

Cheating: reading

1 _____ There are three international sports tournaments taking place: the start of the Tour de France, the middle of Wimbledon and the end of the World Cup. So that's good news for cycling, tennis and football fans, isn't it? It's great that there are athletes from all over the world **taking part** in such exciting tournaments, isn't it?



2 _____ I'm a great sports fan but I'm very unhappy. Why? This is because, for me, sport is no longer a fair game. The simple fact is many athletes cheat and I hate that. Of course, they don't all cheat, and they don't all cheat the same way. But many do and I think that **spoils** the competitions.

3 _____ The World Cup is four weeks of footballers cheating from start to finish. The players don't want to win by playing well, they want to win by cheating. How do they cheat? Well, there are a number of different ways. First, they can 'dive'. This means falling over and pretending to be pushed. If a footballer dives well then perhaps his team will get a penalty shot. Secondly, they can do something bad, like a handball, but not **admit** it.

4 _____ Footballers pretend to be kicked, for example. They then roll over on the ground and look like they're in real pain – it can look very bad. So the referee gives a free-kick to the injured player's team. Or, better still, a yellow card against the player in the other team. Then, and this is the worst part, after a few seconds the injured player gets up and is suddenly all right! There's nothing wrong with him! He's not injured at all! He was just **putting it on!** The referee never says anything so the player **gets away with it**. That's terrible! I think the player should get a red card and then miss the next match.

5 _____ Without doubt, the Tour de France is one of the most difficult sporting events. The race is long both in time and distance. It takes three weeks to ride over 3,000 kilometres, and this includes some very **steep** mountains. Naturally, cyclists have to be very fit and strong. Unfortunately, cyclists cheat too, but they cheat by taking drugs. Cyclists should win the race by being the fastest and strongest, not by taking drugs. In 1998 the whole race was almost stopped because of a drug-taking **scandal**. This year 13 riders couldn't take part because of possibly cheating. A doctor in a police investigation said he **treated** cyclists, footballers and tennis players too! Thankfully, there have been no cases of tennis players taking drugs. At least I can watch Wimbledon!

6 _____ Perhaps the athletes are under too much **pressure** to win. The fans, the newspapers, the sponsors all want victory. There's a lot of money to be won too. Whatever, I hope that when someone next calls me 'a good sport' they mean it in a nice way!