

Vocabulary: Sport

1. Learn the following definitions until you are able to define any word from the list in English.

Some popular sports

artistic gymnastics (calisthenics) - *a sport in which you do physical exercises on the floor and on different pieces of equipment, often in competitions.*

Figure-skating - *a sport in which skaters perform a series of set movements on an ice-skating rink. The movements are performed as part of a program set to music that lasts several minutes. A program can include spins, spirals, lifts, jumps, steps, turns, etc.*

cycling - *the sport of riding a bicycle.*

skating - *the activity or sport of moving on skates.*

snowboarding - *the activity or sport of moving over snow using a snowboard.*

skiing - *the activity or sport of moving on skis.*

ski-jump - *a competition in which people on skis move very fast down a specially made steep slope which turns up at the end, and jump off from the bottom of it, landing on a lower level.*

steeplechase - *a long race in which horses or people have to jump over fences, bushes, etc., either across the countryside or, more usually, on a track*

horse-racing - *a sport in which people race on horses, usually to win money for the horses' owners*

car-racing - *the sport of racing automobiles.*

motorcycle-racing - *the sport of racing motorcycles.*

athletics (trackand-field) - *the general name for a particular group of sports in which people compete, including running, jumping, and throwing (совокупность видов спорта, объединяющая пять дисциплин — бег; спортивная ходьба; прыжки (в длину, высоту, тройной, с шестом); метание (диска, копья, молота), толкание ядра; легкоатлетические многоборья)*

putting-the-shot – *throwing a heavy metal ball as far as possible in a sports competition.*

high jump - *an athletic event in which competitors jump high over a bar which is raised until only one competitor can jump it without dislodging it.*

long jump - *an athletic event in which competitors jump as far as possible along the ground in one leap.*

triple [ˈtrɪpl] jump - *an athletic event in which competitors attempt to jump as far as possible by performing a hop, a step, and a jump from a running start.*

diving - *the sport of jumping into water, especially with your head and arms going in first, or of swimming underwater.*

scuba-diving - *a sport in which you swim under water using special equipment for breathing.*

biathlon [baɪˈæθlən] - *a contest in which cross-country skiers, carrying rifles, shoot at targets at four stops along a 12.5-mile (20 km) course.*

fencing - *the sport of fighting with swords, especially foils, épées, or sabres, according to a set of rules, in order to score points against an opponent.*

archery - *is a sport in which people shoot arrows at a target using a bow.*

weight-lifting - *the athletic exercise or competitive sport of lifting barbells.*

sky diving (parachuting) - *the sport of jumping from aircraft and waiting for some time before opening one's parachute.*

gliding / hang-gliding ((планёрный спорт, планеризм, дельтапланеризм) - *the activity of flying through the air by hanging from a very small aircraft without an engine, consisting of a frame covered in cloth.*

windsurfing - *a sport in which you move along the surface of the sea or a lake on a long narrow board with a sail on it.*

yachting (парусный спорт) - *the sport or pastime of racing or sailing in yachts.*

rowing and canoeing (гребля на байдарках и каноэ)

wrestling - a sport in which two competitors attempt to unbalance, control, or immobilize each other by various holds and maneuvers.

boxing - a sport in which two people wearing large padded gloves fight according to special rules.

mountaineering - the activity of climbing the steep sides of mountains as a hobby or sport.

marathon - footrace run on an open course usually of 26 miles 385 yards (42.2 kilometers); broadly: a long-distance race.

a relay [ri:'leɪ] race - a race between two or more teams in which each member of the team runs or swims one section of the race.

discus (hammer, javelin ['dʒæv(ə)lɪn]) – the sport of throwing a round plate-like object.

Some popular games

basketball - a game played by two 5-player teams, the object of which is to get the ball through the opposing player's hoop the most times to score the most points, or a large ball that is used in the game.

football - any of various forms of team game involving kicking (and in some cases also handling) a ball, in particular (in the UK) soccer or (in the US) American football.

soccer - a form of football played by two teams of eleven players with a round ball which may not be handled during play except by the goalkeepers.

