

7 Read the text about the Sports Personality of the Year Awards. Tick (✓) true and cross (X) false or write ? (no information).

- 1 You don't have to be good at sports to win the Sport Personality of the Year Award. ☐
- 2 Ordinary British people like many different sports stars. ☐
- 3 Ryan Giggs won the award with almost a third of the votes. ☐
- 4 Jenson Button got almost as many votes as Jessica Ennis. ☐
- 5 Giggs has scored 150 goals for Manchester United. ☐
- 6 Giggs has never won the Player of the Year. ☐
- 7 Tom Daley won an award this year. ☐
- 8 Eddie Izzard stars in a sports programme on TV. ☐

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Sports Personality of the Year Awards

The Sports Personality of the Year is a British award that is given every year. It's an unusual sports award because it is not just about being good at sport. Of course, it's important to win competitions, but to win this award stars need to do more than that – they need to contribute to sport and be popular with the public. For this award, ordinary British people vote for their favourite sports stars. This year, over half a million people voted and footballer Ryan Giggs won the award with almost 30% of the votes. Racing champion Jenson Button was second with 19% of the votes, followed closely by world-champion athlete Jessica Ennis who got almost 16% of the votes.

Giggs is still playing professional football at the age of 36 and he still plays for Manchester United, the team he started playing for 20 years ago! Recently he played his 800th match, scored his 150th goal and helped Manchester United reach the Champions League final. Giggs has won more medals than any other Premier League player – he won his 11th Premier League medal this year and he has also won several other sports awards, including the Player of the Year. Manchester United are so pleased with his performance that they have offered him a new contract for next year. 'I'm passionate about football and I love playing for United,' says Giggs. 'I hope next year won't be the last year.' Other winners in the top ten included cyclist Mark Cavendish, gymnast Beth Tweddle and tennis player Andy Murray. The Young Sports Personality of the Year winner was diver Tom Daley. The special award went to TV star Eddie Izzard who ran 43 marathons in 51 days to raise money for the charity Sport Relief. Izzard raised over £200,000 to help poor people all over the world enjoy sport.