

The world of sport

Upper-intermediate

1 Guess the sport

Match the words in lists A and C to the sports in list B. In the example, a *pitch* can be the playing area for both football (soccer) and rugby whereas in baseball, a *pitch* is the throw of the ball.

Some words appear in only one sport. Others turn up in various sports and sometimes the meaning changes. Using a dictionary will help you to define the meaning of each word in its separate context.

A	B	C
a pass a penalty a shot a goal breaststroke a bunker a stadium a net a green a length of the pool topspin a course a backhand a serve a fairway a championship a base	football (soccer) baseball tennis swimming golf rugby	a corner a club a racquet a low return a tackle a home run offside a tee a court a scrum goggles a try a match a smash a bat a pitch

2 Match the words

Match the sport in the column on the left with the word in the column on the right that is connected with the sport:

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rowing sailing fishing skiing cricket hockey athletics squash snooker boxing	cue stick skis rod yacht gloves track oar bat racquet
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3 Match the phrases

Match the phrases in the left hand column to one of the three sports in the right hand column:

He scored a goal. He served at deuce. The defender passed to the striker. She chipped in from the edge of the green. He missed a penalty. She hit the ball across court. She lined up a putt. She took a corner. He drove the ball down the middle of the fairway. He hit a beautiful backhand down the line. He fouled him. It's match point. They kicked off. He was two under par. It was thirty-love. They won one-nil.	<p style="text-align: center;">Golf</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tennis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Football (Soccer)</p>
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4 Guess the Sport

Read these extracts from sports commentaries. Which sports are being described?

- Sanchez down the line. A chipped backhand from Koch. Koch comes into the net. Sanchez lobs. And it's out. It's out! Game, set and match to Sanchez.
- Italy are two lengths up now. Fifty metres to go. But Australia are gaining with every stroke. They must be really tired now. The Italian eight are approaching the line. Australia are really pushing. Not much in it. And Italy are there. Italy have won.
- Northern lights from Panther Dancer as they come round the bend. Northern lights by a short head. Panther Dancer on the stand side. And it's Northern Lights from Panther Dancer. Northern Lights kicking down the slope. And Northern Lights is pulling away. And at the line it's Northern Lights from Panther Dancer, second by a length, and Ragtime Boy third...
- Lillee bowls to Botham outside off-stump. And it's a glorious stroke from Botham. He's hit that over the boundary at mid-wicket for six. And that brings up Botham's century. The fastest century in test history. A truly remarkable innings from the great all-rounder.
- Charlton plays the ball to Hurst. He's not offside. Hurst shoots. Some people are on the pitch. They think it's full-time. It is now. They've won!

Write your own sports commentary. Think of a recent sporting event, which was important in your country. Then write a radio commentary to describe a key moment from the event.

Read it out to the rest of the class. Can they guess the sport and the event?

5 Discussion

Prepare to discuss one of the sets of questions below:

- Playing sport:** Do you play a sport? How long have you played it? What are the rules? What sort of equipment do you need? How good are you? Do you play for a team or in tournaments? Have you ever won anything?

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- b. **Supporting a sport:** Are you a fan of a team in a particular sport? How long have you supported the team? Do you often go to games? Why do you follow the team and what was your most exciting moment as a fan?
- c. **Sport in your country:** Can you think of a sport that is particular to your country, but not played in many other places? What is it called? What are the rules? What sort of equipment do you need? Why is it popular in your country?

Interview your partner.

6 Dictionary quiz - sport

Try the dictionary quiz. If you have the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM you can find all the answers by finding the key word *sport*, and following the various links:

- 1 What's a *sports day*?
- 2 Can you give an example of an *extreme sport*?
- 3 What's the most popular *spectator sport* in your country?
- 4 What's the difference between *sporty* and *sporting*?
- 5 Do you say I'm good *at sport* or good *in sport*?
- 6 If you give someone a *sporting chance*, is it a good thing or a bad thing?
- 7 If you do something *in sport*, is it serious or just a joke?
- 8 Where do you go to do sports indoors?
- 9 Is there alcohol in a *sports drink*?
- 10 Do you do sport in a *sports jacket*?
- 11 Can you think of an example of bad *sportsmanship*?

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Teacher's notes - The world of sport (Upper-intermediate)

A good way to start the lesson is to bring in lots of pictures of well-known sports. Give pairs of students one of the pictures and give them three or four minutes to write down as many words as they can think of to describe the sport in their picture. Find out which pair has the most words.