American football - a game for two teams of eleven players in which an oval ball is moved along the field by running with it or throwing it.

baseball - a ball game played between two teams of nine on a diamond-shaped circuit of four bases. It is played chiefly as a warm-weather sport in the US and Canada.

cricket - a sport which is played between two teams of eleven players each who score runs (points). This is done by hitting the ball across the boundary, or by running between two sets of three small, wooden posts called wickets.

golf - a game played outside on grass in which each player tries to hit a small ball into a series of nine or 18 small holes, using a long, thin stick.

lawn tennis (= tennis) - a game played between two or four people on a grass court that involves hitting a small ball across a central net using a racket.

table tennis (ping-pong) - a game that is played on a large table where two or four players hit a ball over a low net using small, round bats.

hockey - a game played on a sports field between two teams of eleven players who each have a curved stick with which they try to put a small, hard ball into the other team's goal.

curling - a game played on ice, especially in Scotland and Canada, in which large round flat stones are slid across the surface towards a mark. Members of a team use brooms to sweep the surface of the ice in the path of the stone to control its speed and direction. (спортивная игра на льду; команды поочерёдно запускают по гладкому льду биты, их цель - попасть в центр "дома" в конце ледовой полосы; чтобы обеспечить битам наилучшее скольжение, часть игроков трёт лёд щётками; родина кёрлинга - Шотландия; входит в программу зимних Олимпийских игр)

badminton - a sport in which two or four people hit a shuttlecock (= a light object with feathers) over a high net.

billiards [ˈbɪliədz] - a game played by two people on a table covered in soft cloth, in which a cue (= a long stick) is used to hit balls against each other and into pockets around the table.

pool

darts (a form of throwing sport) - an indoor game in which small, thin objects with a sharp point are thrown by hand at a circular target marked with numbers in order to score points.

draughts [ˈdrɑːft s] (checkers) - a game for two people, each with twelve circular pieces that they move on a board with black and white squares
card game.

chess - a game for 2 players each of whom moves 16 pieces according to fixed rules across a checkerboard and tries to checkmate the opponent's king.

dicing (dice games) (игра в «кости») - *a game of dice (small cubes with a different number of spots on each side, used in games involving chance (gambling games)).*

- pole-vault - *a sport in which you use a very long stick to jump over a high bar.*

Participants

an athlete - *a person who is very good at sports or physical exercise, especially one who competes in organized events.*

a sportsman - *a male athlete, a man who plays sport, especially one who plays it well; a man who engages in sports): a keen sportsman.*

an amateur - *a person who takes part in an activity for pleasure, not as a job.*

a team (national, Olympic, college) - *a group of players forming one side in a competitive game or sport.*

a crew (e. g. in rowing or sailing) - *a group of people who work on and operate a ship, aircraft, etc.*

an opponent - *someone who competes with or opposes another in a contest, game, or argument.*

an official - *a person (such as a referee or umpire) who makes sure that players are following the rules of a game.*

umpire [¹ʌmpaɪə] - *a person who controls play and makes sure that players act according to the rules in a sports event (such as a baseball game or a cricket or tennis match)*

a referee - *a person who makes sure that players act according to the rules of a game or sport, e.g. in fencing, football, handball, ice-hockey.*

a linesman (in ice-hockey) – *an official in some sports who is responsible for deciding when the ball has crossed the line that marks the edge of the playing area. referee assisted by linesmen.*

a judge - *a person who decides the winner in a contest or competition – in rowing the result is decided by a judge or judges on the waterside who determine the finish order of the crews. in rugby – judges or video referee during televised games.*

a touch judge - *one of the two linesmen in rugby.*

commissaire - *an official in competitive cycling.*

timekeeper - *a person who records the amount of time that people taking part in a race or competition take to finish the race or competition.*

NOTE the following rules of the word-formation:

-er can be used for many sports, e.g. footballer, swimmer, windsurfer, high-jumper, cricketer, golfer, etc.

Player is often necessary, e.g. tennis-player, snooker-player, darts-player; we can also say footballplayer, cricket-player, etc.

Some names must be learnt separately, e.g. canoeist, cyclist, mountaineer, jockey, **archer** (not archerer), gymnast.

