G past tenses: simple, continuous, perfect
V sport
P /ɔː/ and /ɜː/

Why did he lose the match?

Because he wasn't feeling very well in the last set.

# 5A Sporting superstitions

## 1 VOCABULARY sport

a Do the quiz in small groups.

**SPORTS QUIZ**

What sport do you associate with...?




b ➤ p.157 Vocabulary Bank *Sport*.

## 2 PRONUNCIATION /ɔː/ and /ɜː/

a Write the words in the correct column. Be careful with *or* (there are two possible pronunciations).

ball caught court draw fought hurt score
serve shirt sport warm up world worse work out

| /ɔː/ | /ɜː/ |
|---|---|
| | |

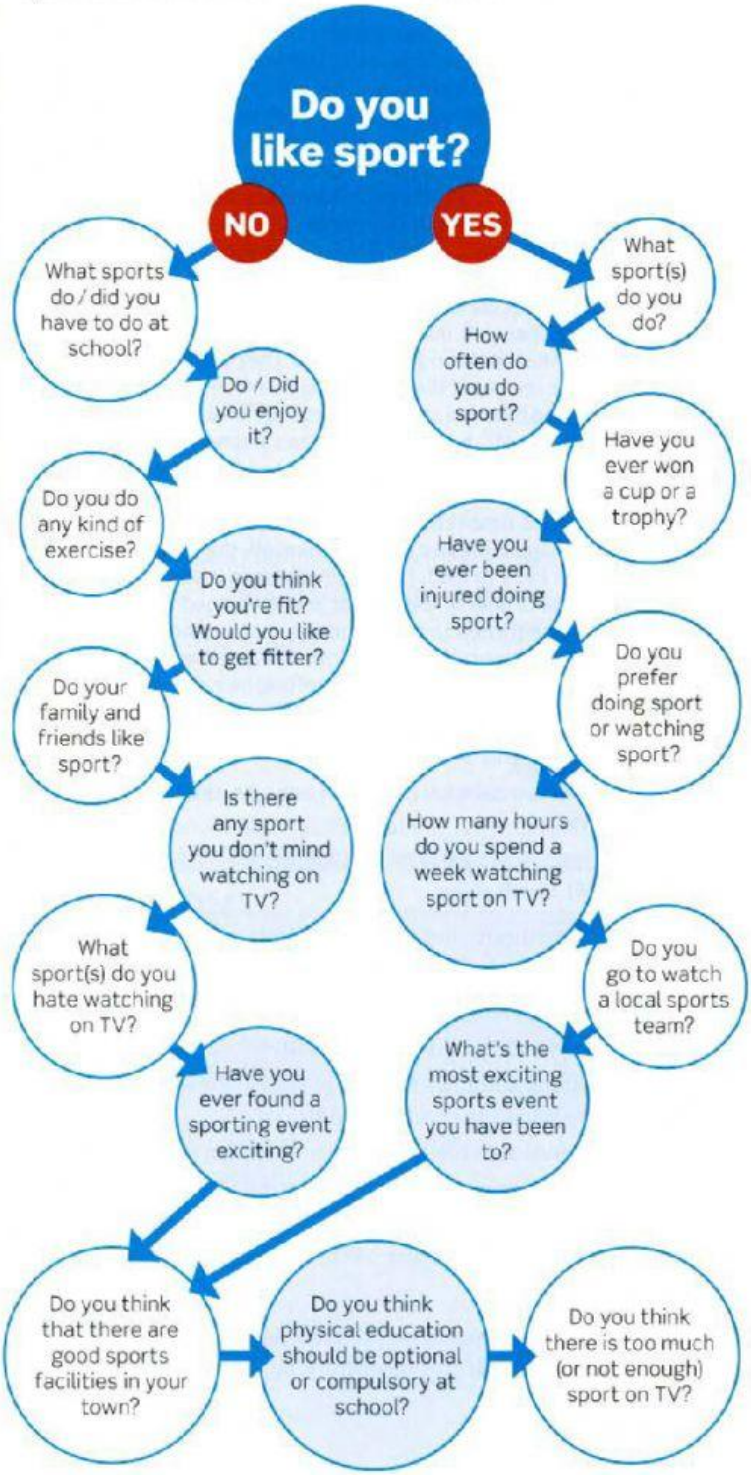
b 3 6 Listen and check.

c ➤ p.166 Sound Bank. Look at the typical spellings of these sounds.

d 3 7 Listen and write six sentences.

## 3 SPEAKING

In pairs, interview your partner about sport using the questionnaire. Ask for more information.






LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 4 READING

a Do you know of any sports players who are superstitious? What do they do?

