

3D READING & WRITING



3 WRITING SKILLS

Describing data

a Match the summaries with the paragraphs (a–e) in the article. Which paragraph ... ?

- 1 ☐ states the main conclusion you can draw from the data
- 2 ☐ adds extra information not shown in the data
- 3 ☐ interprets the data in more detail
- 4 ☐ outlines the issue that the article and the data is about
- 5 ☐ explains what the bar chart is about



A nation of armchair athletes?

^aThere's no doubt that international sporting events are good for sport. There's always huge interest in them and people are glued to their TV sets watching different events. Of course, this is all about watching sports, but does it also mean that people get off the sofa and actually take part in sports?

^bThe bar chart looks at the five most popular sports in the UK in terms of people participating – not just sitting around and watching them on TV. One point to note is that all these sports include a range of activities. So, for example, 'swimming' also includes the sports of diving, water polo and deep water diving, while 'football' includes five-a-side games as well as full teams. The results in the graph show percentages of people who actively participate in that sport at least once a week.

^cThe blue and the red columns make a direct comparison between the year from October 2005 to October 2006 and a similar period in 2012/2013, just after a major sporting event. As you can see, the statistics show there has been no sudden increase in British people getting actively involved in sport.

^dIn fact, most surprising of all, there's a significant decrease in the number of people getting involved in swimming, the number one sport in the UK. You can see that there has also been an obvious change in the number of people wanting to go out and kick a football. There's a slight decrease in the number of people playing golf although participation hasn't decreased significantly. The most noticeable increase in sport participation can be seen in athletics. Perhaps this is because athletics features regularly at international sporting events. It also requires very little equipment initially, so can be a low-cost sport. Interest in cycling has also increased slightly. *This* might be because cycling includes BMX and cross-country, which makes this a very varied sport. Cycling enthusiasts have reported that interest in different kinds of cycling has increased noticeably in recent years.

^eIt's important to remember that the information in the table only focuses on the five most popular sports in the UK. Recent reports show that British people are becoming interested in a wide range of sports and are taking up activities like snowboarding and handball. It doesn't really matter what sport people choose to get involved in – the key thing is that they get out of their armchairs and take part.

