

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

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

YES

NO

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## 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.