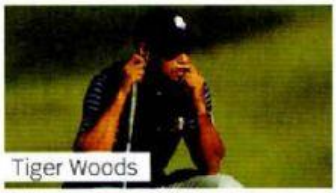
b Read an article about sport superstitions and complete it with A–F.

A It is not only the players who are superstitious
B A good example is Serena Williams
C Superstitions and rituals are very common among fans
D After my wife had left the room, Murray lost the fourth set
E The superstitions and rituals are not confined to the court
F ~~Tennis players are strange people~~

c Read the article again. Who does the article say are superstitious: sports players, sports fans, TV spectators, or all of them?

d Underline five words or phrases you want to remember from the article.

e Look at the photos of four more famous sports people who are superstitious. Do you know what any of their superstitions are or were?


Tiger Woods


Laurent Blanc


Kolo Touré


Alexander Wurz

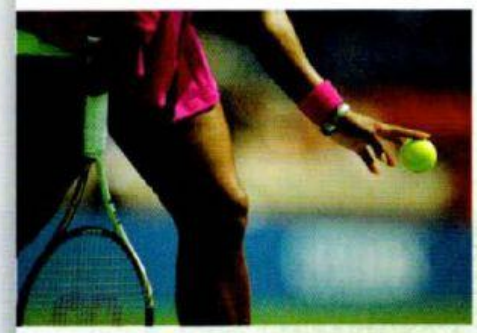
f ➤ **Communication** *Other sporting superstitions* **A** *p.106* **B** *p.110*. Read and tell each other about the people in the photos.

g Do *you* have any superstitions, e.g. when you are playing or watching sport, or before an exam?

# If I bounce the ball five times...

**MATTHEW SYED writes about sporting superstitions**

1 *Tennis players are strange people*. Have you noticed how they always ask for three balls instead of two; how they bounce the ball the same number of times before serving, as if any change from their routine might result in disaster?



2 _____, the ex-world number 1 female tennis player. When she was once asked why she had played so badly at the French Open she answered, 'I didn't tie my shoe laces right and I didn't bounce the ball five times and I didn't bring my shower sandals to the court with me. I didn't have my extra dress. I just knew it was fate; it wasn't going to happen.'

3 _____. Goran Ivanišević, Wimbledon champion in 2001, was convinced that if he won a match he had to repeat everything he did the previous day, such as eating the same food at the same restaurant, talking to the same people and watching the same TV programmes. One year this meant that he had to watch *Teletubbies* every morning during his Wimbledon campaign. 'Sometimes it got very boring,' he said.

4 _____. As we were watching British tennis player Andy Murray play the fourth set at Wimbledon, my wife suddenly got up and went to the kitchen. 'He keeps losing games when I'm in the room,' she said. 'If I go out now, he'll win.'

5 _____. Last year, a survey of British football supporters found that 21 per cent had a lucky charm (anything from a scarf to a lucky coin), while another questionnaire revealed that 70 per cent of Spanish football fans performed pre-match rituals (like wearing 'lucky' clothes, eating the same food or drink, or watching matches with the same people).

6 _____. She returned, and he won the fifth. I laughed at her, and then remembered my football team, Spurs, who were losing 1–0 in the Carling Cup. 'If I leave the room now, Spurs will score,' I told my kids, after 27 minutes of extra time. I left the room and they scored. Twice.

**Glossary**
**Teletubbies** a British television series for very young children
**Spurs** Tottenham Hotspur, a London football team

*Adapted from The Times*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 5 LISTENING

a In your country, are referees a) well-paid b) respected c) unpopular? Why do you think somebody would want to become a referee?

b 3 8 You're going to hear to an interview with an ex-Champions League football referee from Spain. Listen to **Part 1** and choose a, b, or c.




1 Why did he become a referee?
   a His father was a referee.
   b He liked sport, but wasn't good at it.
   c He was always attracted by the idea.
2 What was the most exciting match he ever refereed?
   a His first professional match.
   b He can't choose just one.
   c Real Madrid against Barcelona.
3 The worst experience he ever had as a referee was when _____ attacked him.
   a a player  b a woman  c a child
4 Why does he think there is more cheating in football today?
   a Because football is big business.
   b Because the referees are worse.
   c Because footballers are better at cheating.
5 How does he say footballers often cheat?
   a They fall over when no one has touched them.
   b They accept money to lose matches.
   c They touch the ball with their hands.

c 3 9 Now listen to **Part 2**. Complete the sentences with one to three words.

