

Dictionary skills: Sport

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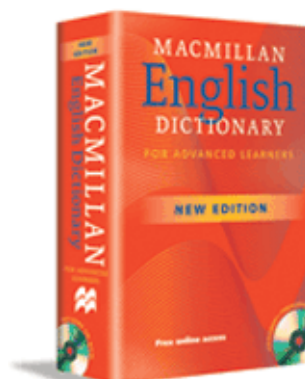
Level: Intermediate to advanced

Age: 16+

Time needed: 45–60 minutes (approx)

Subject: Dictionary skills / vocabulary development

Summary: These worksheets are designed for use with the *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (MED 2)* to give learners practice in using the dictionary to check meaning and for vocabulary development.



Exercise 1: Compounds

The answers to these will not be found under the entries for the nouns themselves but in the associated compound words found immediately after each entry. For example, the entry for *goal* gives definitions for different uses of the word as well as expressions containing the word *goal*. Compounds beginning with *goal* can be found after the entry for *goal*, e.g. *goal difference*, *goalkeeper*, *goal kick* and so on.

Exercise 2: What's the sport?

Your learners may already know some of these words, e.g. *net*. Others are more problematic. The use of *love* in tennis for a score of *zero* is a very specific one but it can be found under entry 7 in the entry for *love* (noun). The different sports are mentioned in the dictionary entries for all these words. This exercise could be done as pair work, with the learners working out the three groups by a process of elimination and then checking their answers in the dictionary.

Exercise 3: Verb + noun collocations

Most of the answers can be checked by looking up the verbs in bold. Note that the answers to 6, 7 and 8 (all very common expressions in the world's most popular sport – football) are not in the dictionary, but if the learners have done answers 1 to 5, they should be able to work these out by a process of elimination.

Exercise 4: Expressions with prepositions

This could be done as a pair or small group exercise. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct

any mistakes. Allow them to check their answers in the dictionary. They may need some brief guidance as to where to look for the answers. These are shown in **bold type** as part of the entry for the key word in each case (e.g. *court*, *have a lead of*, *compete against* and so on). Note that the key word may precede the preposition (e.g. *compete*) or follow it (e.g. *court*). *Against the run of play* features in the list of expressions given after the entry for *run* (noun). Some may have more than one possible answer (*lose to/against*, *compete with/against*, *draw with/against*). Both alternatives are shown in the dictionary.

Exercise 5: Idioms

Before you ask your learners to do this exercise, highlight which word is underlined in each idiom and ask them what type of word it is. Note that the verbs are not underlined as the idioms and their definitions will not be found under the entries for the verbs (for example, *move the goalposts* is defined under *goalposts* not *move*).

Exercise 6: Phrasal verbs

Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Note that *run the clock down* appears under *clock* not *run down*. To *bring on* a player, in the sense of *introduce a substitute* is not given in the dictionary as it is a very specialized use of this verb.

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1 Compounds

Find the nouns that go with these other nouns to match the definitions.

Example: goal _____ – an occasion when a goalkeeper restarts the game with a kick forward (goal kick)

1. **ski** _____ – a steep hill for skiing that turns up at the end so that when people ski off, they travel through the air before landing
2. **diving** _____ – a long narrow board at the edge of a swimming pool that people can dive from
3. **penalty** _____ – in football, the place where a player puts the ball when they are taking a penalty
4. **boxing** _____ – a square area with ropes where boxers fight
5. **golf** _____ – a large area of land designed for playing golf
6. **tennis** _____ – an area on which tennis is played
7. **football** _____ – an area on which football is played
8. **motor** _____ – a sports event in which fast cars race on a special track

2 What's the sport?

Match these words with the sports they are associated with. There are four in each group.

serve	tee	love	putt	referee	try (n)
net	scrum	green	line-out	driver	umpire

tennis	_____	_____	_____
rugby	_____	_____	_____
golf	_____	_____	_____

3 Verb + noun collocations

Complete the sentences using the nouns in the list. (Note: some of these may be in the plural.)

save	whistle	shot	foul
corner	punch	penalty	team

1. Jimenez **landed** the knock-out _____ at the beginning of the 7th round.
2. The manager will **pick** the _____ for Saturday's match tomorrow.
3. The defender **committed** three bad _____ and was shown the red card.
4. After five minutes of injury time the referee **blew** the final _____.
5. Southgate **missed** the _____ that would have won them the match.
6. Roberts shot but the goalkeeper **made** a brilliant _____.
7. Alonso **had** a _____ from 30 metres but it went over the bar.
8. In our team, the captain likes to **take** the _____, throw-ins and free-kicks.



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4 Expressions with prepositions

Fill the gaps in these sentences using prepositions. Check your answers in the dictionary.

1. In athletics, people compete _____ each other in different events.
2. Liverpool drew 2-2 _____ Barcelona last week.
3. She lost _____ a much stronger opponent.
4. At one point he had a lead of ten metres _____ his nearest rival.
5. Celtic must win _____ three goals to reach the final.
6. Suddenly the away team scored an unexpected goal _____ the run of play.
7. In the final of the tennis tournament, the players were _____ court for over two hours.
8. Smith was sent off _____ fouling the opposing goalkeeper.

5 Sporting idioms

Match these idioms with their meanings. Then check your answers by looking up the underlined words in the dictionary.

1. all part of the game
2. a whole new ball game
3. to keep several balls in the air
4. to move the goalposts
5. to know the score
6. to be ahead of the game
7. a shot in the dark
8. a one-horse race

- a. to change the rules and make it difficult for people to achieve something or know what to do
- b. a competition in which it is obvious who will win
- c. to be in a situation that is likely to lead to success as the result of good planning etc.
- d. to know the truth about something, especially when it is unpleasant
- e. a situation that is completely different from what has happened before
- f. a guess that you make without having any facts or ideas to support it
- g. a normal part of a particular activity
- h. to try to do a number of different things at the same time

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6 Phrasal verbs

Fill the gaps using the correct form of these verbs to complete the sentences.

knock	run	weigh	came
pick	sent	kick	bring

1. Evening matches usually _____ off at 7.45.
2. Boxers always have to _____ in before a fight.
3. The goalkeeper is the only member of a football team who can _____ the ball up.
4. Players who argue with the referee will be _____ off.
5. In football, teams are allowed to _____ on a maximum of three substitutes.
6. The most aggressive boxers usually try to _____ their opponents out.
7. Towards the end of a match, the winning team often tries to _____ the clock down.
8. United were losing 2-0 but they _____ back to win 3-2.

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KEY

1 Compounds

1. jump
2. board
3. spot
4. ring
5. course
6. court
7. pitch
8. racing

2 What's the sport?

tennis: serve; love; net; umpire

rugby: try; scrum; line-out; referee

golf: tee; putt; green; driver

3 Verb + noun collocations

1. punch
2. team
3. fouls
4. whistle
5. penalty
6. save
7. shot
8. corners

4 Expressions with prepositions

1. against (with)
2. with (against, in)
3. to (against)
4. over, on
5. by
6. against
7. on
8. for

5 Sporting idioms

1. g
2. e
3. h
4. a
5. d
6. c
7. f
8. b

6 Phrasal verbs

1. kick
2. weigh
3. pick
4. sent
5. bring
6. knock
7. run
8. came