

Sports

Live from Oxford podcasts

Author: Lindsay Clandfield
Level: Intermediate / Upper-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30–40 minutes
Language and skills: Listening for gist, listening for specific details, features of spoken English, <i>get</i>



Warmer and vocabulary

1. Begin the class by miming some actions and asking students to guess what you are doing. Encourage them to guess the whole sentence, not just the verb. For example:

You are eating a big bowl of spaghetti.

You are phoning your mother.

You are rocking a baby to sleep.

You are playing tennis in the rain.

2. After the last one, tell students they are going to do the same, miming sentences relating to sports (Exercise 1). Make copies of the following sentences and give one to each student. You can adapt these to make them easier or harder.

You are playing American football.

You are playing golf.

You are doing yoga, early in the morning.

You are running in the Olympics.

You are playing football, you are the goalkeeper.

You are driving a Formula One car.

You are playing polo*.

You are playing basketball, but you are very short.

You are playing water polo.

**Polo is a game played by two teams riding horses. Teams get points by hitting a ball into a small area using a long stick.*

3. When students have finished, distribute the worksheet and ask them to do Exercise 2. If you have dictionaries available, let the students use them for this.

Listening

1. Tell the students that they are going to listen to different people in Oxford talk about sports. Ask them to write numbers 1 to 9 down the side. Tell them these numbers represent the speakers they will hear. Ask

them to read the first listening task. Then play the whole listening through once, and ask them to put a) or b) next to each number.

2. Now direct students' attention to Exercise 4. Play the listening again and ask them to put the sentences in order.

Answers: The correct order is: 4, 2, 6, 8, 5, 3, 1, 7

Language focus 1

1. This exercise is to focus on aspects of spoken English. Ask students to find examples in the text.

Sample answers:

- Repetition of words or phrases – *you know* (1) *it makes me* (2), *enjoy* (3)
- Examples of vague language – *sort of* (2), *and stuff* (6)
- Not making a complete sentence (e.g. not including a subject, or a verb) – numbers 4 and 7
- Using noises to fill time (e.g. *um*) – numbers 1, 2 and 8
- Combining clauses into a long sentence – almost all of them!

2. When students have done this, ask them to rewrite the other sentences so they sound more like natural spoken English. When they have finished, ask them to try and deliver the sentences orally in a natural way.

Sample answers:

I like sports, uh sports like football and stuff.

I watch Formula One racing, football and a bit of tennis.

I used to play football but I don't now. I can't, erm, I can't run very fast.

My father doesn't like um, he doesn't like sports and stuff.

My wife um my wife, well she plays squash a little bit. Plays quite well actually.

Sports

Live from Oxford podcasts

Language focus 2

1. This exercise is to focus on the word *get*. Ask students to replace the underlined *get* words with similar words from the box.

Answers: a) *can*; b) *go*; c) *have*; d) *do*;
e) *become interested in*

2. When they finish, put them into pairs and ask them to ask and answer the questions. Ask different students to report back afterwards.

Sports

Live from Oxford podcasts

LISTENING SKILLS TRANSCRIPT

Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's Live from Oxford podcasts. In Live from Oxford we go to different parts of Oxford to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today we asked people the question, 'How important is sport in your life?'



Speaker 1 (male, British)

Don't play it but, yeah, I enjoy it, enjoy, rugby fan, exercise and that, but not sports player myself at present.

Speaker 2 (female, British)

Okay, um, I think sport's relatively important in my life, in the sense that I don't actually watch a lot of sports – I don't get that sort of adrenalin, but I get adrenalin when I am actually doing sports. So in that sense, I am not sure whether it means I really like sports that much because I like watching and doing them. I certainly like doing them because it makes me feel fit and it sort of makes me still feel energetic and younger.

Speaker 3 (female, British)

It's a good distraction from work because, like, you know you can't just work the whole time and it's quite an important part of your social life as well because then you get to meet people and stuff.

Speaker 4 (female, Canadian)

Sport is, uh, really important as far as keeping me in shape and giving me energy to do the rest of my life. So it's, it's very nice, uh, to offset all of the food that I eat while here at college and, uh, to give me the energy to keep going when I study and it's just nice to get out in the fresh air every day and row.

Speaker 5 (male, British)

Uh, my three favorite sports are football, rugby and cricket – in that order. I play football on Sundays, every weekend, and I occasionally go to watch my local team, Reading. I used to play rugby a few years ago when I was at university but I haven't played since then. I've never actually played cricket but I would like to one day.

Speaker 6 (female, British)

Uh, not that important really. I like going walking and cycling, uh, occasionally swimming, but apart from that, I never watch sport on telly. Um, I don't really have much contact with it.

Speaker 7 (female, British)

Sport isn't very important to me. I don't really get a lot of time to exercise. I occasionally go swimming, um, but that's really about it. And, uh, I've been to a couple of rugby matches recently. But apart from that, not really interested in sport.

Speaker 8 (female, British)

I, I did a 10km run last summer, um, which was great, uh, you know, I'd love to sort of keep up with that. But, you know, I used to do a lot of horse riding when I was younger – um, you know, I'd love to get into that again. But, um, I haven't really been doing much lately. I, I like to watch the rugby when it's on – that's, that's one of my passions, but, um, I don't play that one.

Speaker 9 (male, British)

Uh, very actually. Unfortunately, I watch more than I play, um, because I'm very lazy. Play a bit of football, bit of tennis and a bit of squash. But, uh, I like, I like watching, especially cricket, get a good five-day test match – it's wonderful. I used to ski, till I had a minor accident and dislocated my hips, so I don't do that anymore. Um, and I've moved to Australia, so watching football's become a little hard with the time difference. But I get up sometimes in the morning and watch my team play and uh, I've got into Aussie Rules recently.

Sports

Live from Oxford podcasts

Vocabulary



1. Work in small groups. Your teacher will give you a piece of paper with a sport written on it. Mime the sport for the others to guess.

2. What is the difference between these pairs of sentences? Explain in your own words.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pass the ball! | Kick the ball! |
| 2. I enjoy running. | I enjoy jogging. |
| 3. I'm in shape. | I'm out of shape. |
| 4. You need a racquet to play. | You need a club to play. |
| 5. She scored a goal. | She's in goal. |
| 6. I enjoy rowing. | I enjoy sailing. |

Example: *If you pass the ball, you send it to another person. You kick the ball with your foot.*

Listening

3. Listen to different people in Oxford answer this question: *How important is sport in your life?* Decide if the speaker:

- is interested in or enjoys sports
- isn't very interested in sports

4. Listen again and put the sentences in the order you hear them.

- But, you know, I used to do a lot of horse riding when I was younger – um, you know, I'd love to get into that again.
- I certainly like doing them because it makes me feel fit and it sort of makes me still feel energetic and younger.
- I don't really get a lot of time to exercise. I occasionally go swimming, um, but that's really about it.
- I enjoy it, enjoy, rugby fan, exercise and that, but not sports player myself at present.
- I used to play rugby a few years ago when I was at university, but I haven't played since then.
- It's quite an important part of your social life as well because then you get to meet people and stuff.
- Play a bit of football, bit of tennis and a bit of squash.
- So it's, it's very nice to, uh, offset* all of the food that I eat while here at college and, uh, to give me the energy to keep going when I study.

* *offset = compensate for*

Language focus: Spoken English

5. Look at the sentences from Exercise 2. Find examples of the following.

- Repetition of words or phrases

Sports

Live from Oxford podcasts

- Examples of vague language (e.g. *sort of, stuff*)
- Not making a complete sentence (e.g. not including a subject, or a verb)
- Using noises to fill time (e.g. *um*)
- Combining clauses into a long sentence



6. Look at the sentences below. Make them sound more like natural spoken English. Use the methods in 5 to help you.

I like sports. I like football.

I watch Formula One racing. I watch football. I watch a bit of tennis.

I used to play football. However, I don't play football now. I can't run very fast.

My father doesn't like sports.

My wife plays squash a little bit. She plays quite well actually.

Example: *I like sports, uh sports like football and stuff.*

Speaking and language focus 2 – get

7. What's another word for *get* in these sentences? Choose from a word in the box.

become interested in obtain go can have do

- a) You **get to** meet people and stuff.
- c) It's just nice to **get** out in the fresh air everyday and row.
- d) I don't really **get** a lot of time to exercise.
- e) I used to do a lot of horse riding when I was younger – um, you know, I'd love to **get into** that again.
- f) I've **got into** Aussie Rules* recently.

**Aussie Rules is a team sport, similar to rugby, that is played in Australia.*

7. Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.



1. Would you like to get into any new sports? Which ones?
2. Do you get a lot of time to do sports or other hobbies at your work/school?
3. Do you watch sports? Which sports do you watch?
4. If you could get out right now and do a sport, what would you do?