

## Sports Vocabulary

**A Complete the word groups with these words:**  
canoeing cap final referee stick team tournament track

1 linesman, judge,	5 sailing, windsurfing,
2 pitch, pool,	6 competition, championship,
3 racket, bat,	7 individual sports, indoor sports,
4 helmet, glove,	8 match, game,

**B Complete the idioms in these sentences below with these words**  
ball course court neck race sails worms

1 I wanted to take part in the tournament, but my trainer said I wasn't ready. That took the wind out of my sails.

2 We have to do something immediately if we want to help. It's a race against time.

3 The cyclists were neck and neck as they got to the finishing line. It was a very exciting race.

4 Let's go for a run. If we want to get fit, we have to get the ball rolling!

5 If you accuse John of cheating you will be opening up a can of worms.

6 You should expect difficulties when you're training for the Olympics. It's par for the course.

7 It's completely up to him to decide what he'll do about his trainer. The ball is in his court.

**C Choose the correct option**

Athletics is one of the most popular types of sport. People have been (1) scoring / holding athletics competitions since ancient times, ever since the Olympic Games began in 776 BC. Usually, individual athletes (2) compete / excel against each other in running, jumping, throwing and a variety of other activities.

To (3) succeed / achieve in running, you must have speed, (4) strength / weakness and strategy. Sometimes you have to (5) stroll / sprint to the finishing (6) line / trophy, whereas at other times you have to (7) race / pace yourself. Jumping events include the pole vault and the triple jump. In order to try and (8) beat / win your opponents in the triple jump you have to do a (9) hop / lap and a step and then jump

as far as you can into a sandpit. So what are you waiting for? If you want to be the next person to (10) break / set a new record, you have to start now. On your (11) points / marks, get set, go! And may the best man (or woman) (12) win / lose!

**D Do you agree with these statements?**

**Referees** are never fair and they always create problems.

**Individual sports** are much more interesting to watch than **team sports**.

It's more important to **compete** than to **win**.