Extensive reading: sport

1 **Look at the page. Describe the pictures.**

2 **Listen and read.** 52

American Football

American football is very different from European football. It is more like the game of rugby. But when and how did American football start?

In the 19th century, people played football in England. Like modern football there were teams, the players kicked the ball and scored goals. Then one day, a player picked up the ball and ran to the goal. It was a new sport and they called it rugby. Football and rugby spread across to the USA and became popular there. Then the Americans invented American football.

Modern American football is most like rugby, but there are only eleven players in each team. There are 60 minutes of play, but the game can last four or five hours. This is because they stop the game when there is no play. The teams use an oval ball, and they have to run with the ball to the other team's goal. When they get there, they can score a touchdown and get six points. American football players are usually very big and very strong because they have to stop the other team. The game is more dangerous than rugby, so the players wear helmets and special clothes.

Today, American football is the United States' most popular sport. The most important game is called the *Super Bowl*. They play this in January. Millions of families in America watch it on TV or go to the game. Some of the most popular teams are the *New York Giants* and the *Dallas Cowboys*. Every year, all the teams find new American Football players. The best players become very famous in America.

Name:	Eli Manning
Birthday:	January 3 1981
Birth place:	New Orleans
Height:	193cm
Position:	Quarterback
Team:	New York Giants

Name:	JJ Watt
Birthday:	March 22 1989
Birth place:	Wisconsin
Height:	196cm
Position:	Defensive end
Team:	Houston Texans

3 **Answer the questions.**

1 What is the name of the biggest American football game?

_____

2 Who do Eli Manning and JJ Watt play for?

_____

3 Who is taller: JJ Watt or Eli Manning?

_____

4 **Ask and answer.**

1 Would you like to watch or play American football? Why?

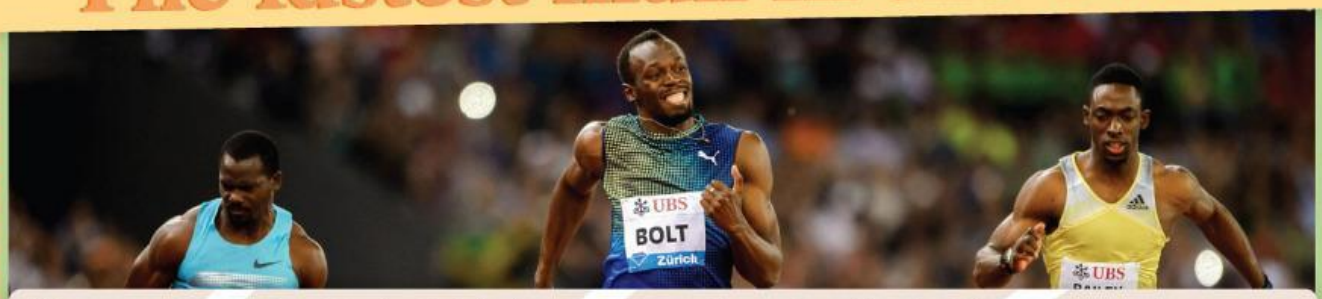
2 What's your favourite sport? Why do you like it?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Look at the pictures. What is the text about?**

2 **Listen and read.** 53

The fastest man in the world



Many people say that Usain Bolt is the world's fastest man ever. In 2008 he won three gold medals at the Beijing Olympic Games in the men's 100m, 200m, and 4×100m relay. He also broke three world records. He was the first person to win these three events at the same Olympics. Then, at the London Olympics in 2012, he won three gold medals again in the same events! This is his story.

Usain Bolt was born in Jamaica on August 21, 1986. He lived in a small town called Trelawney, where his parents had a small food shop. When he was a child, Usain played cricket and football in the street with his brother, Sadeeki, and sister, Sherine. Usain was very good at cricket, and wanted to play for the West Indies.

Usain loved all sports and was one of the best runners at his school, but his sports coach wanted him to be an athlete. So Usain started to run in competitions. He won many races and, when he was 15, he won a gold medal and two silver medals at the 2002 World Junior Championships in Kingston, Jamaica. In 2004, Usain ran in the Olympic Games in Athens. He didn't win a medal because he had an injured leg. However, at the 2008 Olympic Games he became world famous.

Usain was always an ambitious boy and wanted to do well. His family was quite poor, but now he can help them and the people in his town. He also inspires young sportspeople all over the word.

So, how does he run so fast? Is it because he is so tall? Most athletes are around 182cm tall, but Usain Bolt is 196cm tall. He is taller and his legs are longer, so he takes fewer steps.

Fun Facts

Usain Bolt likes dancing and watching football. His favourite team is England's Manchester United. People call him *Lightning Bolt*.

3 **Read again and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).**

1 Usain Bolt's parents had a sports shop. ____

2 He won a gold medal at the Athens Olympics. ____

3 He won a gold medal three times at the London Olympics. ____

4 Usain has longer legs than most other athletes. ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS