelligent and being good in sports are seen as things that can and should go together. The attention given to organized sports should not overshadow the many sporting activities which are a part of daily American life. Most Americans who grow up in the North, for example, also grow up with outdoor winter sports and activities. Skating, certainly, is one widespread activity with most cities, large and small.

Fishing and hunting are extremely popular in all parts of the country. As could be expected, all water sports and activities are very popular, including swimming, skin diving, sailing, canoeing, water skiing, and power-boat racing.

There are also several sports in the U.S. which were once thought of as being "different", but have now gained international popularity. Among these, for instance, is skate-boarding. Another example is wind-surfing which very quickly spread in popularity from the beaches of California and Hawaii. Hang-gliding became really

popular after those same people in California started jumping off cliffs above the ocean.

### Exercises

#### 1. Answer the following questions.

1. What is a “spectator sport”? Which of them are mentioned in the text? Say a few words about each of them.

2. What is a “participatory sport”? Which of them are mentioned in the text? Say a few words about each of them.

3. What are the reasons why so many sports are popular in the USA?

#### 2. Read the text carefully and explain the following sentences.

1. Many Americans called Monday "the day after the baseball game". 2. Colleges use sports activities as a way of teaching "social values": teamwork, sportsmanship and persistence. 3. There are sports in the U.S. which were once thought of as being "different", but have now gained international popularity.

#### 3. Make sure you know the Russian equivalents for the following.

survey, to be available, track and field, archery, rowing, sailing, weight-lifting, wrestling, jogging, bowling, hunting, skin diving, skate-boarding, wind-surfing, hang-gliding, to overlap, sport facilities, challenge.

4. Prepare an outline of the text. Discuss the facts that you think are worth mentioning with your colleagues.

## **READING 6**

Read about the two most famous sports in the USA. Ask and answer questions on them. Learn the texts adding some more information.

### **Basketball**

James Naismith invented basketball in 1891. Naismith was a Canadian, but lived in the United States. He was a teacher at Springfield Training School in the state of Massachusetts. He taught sports and found there were no interesting games to play indoors in the winter months. So he thought of a game.

Naismith's students played the first game of basketball in the Springfield gym in 1891. There were nine men on each team. They used a soccer ball. They put peach baskets on the gym wall. The goal or purpose of the game was to throw the ball in the basket. That is why he called the game basketball. A man with a ladder went to the basket. He climbed the ladder and took the ball out of the basket. Luckily, only one man got the ball into the basket in the first game.

Basketball is a very fast game. Players must run up and down the basketball court or gym floor the whole game. At the same time they must control the ball. Today, most players are tall. Many of them are over seven feet tall and weigh more than 200 pounds. But one of basketball's great players was Barney Sedran. He played from 1912 to 1926 and is in the Basketball Hall of Fame. He was only 5 feet 4 inches tall and 118 pounds!

Today, basketball is an international sport. In America, the National Basketball Association (NBA) has some of the best players in the world. Basketball is also an Olympic sport today. In the Olympics, the best teams from many countries play to show they are the best.

## Baseball

Baseball is America's most popular sport. In a baseball game there are two teams of nine players. Players must hit a ball with a bat and then run around four bases. A player who goes around all the bases scores a run for his team. The team that finishes with more runs wins the game.

Where did baseball come from? No one knows for sure. Many people believe that the idea came from a game played by children in England. Other people believe that a man named Abner Doubleday invented the game in Cooperstown, New York, in 1839. But the first real rules of baseball were written in 1845 by Alexander Cartwright. Two teams from New York played a game following Cartwright's rules. The rules worked well. Soon there were many teams.

These early teams were not professional. They played only for fun, not money. But baseball was very popular from the start. Businessmen saw that they could make money with professional baseball teams.

The first professional team was started in 1869. This team was the Red Stockings of Cincinnati. Within a few years there were professional teams in other cities. In 1876 these teams came together in a league, or group, called the National League. The teams in the National League played one another.

In 1901 a new league, called the American League, was formed. To create some excitement, in 1903 the two leagues decided to have their first-place teams play each other. This event was called the World Series.

