



"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

Michael Jordan, basketball player

1. Sport Discussion

1. What are your favourite sports? Which sports do you find boring?
2. Would you describe yourself as a sporty person? Do/did you play any sports?
3. What are the most famous sporting events in the world?
4. Do you have a favourite sports team? If so, why did you choose that team?
5. Which competitions do you like to watch on TV? Do you ever go to sporting events?
6. What are the most popular sports in the world? Why are they so popular?
7. What are the most popular sports in your country? Are your country's sports teams any good?
8. Is competition good for children? Why or why not?

2. Sport Vocabulary

- **to bet/gamble** (verb), **betting/gambling** (noun, adjective) – *to risk money on the outcome of an event in order to win a larger amount of money if that outcome happens.*
- **underdog** (noun) – *a competitor believed to have no or little chance of winning.*
- **doping** (noun) – *the activity of taking performance enhancing substances to gain an advantage over competitors in a sporting event.*
- **blood sport** (noun) – *a sport in which blood is spilled; a sport in which an animal is hunted, wounded, or killed.*
- **glory supporter** (noun) – *someone who chooses a sports team to follow because it is famous or successful, rather than support their local team.*
- **live** (adjective, adverb) – *an event seen at the same time as it happens.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. Animal rights campaigners have been fighting to make all _____ illegal.
2. Being born and raised in London, all of Matthew's friends accuse him of being a _____ for supporting Manchester United, even though he claims it's because his dad is from Manchester.
3. Tim _____ his life savings on Brazil winning the 2014 World Cup.
4. Lance Armstrong had all his cycling titles removed after he was found guilty of _____.
5. In 2016, nobody thought Leicester would win the Premier League in what has been described as the greatest _____ story in sporting history.
6. The World Cup Final was broadcast _____ to an audience of over one billion.

Sport vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What do you think about betting on sports events? Are you for or against it?
2. Which famous underdog victories can you remember?
3. Which sports have a problem with doping?
4. Which blood sports do you know of? Do you think they should be banned? Why or why not?
5. Are you a glory supporter? Do you know anyone who is?
6. What are some of the most memorable sporting events you saw live?

3. Video: The World's Most Popular Sports

You are going to watch a video by Nonstop Sport called "Top 10 Most Popular Sports in The World."

Watch the video here: <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-sport/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. The typical golf fan is:
a) old and rich b) young and wealthy c) old and poor
2. What does the NFL sell for billions of dollars?
a) TV rights b) star players c) Superbowl advertising
3. Rugby was not mentioned as popular in which country?
a) France b) England c) The United States
4. Why is baseball not popular around the world?
a) the rules are too complicated b) it's boring c) it's only played in a few countries

Sentence completion

5. In the United States, table tennis is considered a garage _____.
6. Volleyball is the second most popular sport in the world in terms of amateur _____.
7. There are four _____ in tennis, known as Grand Slams.
8. In the USA, field hockey is a sport mainly played by _____.

Short answer

9. The salary of an ice hockey player varies depending on what?
10. Although basketball is primarily popular in the United States, what is the sport trying to grow?
11. In 2015, 2.5 billion people watched which cricket tournament?
12. The FIFA World Cup includes countries from where?

4. Sport Conversation Questions

1. Who are your sporting heroes? Who are the best sports stars in the world? Who are the best in history?
2. Do sports stars get paid too much money? Why or why not?
3. How has big money affected sports? Has it made them better or worse?
4. Can non-competitive activities be considered as sports? Can you think of any examples?
5. What do you know about extreme sports? Have you tried any? If not, would you like to?
6. What do you think about combat sports like boxing and martial arts?
7. What is the purpose of sports for humanity?
8. Do you think countries compete against each other in sporting events as a replacement for war?

5. Sport Writing Task

Write about your opinion of sport. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What your favourite sports are and why.
- Who your favourite sports stars are and why.
- What the purpose of sport is in society.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people argue that the introduction of big money has ruined various sports. Others, however, argue that this money has helped sports to evolve and become much better than in the past. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.