- 1 Ask the students to look at the lists of words, and decide which words describe aspects of the sports in the central column. Note that many words are used in various sports and that the meaning of those words can be different.

Answers:

A pass	football + rugby (note: we include the word <i>soccer</i> here as in the many English speaking countries and communities the word <i>soccer</i> is preferred to <i>football</i> – in the US, of course, football is a completely different sport)
A penalty	football + rugby + (marginally) golf
A shot at goal	football + rugby (marginally) In rugby, players have a kick at goal
Breaststroke	swimming (the other main strokes are the crawl, the backstroke and the butterfly)
A bunker	golf (a sand trap designed to make life difficult for the golfer)
A stadium	football + rugby + baseball + tennis + (marginally) golf
A net	tennis (players hit the ball over the net) + football (players when scoring a goal kick the ball into the net)
A green	golf (the area closest to the hole which is the objective in golf)
A length of the pool	swimming
Topspin	tennis (the way a ball spins forward as it quickly flies through the air)
A course	golf (generally 18 holes = a course)
A backhand	tennis (to hit the ball in which the back of your hand moves towards the ball)
A serve	tennis (hit a ball to start to play)
A fairway	golf (the central area of the long approach to the green in golf – the fairway contrasts with the rough outer area because the grass is cut shorter)
A championship	can apply to all
A base	baseball (there are three bases and the home plate in a baseball diamond)
A corner	football
A club	golf (golf has clubs while baseball has a bat and tennis a racquet)
A racquet	tennis
A low return	tennis

A tackle	football + rugby (both contact sports)
A home run	baseball (a home run is scored when the batting player hits the ball and is then able to run around all three bases and then on to the home plate)
Offside	football + rugby (the rules for offside are too complex for this set of notes)
A tee	golf (the place where the golfer begins his or her attempt to finish a hole)
A court	tennis
A scrum	rugby (violence – if you are really interested watch a game)
Goggles	swimming (eye protection worn in the swimming pool)
A try	rugby (one of the many ways of scoring points in rugby, the player holding the ball must cross the opposing team's goal line)
A match	football + tennis + golf
A smash	tennis
A bat	baseball

2 Ask the students to match the sport on the left with the word on the right that is connected with the sport.

Answers:

Rowing - oar	Sailing - yacht	Fishing – rod	Skiing - skis
Cricket - bat	Hockey – stick	Athletics - track	Squash - racquet
Snooker – cue	Boxing - gloves		

3 Ask the students to match the phrases below to one of the three sports.

Answers:

Football:	He scored a goal. The defender passed to the striker. He missed a penalty. She took a corner. He fouled him. They kicked off. They won one-nil.
Tennis:	He served at deuce. She hit the ball across court. He hit a beautiful backhand down the line. It's match point. It was thirty-love.
Golf:	She chipped in from the edge of the green. She lined up a putt. He drove the ball down the middle of the fairway. He was two under par.

4 Ask the students to read these extracts from sports commentaries, and decide which sports are being described.

Answers:

a. tennis b. rowing c. horse racing d. cricket e. football

Ask the students to work individually or in pairs to write their own sports commentary. When they are ready, ask them to read the commentary to the rest of the class. They must guess the sport and the event.

5 Ask the students to decide which set of questions to prepare to discuss. Give them a few minutes to think about what to say then ask them to interview their partner.

6 Ask students to try the following quiz. If they have the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM they can find all the answers by finding the key word *sport*, and following the various links.

- 1 What's a *sports day*?
A day when children compete against each other in different sports and their parents watch.
- 2 Can you give an example of an *extreme sport*?
Bungee jumping, white-water rafting, snowboarding
- 3 What's the most popular *spectator sport* in your country?

Students' own answers

- 4 What's the difference between *sporty* and *sporting*?
A sporty person likes playing sport and plays regularly, sporting means competing in a fair way and showing respect for others.
- 5 Do you say I'm *good at sport* or *good in sport*?
Good at sport
- 6 If you give someone a *sporting chance*, is it a good thing or a bad thing?
A good thing – you are giving something a reasonable chance to happen.
- 7 If you do something *in sport*, is it serious or just a joke?
Just a joke
- 8 Where do you go to do sports indoors?
Leisure centre or sports club
- 9 Is there alcohol in a *sports drink*?
No
- 10 Do you do sport in a *sports jacket*?
No, a sports jacket is a man's jacket worn on informal occasions.
- 11 Can you think of an example of bad *sportsmanship*?
Students' own answers