Each year since then the National League winner and the American League winner play in the World Series. And, each year, millions of people look forward to this exciting sports event.

## READING 7

### Leisure-Time Activities

1 At one time, **leisure** meant resting, relaxing, doing nothing, sitting on the front porch swing and watching the world go by. Today, however, most Americans crowd a lot of activities into their so-called leisure time. They may perform these activities to become physically fit, learn something new, do something creative, bring the family closer together, or have a great adventure. Having fun, of course, is another goal. But many Americans take their leisure pursuits quite seriously; they hope these activities will enrich their lives in some way.

### The Big Three of American Team Sports

2 **Team** sports appeal to Americans' love of socializing and competing. The most popular team sports in the U.S.A. — baseball, football, and basketball — are both **spectator** sports and participatory sports. Boys and girls begin playing softball (a game similar to baseball but with a bigger, softer ball) when they are about 9 or 10 years old. In high school and college, football and basketball are played primarily by boys and men, and basketball is played by both sexes.

3 Baseball is often called the national pastime. People from other countries sometimes wonder why Americans enjoy this sport so much. "It's dull," they say. "Most of the time, the players are just standing still, waiting for someone to hit the

ball." And that's true. But hitting that ball is quite a challenge. A pitch thrown by a professional pitcher usually travels more than 90 miles (145 kilometers) an hour. Hitting a ball thrown that fast is a difficult challenge for any athlete, so when a batter hits the ball out of the ball park (a home run!), the **fans** scream and cheer. The professional baseball season ends with the World Series, seven games played between the nation's top two teams. As with championship football, fans sometimes pay hundreds of dollars for a ticket to a World Series game. But those that watch the games at home on TV probably see them better.

4 Football involves knocking down a player who is trying to carry the ball down the field. Although players wear a lot of padding and other protective gear, injuries are fairly common. Versions of the game that involve less physical contact — flag football and touch football — are played by teams enjoying the sport just for fun and exercise.

5 As a spectator sport, football is extremely popular, especially among men. Women sometimes call themselves "football widows" because, during the football season, their boyfriends or husbands are either at the **stadium** or glued to the TV set. Both college football (played on Saturday afternoons) and professional football (played on Sunday afternoons and Monday nights) attract huge audiences. At the end of the college football season, the best teams **compete** in Bowl games. The day's festivities are colorful and exciting, involving parades with floats and marching bands. Bowl games attract huge crowds and big TV audiences. The professional football season ends with the Super Bowl, the game between the country's top two teams. More than 130 million people worldwide watch it on TV. It is the most watched TV show in the world. Because of this huge audience, advertisers pay about \$2 million for a 30-second advertisement!

6 Note that the game Americans call *football* is not what Europeans call *football*. To Americans, that game is *soccer*. Soccer, the world's most popular sport, the national sport of most European and Latin American countries, has not been a great success in the U.S. as a professional sport. However, it is one of the fastest-growing team sports in U.S. elementary and high schools and is also a popular college sport.

7 While baseball and football are played outdoors (or in huge enclosed stadiums), basketball is the world's most popular indoor sport. Variations of the game are also played informally outdoors. Nearly every park in the U.S. has a basketball net and hard-surface playing area, and many American homes have a basketball net outdoors. In the U.S. there are 29 professional men's teams. In addition, women's professional basketball has been growing in popularity. Basketball is also played competitively by high school and college students.

8 Professional basketball players make almost impossible shots look easy and graceful. Michael Jordan, the former Chicago Bulls player, became famous worldwide because of his achievements on the basketball court, Jordan's 13-year career earnings (his salary for playing plus earnings for endorsing products in ads) exceeded \$300 million! Is it any wonder that almost every tall American boy hopes to grow much taller and eventually play professional basketball?

