

READING COMPREHENSION: TASK 1

Read this text carefully and answer the questions according to the text.

HOW BASKETBALL BEGAN



Do you or your friends play basketball? Basketball is one of the world's most popular sports nowadays but it is a relatively young sport. It was invented in 1891 as a recreational game and less than fifty years later it became an Olympic sport at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936.

At age 30, Dr James Naismith, a Canadian sports coach, invented basketball. Do you know how it happened? Naismith was working as a PE instructor at Springfield

College, in Massachusetts, in the USA. He needed a vigorous indoor game to keep his students fit and active in the gym during the long winters. He wanted to develop a game that required skill and coordination and he created basketball with a soccer ball and two peach baskets nailed up high on the wall. These baskets gave the game its name: 'Basket Ball'. The players could only hit the ball back and forth with one or both hands, or throw it at the basket. Twelve of the thirteen rules Naismith created are still basic to the game. Naismith's original thirteen rules emphasized non-violent play.

In the beginning, Naismith used real peach baskets that had a bottom and his players had to climb a ladder in order to get the ball out of the fruit basket each time a 'basket' or point was scored. This way of playing was very inefficient and players soon started using bottomless baskets and, later on, metal hoops* and open-ended nets. Basketball was originally played with a soccer ball but it was soon replaced by the Spalding ball, made specifically for basketball. These first balls were brown but, in the 1950s, Tony Hinkle, a basketball coach at Butler College, wanted a ball that could be more visible to both players and spectators and introduced the orange ball that is now in common use. Naismith's teams had nine players but, in 1897, teams started to have five players.

The game rapidly spread all over the US, Canada and to other parts of the world. By 1948, two basketball groups existed in the US: the National Basketball League and the Basketball Association of America. They combined in 1949 into the NBA (National Basketball Association).

In 1959 a 'Basketball Hall of Fame' was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts. There you can see the names of great players, coaches, referees and people who have contributed significantly to the development of basketball.

Text adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_basketball

GLOSSARY:

*hoop: a horizontal circular metal ring supporting a net. En català vol dir 'anella', 'cèrcol'.

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16 Basketball became an Olympic sport in...

- a. 1891.
- b. 1936.
- c. 1949.

17 James Naismith was born in...

- a. Springfield, but moved to Berlin.
- b. the USA, but moved to Canada.
- c. Canada, but lived in the USA.

18 Naismith created basketball because he wanted...

- a. to change the rules of soccer.
- b. his students to be competitive.
- c. an indoor sport for his students.

19 Basketball began as an _____ sport.

- a. indoor winter
- b. outdoor winter
- c. outdoor summer

20 In Naismith's times basketball was...

- a. a safe sport.
- b. an aggressive sport.
- c. a game without rules.

21 In the sentence 'a soccer ball and two peach baskets nailed up high on the wall', what is the meaning of the underlined verb?

- a. Fixed.
- b. Covered.
- c. Resisted.

22 In Naismith's basketball rules, it was important to...

- a. score points easily.
- b. play without violence.
- c. throw the ball with one hand.

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- 23** Basketball was originally played with...
- a. open-ended nets.
 - b. metal hoops.
 - c. fruit baskets.
- 24** The first balls used to play basketball were _____ balls.
- a. soccer
 - b. orange
 - c. Spalding
- 25** How many players did basketball teams have before 1897?
- a. Five.
 - b. Nine.
 - c. Twelve.
- 26** The NBA was created _____ the Berlin Olympic Games.
- a. before
 - b. during
 - c. after
- 27** You can find information about how basketball was played in Naismith's time in the _____ paragraphs.
- a. first and second
 - b. second and third
 - c. third and fourth
- 28** The objective of this text is to...
- a. present Naismith's biography.
 - b. explain the 13 rules of basketball.
 - c. tell you about how basketball was born.