

10.2 Competitive sport

Vocabulary competitive sport

1 Unscramble the words in bold to complete the sentences.

- Uruguay won the first football World Cup final in 1930. **lanfi**
- The great Brazilian Formula One World Champion Ayrton Senna was very _____ and always wanted to win. **mopectvetii**
- Tiger Woods has won fourteen major golf _____ in his career so far. **otmatnesur**
- Usain Bolt was a gold medal _____ in the 100 and 200 metres at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. **rewnni**
- In 2001, Samoa played _____ Australia in a football match, and lost 31-0. **stagnia**
- The annual boat _____ between Oxford and Cambridge Universities took place for the first time in 1829. **ecar**

➔ **STUDY TIP** Scrambling words is a good way of revising them. Choose ten or twelve words you want to learn. Try to memorize them. Then write them at random on a piece of paper, scrambled. Return to the piece of paper later in the day and see how many words you can remember.

2 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

break compete lose play take win

Sixteen teams ¹ competed in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup. In the final, Japan ² _____ against the USA and ³ _____ the match in an exciting penalty shoot-out. They became the first Asian winners of the tournament.

Their win was surprising because, although the Japanese team had ⁴ _____ part in earlier tournaments, they hadn't been very successful. They had ⁵ _____ 8-0 to Sweden in 1991 and 5-0 to Russia in 1999. They had only won one match in the tournaments of 2003 and 2007. In the 2011 tournament, however, their top goalscorer Homare Sawa ⁶ _____ the record for scoring the most goals at a World Cup by an Asian player.

3 Complete the quick quiz with words and phrases from exercises 1 and 2.

- Which adjective describes a sportsperson who always wants to play and win?
competitive
- Which word describes a competition when players or teams compete against each other in a number of matches, ending in a final?

- What do you call eleven players in football but five players in basketball?

- What do you call the Tour de France in cycling and the Monaco Grand Prix in motor sport?

- What do you call the last match in the football World Cup?



Grammar using articles: *a/an, the*, – (no article)

- 4 Complete the famous sports quotes with *a, an, the* or – (no article).

“I’ve never lost ¹ a game. I just
ran out of ² time.”

Michael Jordan
basketball superstar

“You are never ³ a loser until
you stop trying.”

Mike Ditka
American football coach

“There are only three sports: ⁴ bullfighting, ⁵ motor racing, and ⁶ mountaineering; all ⁷ rest are merely
⁸ games.”

Ernest Hemingway
novelist and sportsman

“I love ⁹ the Olympics, because they enable
¹⁰ people from all over ¹¹ the world
to come together and ... accuse each other of
¹² cheating.”

Dave Barry
American sports journalist

PRONUNCIATION sounds

- 5a 10.2))) Listen to the phrases and notice the weak /ə/ sound in the pronunciation of *a, an* and *the*. Why is *the* pronounced differently in phrase 4?

- 1 lose a match
- 2 win an Olympic medal
- 3 break the record
- 4 take part in the Olympics

- b 10.2))) Listen again and repeat the phrases.

- 6 Complete the text about how sport has changed the lives of two people. Use *a, an, the* or – (no article).

Sport changed my life

Judith Hamer

¹ My Life changed for Judith Hamer when, at ² the age of fifteen, she had her right leg amputated below ³ her knee. A year later, she was ⁴ a member of ⁵ a British wheelchair basketball team. She took part in ⁶ the London Olympics in 2012, and, although her team didn't win ⁷ a medal, they did really well, finishing seventh, which was better than they expected.



Joseph Kamau

Joseph Kamau is ⁸ a 33-year-old boxer from ⁹ a township of Kibera in South Africa. He had problems with ¹⁰ the drugs, and belonged to ¹¹ a violent street gang before he decided to join a boxing club organized by Fight for Peace, a charity that uses boxing and martial arts combined with education and personal development to realize ¹² the potential of young people in communities that suffer from violence and crime.



I can ...

talk about competition.

Very well

Quite well

More practice



use definite, indefinite and zero articles.

