

1 Match the words

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

football	tennis	aerobics	table tennis	gymnastics
athletics	rowing	badminton	ice hockey	swimming
squash	volleyball	fishing	baseball	skiing
cricket	hockey	rugby	golf	boxing
basketball	sailing			

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?

- 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*.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?

- squash
- basketball
- 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:

1. Football
2. Athletics
3. Tennis
4. Aerobics
5. Golf

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.