

Read the text about Alex's childhood memories of his basketball career and check a box to answer the questions (1-5) below.

## MEMORIES OF A YOUNG ATHLETE

When I was a kid, I **wanted** to be a professional basketball player. At that time, Michael Jordan was in his prime, and I **enjoyed** watching him lead the Chicago Bulls to championship after championship. Whenever Jordan stepped onto the court, everyone **expected** him to dominate. He was a force of nature, and I **remember** playing with my friends at school, constantly **trying** to move and shoot just like him. Almost every kid with a basketball **hoped** to be "like Mike."

One of my favorite childhood memories is an elementary school championship game. We were winning by 16 points, but the other team **started** to come back. Our lead shrank to 4 points, and our confidence **began** to disappear. With only two minutes left, I got the ball near the basket. My back was turned, so I **had** to pivot quickly. As I jumped, two defenders **attempted** to block my shot, but they **failed** to stop me. The ball went in!

Immediately, my teammates **ran** to celebrate by jumping on top of me. Even though the game wasn't over, that basket gave us the momentum we **needed** to win. It was a moment I will never **forget** experiencing.

However, like most childhood dreams, mine **began** to change in high school. In grade 9, I **decided** to try out for the school team. I was tall, but I quickly realized that I **struggled** to keep up with the other players. They were much faster, and I couldn't **manage** to compete at their level. I was disappointed, but I **chose** to focus on my schoolwork instead. Despite the setback, I was glad that I had at least **offered** to give it my best shot.

Eventually, I **stopped** watching basketball regularly, though I still **liked** playing for fun. As a teenager, I **began** to find new hobbies and interests. But even today, when people **ask** to know about my childhood dreams, I **love** to tell them: I **wanted** to be a basketball player.

### EXERCISE A - QUESTIONS

- Was the author's desire to become a basketball player influenced by the success of professional athletes?
- Did the author's team maintain a consistent level of confidence throughout the entire championship game?
- Did the defenders' attempt to block the shot result in the author failing to score?
- Was the author's decision to focus on schoolwork motivated by a lack of interest in sports?
- Does the author currently feel a sense of disappointment when reflecting on his childhood dream?

YES      NO

## EXERCISE B. Personal Preferences & Hobbies

Complete the following sentences using the expressions for likes/dislikes and the correct grammar (Gerund or Infinitive). Ensure your answers are true for you!

1. When I was a child, I couldn't stand...

\_\_\_\_\_ (think of a food or chore).

2. I'm really keen on... \_\_\_\_\_ (mention a hobby you do every weekend).

3. Recently, I have decided to... \_\_\_\_\_  
because I want to improve my health.

4. Cooking is not really my cup of tea; I usually avoid...

\_\_\_\_\_ if I can.

5. I'm a big fan of... \_\_\_\_\_ but I would never  
agree to \_\_\_\_\_ in public!

6. I don't mind \_\_\_\_\_ (a household task), but I  
refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ (a different task).

7. One activity I've always wanted to try is

\_\_\_\_\_ although I might fail  
to \_\_\_\_\_ at first.

8. I'm not really into \_\_\_\_\_ (a popular TV  
show or music genre), so I usually choose to  
\_\_\_\_\_ instead.