1 Match the words

Look at the sports. How many of them do you play with a ball?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>football</th>
<th>tennis</th>
<th>aerobics</th>
<th>table tennis</th>
<th>gymnastics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>athletics</td>
<td>rowing</td>
<td>badminton</td>
<td>ice hockey</td>
<td>swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>squash</td>
<td>volleyball</td>
<td>fishing</td>
<td>baseball</td>
<td>skiing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cricket</td>
<td>hockey</td>
<td>rugby</td>
<td>golf</td>
<td>boxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basketball</td>
<td>sailing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match the sports to the correct verb: play, go or do.

For example: play football or go swimming.

What’s the rule? When do we use play, go and do?

2 Guess the sport

Look at the descriptions of the different sports below. Which sport is being described?

1. There are two teams. There are eleven players in each team on the pitch. The players wear shirts, shorts and boots. The goalkeeper plays in goal. The striker tries to score goals. The team that scores the most goals wins the match.

2. This sport is one of the most popular at the Olympics. You have to be fit, fast and strong. It includes running the 100 metres and the marathon, throwing the javelin, putting the shot, and doing the high jump and long jump.

3. This is a popular sport all over the world. The top players play in international tournaments. It is played on a court with racquets and balls. One player serves the ball over a net and his or her opponent has to hit it back.

4. People do this sport to keep fit. You have to stretch and touch your toes. It’s very tiring. People often do this to music.

5. This is a popular sport with people of all ages. You play it on a course with different clubs and small white balls.

3 Describe the sport

Look at the words in italics in exercise 2. Which of these words can you use to describe the following sports?

a. squash
b. basketball
c. gymnastics
Write a description of one of these sports, or write a description of a sport that is popular in your country.

4 Odd word out

Which is the odd word out?

a. a ball, a shuttlecock, a puck, a basket
b. score, miss, goal, pass, shoot
c. a bat, a ball, a racquet, a club
d. a court, a pitch, a match, a course
e. strong, jump, stretch, throw

5 Interview your partner

Interview your partner about sport. Ask the questions below:

- What’s your favourite sport?
- What’s your favourite team? Who’s your favourite sportsperson?
- Which sports do you play?
- What’s the most popular sport in your country?
- Are there any sports which are only played in your country?

Tell the class about your partner.
Teacher’s notes – Sport (Pre-intermediate)

At this level it is a good idea to find visuals to help teach these words. You could bring in pictures of sports and elicit types of sports from the start. Or, with a monolingual class from the same country, you could write the names of well-known sportsmen on the board, and elicit the names of the sports they play. Read out the words to show the stress, then put the students in pairs to decide which ones are played with a ball.

Answers:
The following are played with a ball: football, tennis, rugby, baseball, golf, table tennis, squash, volleyball, basketball, cricket, and hockey.

Badminton (a shuttlecock) and ice hockey (a puck) are played with something similar to a ball.

Play: football, tennis, rugby, baseball, golf, table tennis, squash, volleyball, basketball, cricket, hockey, badminton and ice hockey. (Rule: they all involve a ball of some kind.)

Go: sailing, skiing, rowing, swimming, and fishing. (Rule: go + -ing.)

Do: athletics, aerobics, gymnastics, and boxing. (Rule: do + exercise/do + -ics.)

Note: boxing is an exception, as are wrestling, weight lifting.

2 Ask the students to read the descriptions of the different sports and decide which one is being described.

Answers:

3 Ask the students to work in pairs to decide which words can be used to describe which sports. Ask them to think of other words they could use to describe the sports.

Answers:

a. Squash: players, shirts, shorts, wins the match, popular, fit, fast, strong, running, play, tournaments, played on a court, racquets, balls, player serves the ball, opponent, hit, keep fit, stretch, tiring.

b. Basketball: teams, players, shirts, shorts, wins the match, popular, Olympics, fit, fast, strong, running, throwing, tournaments, played on a court, balls, opponent, stretch, tiring.

c. Gymnastics: shirts, shorts, fit, fast, strong, running, tournaments, keep fit, stretch, touch your toes, tiring.

Ask the students to decide which sport they are going to describe. It is a good idea to put students in pairs. Each pair must describe a different sport. Ask them to write a description using the words from the lesson. When they are ready ask the students to read out their description to the class. They could do this for homework.

4 Ask the students to decide which is the odd word out.

Answers:

a. a basket: all the others are types of ball.
a goal: all the others are verbs often used to describe things you do in football.
c. a ball: all the others are things you hit a ball with.
d. a match: all the others are the places where you play a match.
e. strong: all the others are verbs describing things you do when playing sport.

5 Give the students a few minutes to read the questions and think about what they are going to say. Then put them in pairs or small groups to interview each other.