

If you can't be successful at football, tennis or basketball, why not try a similar sport!

Padel

I tried padel on holiday in Spain. It's similar to tennis, but the court is much smaller with a wall around it. It doesn't cost much to play and I think it's more exciting than tennis. I played this game with my dad against another pair. The scoring is the same as in tennis, but the rackets are solid, with no strings. When I came home, I found a court in my area and now we play every week for fun. You do get hurt sometimes when you run into the wall though! – Luke

Real Tennis

When I was studying in Cambridge, my friend Lucy invited me to play a game of real tennis. I'd never heard of real tennis before, but in fact it's how today's tennis was first played. The ball is heavier than a tennis ball and the rackets are made of wood. There's a wall around the court too. Although I'm good at tennis, Lucy beat me easily as she had more experience. Would I play it again? Possibly. The rules are quite complicated and you can only play it in the UK, Australia, the US and France! – Colin

Futsal

I love playing football, but the problem is that you need a large pitch to play and 11 players! I saw an advert for futsal and I persuaded four friends to join me. In futsal, both the pitch and the goals are smaller. We usually play on Saturday for an hour just for fun although people who play official matches play two halves of 20 minutes each. I can't wait for each game to come. It's a great sport because you can play it indoors and you don't get wet if it rains! – Asha

Beach Volleyball

I like sport, but I was never good enough to get into the basketball team. If you like outdoor sports and live near a beach, it's great fun. Official beach volleyball matches are played in teams of two, but we usually play with whoever is on the beach at the time! The more the better! You only need a ball and a net to play. It's a great way to make new friends and it doesn't cost anything! If I had more time, I'd play it all year! – Daria

So, if you wanted to try one of these, which one would you choose?

Scan the text and write the person who mentions these ideas. Use one person twice.

1 you don't need any money to play this sport

- 2 you cannot play this sport in many countries
- 3 you cannot play this sport if you live in a town
- 4 you can play in all weather conditions
- 5 it can be painful playing this sport

Read the text again. For each question, choose the correct answer.

1 What does Luke say about padel?

- A The equipment is not exactly the same as for tennis.
- B He usually plays it individually against one other person.
- C He plays it in an official league.
- D He has had a serious accident playing it.

2 Which statement is true according to Colin?

- A Real tennis is the same as tennis except for the equipment.
- B Real tennis is not very expensive to play.
- C Real tennis changed and became tennis.
- D Colin is better than Lucy at tennis.

3 What does Asha say about futsal?

- A It's more exciting than normal football.
- B Four friends invited her to play her first game.
- C The goals are not as small as in football.

D Official matches normally last 40 minutes.

4 What does Daria say about beach volleyball?

A The first team to score two goals wins the match.

B It's free and it's a great way to meet people.

C There are six players on each team and anyone can score.

D She will play more beach volleyball when she is better.

Which comment best answers the question at the end of the article?

A JulietteT – 10:00 am: I like table tennis. Would anyone like to play with me?

B SimonC – 10:01 am: Does anyone know how much it costs to play futsal? My brother wants to play.

C AlanR10 – 10:17 am: I'm not sure about real tennis, but I'd like to try padel.

D Carmen50 – 10:19 am: I want to try horse-riding. It's my dream.