## Other Popular Sports

- 9 Americans know that **athletics** is good for the body and the mind. Those who are serious about exercising can find all kinds of activities to do, everything from winter sports to water sports. Some are safe, tame, and not very **strenuous**. Others require speed and great endurance. Some even require courage. Many Americans spend a lot of money on **equipment** and instruction to participate in sports they enjoy. Others talk about exercising more but never get around to it.
- 10 One sport that can be played from about age 10 to 110 is golf. This popular sport is played all year except when the ground is covered with snow. Doctors highly recommend it for mild exercise, and they often practice what they preach. "Don't get sick on a Wednesday," people joke. That's doctors' traditional day off, and supposedly they're all on the golf course. The achievements of American golfer Tiger Woods have been an inspiration to golfers everywhere. He won the Masters Tournament in 1997, at the age of 21, and is still ranked the world's best golfer. He's also a one-man representative of American multiculturalism. His ethnic background is a blend of African-American, Native American, Chinese, European, and Thai!
- 11 Another sport that is not extremely strenuous and appeals to a wide age range is bowling. About 43 million people bowl in the U.S. Many bowling leagues (groups of teams that compete against each other) are formed by co-workers or members of community organizations.
- 12 Tennis, played by millions throughout the world, is also popular in the U.S. It is played all year, indoors or out, and provides a very vigorous workout. When two people are playing against each other, it's called *singles*; when four play (two teams of two players each), it's called *doubles*. As with other major sports, top professional tennis players win a lot of money and become famous.
- 13 Americans also enjoy winter sports on snow or ice. Skiing attracts both **individuals** and families. (It's not unusual to see 4-year-olds starting their skiing lessons.) In flatter areas of the country, "mountains" are artificially created and covered with artificial snow. Skiers also go to resorts with real mountains in places such as Aspen, Colorado. Ice-skating, indoors and outdoors, is also popular. Hockey (the national sport of Canada) is a popular team sport for boys in the U.S., too. Girls, however, are more likely to enjoy figure skating (doing various difficult maneuvers on ice).
- 14 The newest category of sports is called *extreme sports*. These are risky activities involving speed, high skill, and danger. They include daredevil tricks on snowboards, skateboards, and bicycles; parachute jumps off bridges or cliffs; bungee jumping; barefoot waterskiing; and skydiving. Most Americans consider extreme sports enthusiasts extremely foolish. However, others see them as carrying on the traditional pioneering, adventurous spirit that enabled Americans to conquer a wilderness.

### Exercises

1. 1. Underline the phrase that means the same as the one quoted from the reading.
1. "spectator sports and participatory sports"
- a. sports to watch and sports to play

- b. team sports and individual sports
- 2. "professional baseball"
  - a. played by teams that get paid to play
  - b. played for enjoyment
- 3. "physical contact"
  - a. running a lot
  - b. touching each other
- 4. "endorsing products"
  - a. buying particular products
  - b. saying in an ad that the particular products are good
- 5. "Is it any wonder?"
  - a. It shouldn't really be surprising.
  - b. Do you ever want to know?
- 6. "physically fit"
  - a. ready to go and exercise
  - b. in good condition because of regular exercise
- 7. "leisure-time activities"
  - a. things to do with one's free time
  - b. activities that don't require much effort

2. These are the 10 key vocabulary words for this text. They are boldfaced in the reading. Pronounce these words after the teacher and discuss their meanings.

Athletics	Individual	Stadium
Compete	Leisure	Strenuous
Equipment	Spectator	Team
Fan		

3. Complete these sentences with some of the key vocabulary words. Make the nouns plural if necessary, and put the verb into the correct tense and form.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is another word for sports. 2. Swimming and golf are usually \_\_\_\_\_ sports. Baseball and football are always \_\_\_\_\_ sports. 3. People often go to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to watch two teams \_\_\_\_\_ in a sporting event. 4. \_\_\_\_\_ cheer for their favorite team. They are \_\_\_\_\_ of that team. 5. Tennis is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ sport. Players have to do a lot of running.

4. With a partner, write the correct word to make a phrase meaning the opposite of each phrase listed.

Example: a small audience / a huge audience

- 1. an amateur team / a \_\_\_\_\_ team
- 2. real, natural snow / \_\_\_\_\_ snow
- 3. mental activity / \_\_\_\_\_ activity
- 4. participants in a game / \_\_\_\_\_ of a game (the people watching it)

5. Say what is suggested in paragraph 5. Discuss your inferences with a partner.

"The 'football widow' says her husband is 'glued to the TV set.'" Is this a literal or a figurative statement? Is he really glued? What does the wife mean?

