Fun And Games



Read the text and answer questions 1-15 by choosing sections A—D.

If you're tired of playing the same old games, why not try out one of the new sports that are beginning to take off?

A BOSSABALL

Who would want to lie on the beach sunbathing when they could be playing Bossaball, possibly one of the most amazing games ever invented? It originated in Spain, but takes inspiration from Brazilian music, beach culture, and sport. It's played on a court of inflatable panels, trampolines, and a net, and combines aspects of volleyball, football and gymnastics, and it's all set to music. The two teams of men and women try to land the ball on their opponents' side, leaping and bouncing high in the sky as the ball gets battered from side to side. Basically it's pretty simple, but it's fantastic to watch and even better to play.

B SPEEDMINTON

Tennis ace Maria Sharapova is a big fan of Speedminton, which claims to be the fastest racket game in the world. Combining elements of tennis and badminton, the game just needs two players with rackets and a 'speeder' (a kind of shuttlecock) that flies around at speeds of up to 300 mph. There's no need for a net, and all the players have to do is to mark out two target areas to stand in. It can be played on the beach, indoors, on a tennis court, or even on rooftops — in short, almost anywhere and any time. In Germany, where the game was invented, they even play it at night with luminous speeders as techno beats make loudspeakers vibrate.

C ZORB

If you're feeling a bit less energetic but still looking for a thrill, the Zorb might appeal to you. Most of us can remember rolling sideways down a hill when we were kids, and this is what some New Zealanders had in mind when they invented the Zorb. In essence, a Zorb is like a giant beachball that you climb into at the top of a very steep, grassy hill. As a helpful hand pushes you over the edge, you have to stand up and run like a hamster in its wheel. The challenge is to remain upright all the way to the bottom. If this sounds too easy, they can always throw some warm soapy water inside to make things a little harder.

D THE (ALMOST) MAGIC WAND

On the whole, the only thing that gets any exercise in a computer game is your finger. But now all that is changing thanks to the 'wand', an electronic gadget that tells a computer what movements you are making. The wand takes computer games to a new level of virtual reality. If you're playing tennis, the computer can hit the ball and you have to run to hit it back making this almost like the real thing. The wand can be used for all sorts of sports such as hockey, squash, golf — anything that requires some sort of stick, racket or club. New games are being released all the time, and computers can also be connected up over the Internet to allow players to have swordfights or even full-scale battles.

Which section mentions a sport or activity:

1. that is enjoyed by a famous sportswoman? _____
2. is played to music? _____ _____
3. can be played at the seaside? _____ _____
4. is good for spectators? _____
5. requires electronic equipment? _____
6. is a combination of three other sports? _____
7. came from Europe? _____ _____
8. can be played outside in the dark? _____
9. can be played alone? _____
10. is based on a childhood activity? _____
11. uses a recently invented hand-held device? _____
12. does not come from Europe or the Americas? _____