

6 READING • A Paralympic sport

1 ★ Read the text. Choose the correct answer.

The text is about ...

- a famous wheelchair basketball players.
- b different information about wheelchair basketball.
- c the history of British wheelchair basketball.

An exciting sport for players and spectators



A It's one of the most exciting modern sports for both players and spectators. It's fast, it's noisy and sometimes dangerous. What is it? It's wheelchair basketball.

B But wheelchair basketball isn't a new sport. The first organized wheelchair basketball match was in November 1946 and it was between two teams in the USA.

C In the 1950s, wheelchair basketball became more and more popular and in 1960 it was one of eight sports in the first Paralympic Games in Rome, Italy. The winners of the first gold medal were the British team.

D Other sports at the first Paralympics were table tennis, athletics and swimming, but for many people, basketball was perhaps one of the most exciting.

E Wheelchair basketball isn't very different to basketball. For example, there are five players in each team and the hoops are three metres high. The match is forty minutes long with four parts of ten minutes. These things are all the same as basketball.

F There are now around 100,000 wheelchair basketball players in different countries. Some people play for fun with friends. Other people play in national Olympic teams. Watch them on TV at the next Olympics and enjoy the game!



Wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics

2 ★★ Read the text again. Where can you find the information? Write the paragraph.

The name of a fast and exciting sport. _____ A

- 1 The number of wheelchair basketball players in the world. _____
- 2 The date of the first wheelchair basketball match. _____
- 3 The home city of the first Paralympics. _____
- 4 The number of players in a basketball team. _____
- 5 The sports in the first Paralympics. _____

3 ★★ Read the text again. Write true or false.

Wheelchair basketball is slow. _____ fals

- 1 Wheelchair basketball is never dangerous. _____
- 2 The first wheelchair basketball match was in 1950. _____
- 3 The first Paralympics were in Italy. _____
- 4 Swimming was one of the first Paralympic sports. _____
- 5 Wheelchair basketball is very different to basketball. _____
- 6 Wheelchair basketball is popular in different countries. _____

4 ★★★ Answer the questions. Write complete sentences.

Why is wheelchair basketball good to watch?
It's fast and exciting.

- 1 Where was the first wheelchair basketball match?

- 2 When were the first Paralympic Games?

- 3 How many sports were in the first Paralympic Games?

- 4 Who were the winners of the first Paralympic basketball gold medal?

- 5 How long are wheelchair basketball matches?

- 6 What other Paralympic sports do you know about?

5 ★★ VOCABULARY PLUS Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words.

compete medal spectate swim win

Look at that boy in the swimming pool. He's a fantastic swimmer.

- 1 Two thousand _____ watched the race yesterday.
- 2 She was a gold _____ at the 2012 Olympics.
- 3 I was the best person in the competition. I was the _____!
- 4 There were 150 _____ in this marathon last year.