6. On each blank line, write the letter of the correct phrase to complete the sentence.

1. Baseball is called the *national pastime* because it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. is a very popular sport throughout the U.S.
  - b. was very popular in the past
2. If doctors *practice what they preach*, they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. do what they advise others to do
  - b. give a lot of speeches
3. People who *work out* a lot \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. have an outdoor job
  - b. exercise often

7. Debate this issue in small groups. Then write about it (125 – 175 words).

Is it beneficial or harmful for children to be involved in competitive athletics?

8. Write about one of these topics.

1. Do research in an encyclopedia or on the Internet to find information about a sport that interests you. Look up (a) when and where the game was first played or (b) how the game is played now. Write about what you learned. Don't copy from your source. Paraphrase the information, that is, use your own words.
2. What do you do with your leisure time? What do these activities contribute to your life?
3. Have you ever gone hunting or fishing? Would you? Why or why not?
4. Write a descriptive piece about how you feel when playing some sport. Describe your physical, mental, and emotional reactions.

## READING 8

### Unusual Sports and Games

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.

### Exercises

#### 1. 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 in?

2. Retell close to the text. Speak about some other new or unusual sports and games.

3. In pairs discuss which sports you like watching. Which sports are boring to watch? Why?

4. Speak about your favourite kind of sport. Speak according to the plan that is given in the example.

Example:

**1. Number of players (per team):**

Two teams of eleven players each.

**2. Equipment necessary:** a ball.

Each player wears shorts and special boots.

**3. Place where played:** a special field which has goal posts at both ends.

**4. How to play and win:** the players kick the ball to each other. They try to kick it between the goal posts of the opposing team. The opposing team try to stop them. The team scoring the greatest number of "goals" wins.



5. **Length of game:** one hour and a half, with a break in the middle.

6. **Some of the rules:** only the two goal-keepers (who stand in front of the two goals) are allowed to touch the ball with their hands; no one can kick or push another player.

5. Make up your own sport. Invent your own game for people to play. Think of the equipment that you would need to play the game. Decide what the object of the game is. Make up five rules about the game. Explain your new game to the group. You may work in small groups when you develop your ideas.

6. Discuss the statement: *Dangerous sports should be banned by law.*

Should boxing be banned? Many sports, such as boxing, are violent and dangerous. Some people propose that such sports be banned and made illegal. Others argue that violent sports should be allowed to continue.

a) In small groups of 3-4 make two lists of reasons, one for and the other against a ban on boxing.

Arguments for

1. Sometimes boxers are killed in boxing matches. If boxing is banned, many serious injuries and deaths will be avoided.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Arguments against

1. Violence is a part of human nature.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

b) Share your lists of reasons with the other groups. Summarize your arguments for and against a ban on boxing. Draw a conclusion whether boxing should or shouldn't be banned.

7. Give your predictions of the future of such sports as boxing, wrestling, rugby, ice hockey, weightlifting and American football in the next 10 or 20 years.

e.g. I bet that soccer will become more popular because...

## READING 9

### The Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were originally an ancient Greek religious festival in honor of Zeus, which was held in Olympia near Mount Olympus, the mythical home of the gods. The Games were first held in 776 BC. They were held every four years, in the middle of the summer. The festival was only held if there was peace throughout Greece. The ceremonies included contests in oratory, poetry, music and art, as well as in athletic skills like wrestling, throwing the javelin, and running.

The Olympic Games were an exclusively male festival. Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympic Games, or even to attend and watch them. The victors were traditionally crowned with olive leaves rather than with gold medals. Their importance in Greek life was so great that the Olympiad, the four-year interval between Games, was a main unit of the Hellenic calendar. To be a victor in the classical Olympic Games was a great honor not only for the athlete but also for his city.

The classical Games continued for over a thousand years. Factionalism and controversies over the status of competitors became so fierce and disruptive in later

years that the Games were finally suppressed by the Roman Emperor Theodosius in AD 392 as a disturbance of Roman peace.

