42 Competitive sport

A Winning and losing

In football, you can talk about the **score** [the number of goals a team has] like this:

Spain played Poland and they **won** the game.	= Poland **lost** the game.
Spain **won** 2–0 (spoken as *two **nil***).	= Poland **lost** 2–0.
Spain **beat** Poland (2–0). (NOT Spain ~~won~~ Poland.)	= Poland **lost** (2–0) **to** Spain.
Spain **defeated** Poland (2–0).	= Poland **were defeated** (2–0) **by** Spain.

Spain and Italy **drew** 1–1 (spoken as ***one all***) OR It was **a** 1–1 **draw between** Spain and Italy.

Language help

The **score** at the end of a game is also the **result**.
The final score/result was 2–0. *The score at half-time was 1–0.* (NOT The ~~result~~ at half-time was 1–0.)

B Competitions

A **competition** is an organised event in which people try to win something by being the best, the fastest, etc. **Individuals**, such as tennis players Serena Williams or Rafael Nadal, and **teams** such as Manchester United, **take part in** [join with others in] different types of competition. Tennis players and golfers enter **tournaments** such as the French Open; football and ice hockey teams play in **league** competitions, where they **play against** different teams. Many teams also play in **cup** competitions (similar to tournaments), e.g. the FA Cup or the World Cup, which ends with two teams playing against each other in a **final**. The **winners** (*opp* the **losers**) are the **champions**, e.g. Germany became World Cup champions in 2014, and Philipp Lahm received the cup as **captain** of the winning team.

C Reporting sports events

FEATURED FOOTBALL TENNIS CYCLING GOLF HOCKEY ...



ONE INCREDIBLE RACE

In one of the most **incredible races** of all time, Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt won the 100 metres final at the 2016 Olympics. Although Bolt did not **break** his own world **record**[1] of 9.69 seconds, he achieved a great **victory**[2] running an **outstanding** time of 9.81 seconds. Usain Bolt has now won three gold medals in three consecutive Olympic Games, also known as the 'triple triple'.

Another win for Kim Clijsters

Kim Clijsters won the women's US Open last night for the second time. She first won the **championship**[3] in 2005, but **gave up**[4] tennis in 2007 to have a baby. She returned in 2009, and is the first mother to win a grand slam for 29 years.

Canadian Grand Prix

There was a **superb** race for the Canadian Grand Prix. The **winner**[5], Lewis Hamilton, passed Sebastian Vettel and won by five seconds. But Nico Rosberg now **leads**[6] the drivers championship with 107 points.

[1] run faster than anyone in the world before
[2] the time when you win a game or a competition
[3] an important competition to decide who is the best
[4] stopped playing
[5] the person who wins
[6] is in front of others during a competition, e.g. At half-time, Milan are leading 1–0.

Language help

Superb, incredible and **outstanding** can describe something or someone that is very good and of a very high quality, e.g. *Pelé was a **superb** footballer.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

42.1 **Complete the verb forms with the correct past tense and past participle.**

1 win / *won* / *have won*
2 lose / ..... / .....
3 beat / ..... / .....
4 draw / ..... / .....
5 break / ..... / .....
6 give up / ..... / .....

42.2 **Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Sometimes both are correct.**

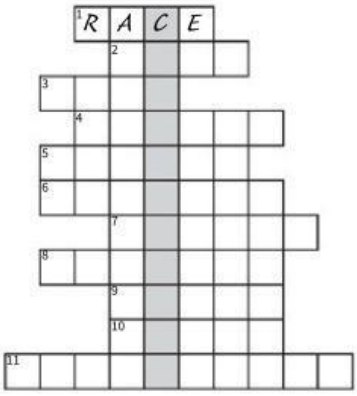
1 It was a fantastic *victory* / *defeat* for the team.
2 Lionel Messi was *outstanding* / *incredible* for Barcelona.
3 At half-time in the game, the *score* / *result* is 1–0 to Arsenal.
4 The French Open is a famous tennis *cup* / *tournament*.
5 Croatia *beat* / *defeated* Germany 3–2.
6 We *won* / *beat* the other team 4–1.
7 The UEFA Cup is a great *competition* / *league*.

42.3 **Complete the sentences.**

1 It was a good game but unfortunately we *lost* 3–2.
2 The ..... at half-time was 2–1, but the final ..... was a draw.
3 Holland ..... England 2–1, so they are in the semi-final.
4 Brazil ..... 1–1 with Argentina last night.
5 Serena Williams has won the Wimbledon ..... at least six times.
6 Carolina Kluft broke the heptathlon world ..... again last night.
7 There are 20 teams in the ..... , and each team plays the other teams twice.
8 Bradley Wiggins ..... part in the *Tour de France* in 2009 and finished fourth.
9 I think Novak Djokovic is going to win. He's ..... 5–2 in the final set.
10 Argentina are playing ..... Brazil next week.

42.4 **Complete the crossword. What is the vertical word in grey?**

1 competition in which people run, drive, etc.
2 the opposite of *win*
3 a group of people who play together
4 a synonym for *outstanding*
5 stop doing a regular activity
6 the leader of a team
7 someone who wins something
8 when you win a competition
9 the last part of a competition
10 the opposite of *winner*
11 a type of sports competition



42.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

1 Have you ever taken part in a sports competition?

2 Have you ever won anything?

3 Have you ever been captain of a team?

4 Have you ever come first, second or third in a race?

5 Have you ever watched an individual or team in a final, at the game or on television?

LIVEWORKSHEETS