Audience

a fan – *someone who admires and supports a person, sport, sports team, etc.: a big / ardent / avid fan, an armchair fan.*

to shout for / to support / to cheer: *The Celtic fans will shout for their team to win tomorrow night.*

cheer for (someone or something) - *to vocally support or encourage someone or something.*

to rally a sports team (to victory) - *to come together or bring people together to support something: Her fans rallied behind her from the start: Turn the sound UP! These are the songs to get fans rallied and ready to cheer for their team.*

a viewer - *someone who watches a television programme.*

NOTE: an onlooker – *a passive spectator, someone who watches something happening without becoming involved in it: a crowd of onlookers. Curious onlookers watched the ceremony.*

a spectator - *a person who watches an activity, especially a sports event, without taking part: The plan would allow the matches to go on without spectators instead of postponing the current season.*

NOTE: What is the difference between spectators and audience? Strictly speaking **'spectators'** usually come to see something. They come to see an event, a spectacle. The people who go to see a sporting event like a football game, a boxing bout or a cricket match are called spectators. Usually in such events the focus is on what you see rather than what you hear. The word **'audience'** is related to the word 'audio'. You are at a specific event to listen to something. An audience is an assembly of hearers. People who are part of the audience listen to or watch a performance. When you go to a music concert, a play or a movie, you are part of an audience. It is interesting that when you go to the stadium to see a cricket match, you are a spectator, but when you watch the same match on television, you are part of the audience. As you know, there is an exception to every rule. Readers are usually associated with the word audience - although reading has more to do with seeing rather than hearing. This could be because in the old days not many people knew how to read or write. The illiterates had to be read to - they had to listen to other people reading aloud.

a cheerleader - *a person, usually a woman or girl in an organized group, who leads the crowd in shouting encouragement and supporting a team at a sports event.*

NOTE: A cheerleader is a member of a team that performs synchronized cheers and dance routines, usually from the sidelines of a game. The best cheerleaders are extremely strong and flexible, with a great sense of rhythm.

The main job of a cheerleader is to rally a sports team to victory, although many cheerleaders also perform complex acrobatic routines. The traditional uniform that a cheerleader wears includes a short skirt or shorts. In the late 19th century, cheerleaders were simply college students in the stands who called out school cheers in unison. By the 1890s, official cheerleading squads were formed, originally including only men — no women or girls were cheerleaders until 1923.

Scoring system

a point - *a mark or unit for counting, especially how much a person or team has scored in a sport: How many points have they won?*

a score (overall / total / final cricket / football score) - *the number of points, goals, etc. achieved in a game or competition: The score was close in the final match.*

a goal - *a point scored in some sports, such as football and hockey, when a player gets the ball into this area: It is now over three years since Raheem Sterling last scored a goal in an England shirt.*

to win by 2 goals (points)

to win with the score 4 to 0 (in smb's favour)

to score a goal (20 points)

a draw - *the result of a game or competition in which each player or team has the same score: The match ended in a draw.*

to draw (a game) - *to finish a game or competition with each team or player having the same score: England drew 2-2 against Italy.*

to draw (with) - *to finish a game with the same number of points as the other person or team: Liverpool drew with Juventus.*

to score (a goal /a point/ a run) / to put in goal *transitive or intransitive - to win or get a point, goal, etc. in a competition, sport, game, or test: They scored a run in the first inning. Neither side scored in the game.*

to score for (against sb) *The England team failed to score against Italy on Saturday. She has not yet scored for her new club.*

to win (to lose) a goal /a point/ a run: *Iceland has just won a point in their first World Cup game ever!*

Competition sites and sport equipment

a sports venue - *the place where a public event or meeting happens.*

a pitch (BrE) / a sports ground / a sports field (AmE) a playing field (AmE)- *an outdoor playing area for various sports.*

NOTE: The term 'pitch' is most commonly used in British English, while the comparable term in American and Canadian English is 'playing field' or 'sports field'.

a course - *an area used for horse races or playing golf.*

sports equipment / sporting equipment (also: sporting goods) - *equipment that can be used as protective gear or as tool used to help the athletes play the sport such as balls, nets and protective gear like helmets.*

sports facilities - *enclosed areas of sports pavilions, stadiums, gymnasiums, health spas, boxing arenas, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks, billiard halls, bowling alleys, and other similar places where members of the general public assemble to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness sporting events.*

a club - *a long, thin stick used in golf to hit the ball*

a stick - *a long, thin piece of wood used in playing various sports*

a hockey/lacrosse/polo stick

a puck - *a small, hard rubber disc that is used instead of a ball in ice hockey*

a racket - *an object used for hitting the ball in various sports, consisting of a net fixed tightly to a round frame with a long handle*