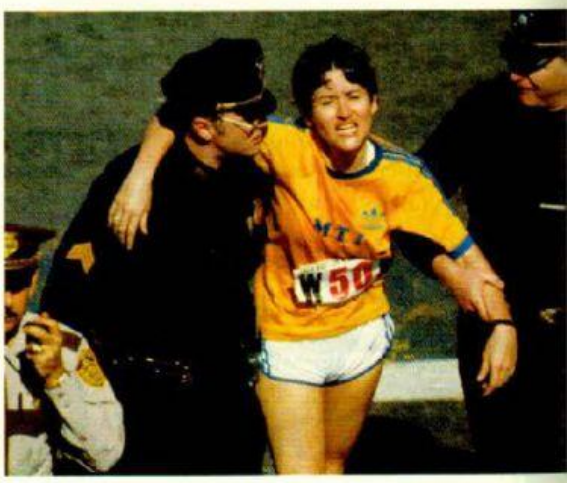
1 The most difficult thing for him about being a referee is making _____ during a match.
2 One of the reasons why it's difficult is because football today is so _____.
3 Making correct decisions often depends on the referee's interpretation of _____.
4 He thinks that players who cheat are still _____.
5 A study that was done on Leo Messi shows that he can run exceptionally fast _____.
6 He thinks Messi isn't the _____ footballer.

d Do you agree with the referee that there is more cheating in football than before? Is it true in other sports as well? Would *you* like to be a sports referee (or umpire)? Why (not)?

## 6 GRAMMAR past tenses: simple, continuous, perfect

a In your country, is cheating considered a serious problem in sport? In what sports do you think cheating is most common? What kind of things do people do when they cheat?

b Read *Taking a short cut* about a marathon runner who cheated. How did she cheat?



c Look at the highlighted verbs in the text. Which of them are used for...?
   1 a completed action in the past
   2 an action that happened *before* the past time we are talking about
   3 an action in progress (or not) at a particular moment in the past

d ➤ p.140 Grammar Bank 5A. Learn more about past tenses and practise them.

e Read *The hand of God?* and complete it with the verbs in the right tenses.





LIVEWORKSHEETS

# Famous (cheating) moments in sport

**Although it isn't true that everybody in sport cheats, it is certainly true that there are cheats in every sport...**

## Taking a short cut

On 21 April 1980, 23-year-old Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon. She finished the race in the third-fastest time for a female runner (two hours, 31 minutes, 56 seconds). But when the organizers congratulated Rosie after the race, they were surprised because she wasn't sweating very much. Some spectators who were watching the race told them what had really happened. During the last half mile Rosie suddenly jumped out of the crowd and sprinted to the finish line. The marathon organizers took Ruiz's title away and awarded it to the real winner, Jacqueline Gareau. It was later discovered that three months earlier Rosie had also cheated in the New York Marathon where she had taken the subway!

## The hand of God?

It was 22 June 1986. Argentina 1*were playing* (play) England in the quarter-finals of the World Cup and both teams 2_____ (play) well. The score 3_____ (be) 0–0. In the 51st minute the Argentinian captain, Diego Maradona, 4_____ (score) a goal. The English players 5_____ (protest), but the referee 6_____ (give) the goal. However, TV cameras showed that Maradona 7_____ (score) the goal with his hand! Maradona 8_____ (say) the next day, 'It was partly the hand of Maradona, and partly the hand of God.'

Later in the game Maradona 9_____ (score) another goal and Argentina 10_____ (win) the match 2–1. They went on to win the World Cup.

## 7 SPEAKING

a You are going to tell your partner two anecdotes. Choose two of the topics below and plan what you are going to say. Ask your teacher for any words you need.



### TELL YOUR PARTNER ABOUT...

- **a time you cheated (in a sport / game or in an exam)**
  When and where did this happen? What were you doing? Why did you cheat? What happened in the end?



- **a really exciting sports event you saw**
  Where and when was it? Who was playing? What happened? Why was it so exciting?



- **a time you had an accident or got a sports injury**
  When and where did this happen? What were you doing? How did the accident happen? What part of your body did you hurt? What happened next? How long did it take you to recover?



- **a time you saw or met a celebrity**
  When was this? Where were you? Who were you with? What was the celebrity doing? What was he / she wearing? Did you speak to him / her? What happened in the end?



- **a time you got lost**
  Where were you going? How were you travelling? Why did you get lost? What happened in the end?

b Work with a partner. Tell each other your two stories. Give as much detail as you can.

> **Starting an anecdote**
> I'm going to tell you about a time when...
> This happened a few years ago...
> When I was younger...

## 8 WRITING

➤ p.116 **Writing** *Telling a story.* Write a story about something that happened to you.

## 9 (3 14)) SONG *We Are the Champions* ♫

LIVEWORKSHEETS