With growth of interest in sport in the 19th century, and the organization of annual and traditional sport competitions, especially between schools and universities, the idea arose of reviving the Olympic Games in the modern world. A Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, was the enthusiast whose personal drive and initiative brought about the inauguration of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 with the participation of 311 athletes from thirteen countries, competing in nine sports.

At first, the modern Games were limited to men. Women first competed in the Games in 1910, playing golf, but real women's participation only began in Paris in 1924 with the inclusion of women's athletics in the program.

Winter sports were brought into the Olympic program through the organization of special winter Games, first held in France at Chamonix in 1924, with competitions in ice-hockey, speed skating, figure-skating, and skiing. These are still the basic events of the winter program, with the addition of bobsled and toboggan races.

The most impressive event of the opening ceremony of the Games is the taking of the Olympic oaths. First a representative athlete from the host country, holding a corner of the Olympic flag, takes the following oath on behalf of all the participants:

"In the name of all competitors, I promise that we will take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams."

After the representative athlete, a judge from the host country takes an oath on behalf of all those judging and officiating in the Games.

The Olympic flag has a motif of five interlocking rings on a white background. The five rings represent five continents of the world and symbolize universal brotherhood. The six colors, the white of the background and the blue, yellow, black, green and red of the rings, represent the nations of the world, since every national flag contains at least one of these colors. The ceremonial embroidered flag, by the Olympic rules, must reside in the principal municipal building of the host city until the next Games.

The motto of the Games, "*Citius, altius, fortius*" (*Latin* — faster, higher, braver), puts the emphasis on personal winners - not team performance and achievements. Officially, there are individual and team winners but no winning countries; from the very beginning of the games, however, the press has made an unofficial count of the medals won by the sportsmen of each participating country and has kept an unofficial points score. Until the 1952 Olympics the United States teams dominated the Summer Games because of their strength in athletics, swimming and boxing. Since the Helsinki Games, when the USSR took part in them for the first time, competition in all events of the program has become keener, and one country has ceased to dominate: the US hold on first place was successfully challenged by the USSR and the German Democratic Republic.

Each Olympiad the size of the Olympic Games has been growing in the scale of competition, number of competitors and size of the audience watching them — live or on television. Huge stadiums accommodate tens of thousands of spectators, while television brings the scene directly to the homes of the whole world.

### Exercises

1. Learn how to pronounce the following words and word combinations:

religious, Zeus, javelin, Olympiad, Hellenic calendar, controversies, enthusiast, inauguration, officiating

2. Read the text and answer the questions.

1. When were the first classical Games held? 2. How were the winners of the Games honored? 3. How many countries took part in the first modern Games? 4. What sports are included in the Winter Games? 5. What does the Olympic flag look like?

3. Choose the best variant.

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Mount Olympus was a mythical home of the gods
  - B. the first Olympic Games were held in Greece
  - C. the Olympic Games were originally a religious festival
2. The Olympiad is \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. a period of peace throughout Greece
  - B. an annual and traditional sporting contest
  - C. a four-year period between the Games
3. Women didn't take part in the Games \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. until 1896
  - B. until 1910
  - C. until 1924
4. The first Winter Games were held \_\_\_\_\_ after the revival of the Olympic Games.
  - A. 30 years
  - B. 24 years
  - C. 28 years
5. The five rings on the Olympic flag represent \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. the true spirit of sportsmanship
  - B. five continents of the world
  - C. the host country
6. Which of the following sports was not mentioned among the basic events of the winter program? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. bobsledding
  - B. figure skating
  - C. field hockey
7. Which of the following is not true? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. It's personal, not team performance, is emphasized in the Olympic Games.
  - B. All athletes from the host country take the oath on behalf of all the participants.
  - C. The winners were traditionally crowned with olive wreaths.
8. What conclusion can we draw about the ancient Greeks? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. They were good sportsmen.
  - B. They liked different ceremonies.
  - C. They couldn't count, so they used "Olympiads" for dates.

## **Sports at the Olympics**

The first modern Olympic games were held in Athens in 1896. There were nine sports: cycling, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, track and field, weightlifting, rowing, wrestling and shooting. Sailing was also to have taken place, but had to be cancelled because of bad weather at sea. At that time, as today, most people were interested in the track and field events in the main stadium.

