

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

A HISTORY OF TABLE TENNIS



Like many (1) _____ sports, table tennis started out (2) _____ a mild social diversion. It is actually (3) _____ descendent, along (4) _____ lawn tennis and badminton, (5) _____ the ancient game of tennis. It (6) _____ popular in England in the second half (7) _____ the nineteenth century (8) _____ its present name and various trade names (9) _____ as Whiff-Whaff and Ping-Pong, (10) _____ sought to imitate the sound (11) _____ by the ball striking the table. The game soon (12) _____ something of a craze and (13) _____ are many contemporary references (14) _____ it and illustrations of it (15) _____ played, usually in domestic surroundings.

(16) _____ the early twentieth century the sport (17) _____ already acquired some of its present-day complexities, although (18) _____ was still seen (19) _____ many as an after-dinner amusement (20) _____ than a sport. An account published in 1903 found (21) _____ necessary to warn players (22) _____ the wearing of evening dress, but went (23) _____ to give detailed technical advice about the pen-holder grip and tactics.

Over the next 60 (24) _____, table tennis developed (25) _____ a worldwide sport, played by (26) _____ to 30 million competitive players (27) _____ by countless millions who played less seriously. Despite getting faster, more subtle and more demanding (28) _____ the time, the game (29) _____ not changed in its essence (30) _____ the earliest days.

Adapted from: CAE Practice Tests Plus 2