a bat - *a specially shaped piece of wood used for hitting the ball in some games: a baseball bat, a cricket bat*

a shuttlecock - *a small object with feathers that is used like a ball in badminton.*

a javelin [ˈdʒæv(ə)lɪn] - *a long stick with a pointed end that is thrown in sports competitions*

boxing gloves - *a pair of large, thick hand coverings that are worn for protection when boxing*

a net – 1) *a rectangular piece of material made from string, used to separate the two sides in various sports: If the ball touches the net during a serve in a game of tennis, you have to serve again. 2) the area surrounded by a piece of material made from string into which a ball or puck is put in order to score points in various sports: His penalty kick placed the ball decisively in the back of the net.*

uneven bars - *two horizontal bars of different height that are used in an event in women's gymnastics, or the event itself*

parallel bars - *a piece of equipment used in gymnastics, consisting of two horizontal bars fastened to four poles and used for exercising and competing*

a gym - *a place or club where you can go to exercise using machines, weights, and other equipment*

fitness equipment / machines / gym apparatuses

Gymnastics wall bars (*aka a gymnastics ladder, Swedish ladder, Swedish walls or stall bars*) - *a multi functional device widely used in gyms for climbing and for coordination skills.*

dumbbell (often plural: dumbbells) - *a short bar with a weight on each end that you lift up and down to make your arm and shoulder muscles stronger*

a barbell (a rod) - *a long bar with a weight on each end that you lift up and down to make your arm and shoulder muscles stronger*
a rope - *a strong, thick cord made of twisted fibers*
a skipping rope (a jump rope) - *a long piece of rope with handles that children use for jumping over*
a climbing rope - *a rope used in mountain climbing*
skateboarding protective gear (skating protective gear)
elbow pads / elbow gasket

Sport terms and useful phrases

to engage in sports / to do sports / to play sports / to practise sports: *He does a lot of sport. We played sports together when we were kids.*
to take up a sport: *I need to take up a sport to get fit.*
to win (to lose) *transitive or intransitive* - *to achieve first position and/or get a prize in a competition, election, fight, etc: Who's winning?*
to beat *transitive* - *to defeat someone in a competition: He beat her hands down He was narrowly beaten by his opponent. She beat him at chess. He was beaten into second place by the American.*
to defeat - *to win against someone in a fight, war, or competition: In the team's only game that year, it defeated New Brighton 3–0.*
to win a prize (a cup, the victory)
amateur ['æmətə] (≠ a professional) - *relating to an activity, especially a sport, where the people taking part do not receive money.*
to become proficient (=very good at something)
the athlete's performance – *the results showing how successful the athlete is.*
to train under the coach
to train in groups / individually
to do some training
a championship (e.g. national) | a cup | (final, semi-final) match
a league - *a group of teams that compete against each other in a sport.*
to compete - *to take part in a race or competition.*
a contest ['kɒntest] (e.g. world gymnastic) - a competition
a competition (e.g. inter-college, cup) - *an organized event in which people try to win a prize by being the best, fastest, etc.*
a tournament ['tɔənəmənt] - *a competition with a series of games between many teams or players, with one winner at the end*
a sports event (e.g. the winners of different events) - *a race, party, competition, etc that has been organized for a particular time.*

NOTE: There is not much difference between 'competition' and 'contest' if you're talking about an event where people compete against one another. If it is a sporting event, 'competition' is a little more common. If it refers to a skill — archery, graphic design — contest is a little more common. Contests are for individual entries whereas competitions are normally between teams and don't necessarily involve tangible prizes. The difference is small, though. 'Match' is a formal contest in which two or more persons or teams compete. 'Tournament' consists of multiple matches between contestants. The biggest difference between 'tournament' and 'league' is that a tournament is held in one (sometimes two) day(s), while a league is held over multiple weeks. Teams show up every week, play a few matches in a short 2-3 hour timeframe, and then go home.

A spectacle - *an event that is exciting or unusual to watch.*

athletic training

to follow a tournament ['tʊənəmənt] on the web

to win the team (personal, national, world) championship

to run a record time: *On her marathon debut, she ran a world record time of 2:32:29. In the previous year, Anne Oliver of Britain had run a record time of 5min 8sec, later bettered by Edith Treybal of Romania with 5min 3sec.*

to set up (break) a record ['rekɔ:d]

the world record in ...

to kick / hit the ball