In the first Olympics there were no real team sports. Then, slowly, a few team sports joined the program. Soccer and field hockey were the first team sports introduced into the Olympics in London in 1908. Then in 1936, at the Berlin Olympics, the Germans brought in handball and the Americans had basketball accepted as an Olympic sport.

It often happens that the country that introduces a new sport into the Olympics then goes on to win the gold medals. In 1904, at the Olympics in St. Louis, the Americans introduced boxing and won all seven events. Five horseback-riding events were introduced into the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, and Swedish riders won four of them. And in 1964, at the Tokyo Olympics, two sports which are very popular in Japan were introduced: judo and volleyball. The Japanese won all three gold medals in judo, and also won the first women's volleyball competition.

Some new sports have recently been added to the Olympics. In Los Angeles, in 1984, baseball was introduced and windsurfing became an Olympic sport. In Seoul, Korea, in 1988, there was table tennis for the first time, and tennis returned as an Olympic sport. Unlike tennis, some sports, such as golf and rugby, have been tried in the Olympics but have never returned.

The Olympic Games continue to get bigger and bigger. They also get more and more expensive. Now many people are asking the questions: Are the Olympics too big? Will the Olympics continue? Should the Olympics continue?

### **Olympic movement**

In modern times the Olympic movement has become an enormous and expensive organization. It's controlled by the International Olympic Committee - the supreme body which also includes the international Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees. The IOC is based in Lausanne, Switzerland. It chooses the location of both summer and winter games (both take place once every four years, with the winter games half a year before summer Olympiads). It also controls the rules of the competitions and selects new Olympic sports. The famous flag of the IOC shows five rings of different colours linked together. The rings represent the five continents.

The original games began in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. These games were part of a festival held every four years in honour of the god Zeus, at a place called Olympia. The festival included contest that tested the skills of soldiers. Some Olympic sports such as boxing and wrestling, and many of the athletic events such as throwing the javelin, have a very long history.

The modern Olympic era began in 1894 when Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin decided to revive the ancient Greek tradition of celebrating health, youth and peace with a sport festival. He suggested that the Olympic Games, which were discontinued in A.D. 393, should be restored, and he helped to establish the structure

of the modern Olympic Movement. Baron de Coubertin created the IOC and the first modern Olympiad took place in Athens in 1896. Since then the Olympic Games have been held every four years with only two exceptions because of the two world wars. Each time at the opening ceremony the Olympic flame is lit and it burns throughout the games. The flame is a link with the past, because before each modern Olympiad a torch is lit using the rays of the sun in Greece and is then carried by a succession of runners from Greece to the temporary home of the Olympic Games.

One important rule of the Olympic game is that all the competitors must be amateurs. This rule has been under a lot of pressure in recent years because modern sport is so professional and competitive. Athletes train for years to take part in the Olympics and some countries spend much more than others on equipment and facilities. But despite these pressures, the amateur rule remains. Athletes take part in 27 summer events and 15 winter events.

The summer events are (for the year of 1992):

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Badminton
4. Baseball
5. Basketball
6. Boxing
7. Canoeing
8. Cycling
9. Football
10. Fencing
11. Equestrian sports
12. Gymnastics
13. Handball
14. Hockey
15. Judo
16. Modern pentathlon
17. Rowing
18. Synchronized swimming
19. Swimming
20. Shooting
21. Diving
22. Water polo
23. Table tennis
24. Volleyball
25. Weightlifting
26. Wrestling
27. Yachting

Demonstration sports:

1. Roller hockey
2. Pelota
3. Taekwondo

The winter events are:

1. Alpine skiing
2. Biathlon
3. Cross country
4. Curling
5. Bobsleigh
6. Free style skiing
7. Speed skiing
8. Ski jumping
9. Luge
10. Figure skating
11. Ice dancing
12. Speed skating
13. Short track
14. Ice hockey
15. Nordic combined

### Exercises

1. Ask and answer questions on the texts.
2. Speak about sports at the Olympics.

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ПРАКТИКА УСТНОЙ И ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ

ЧАСТЬ 2

# Sports and Games

Методические рекомендации  
к проведению занятий  
для студентов специальности 031001

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