

Competition

UNIT
8

Lesson A Vocabulary and Grammar

A Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Three words require a different form.

athlete	champion	championship	competitor	conquer
event	failure	league	muscle	professional

1. Sportspeople often have to _____ fears, including the very common fear of _____.
2. The best sports teams compete against each other in the top sports _____.
3. Michael Phelps is the swimming _____ who has won the most Olympic medals in history.
4. For a long time, only non-_____ _____ could compete in the Olympic Games.
5. A good warm-up, especially in cold weather, is very important to avoid _____ injuries.
6. In an official running _____, all _____ must have a number pinned on their vest.
7. Most sports have a world _____ that happens every year.

B Match the sentences to the tag questions.

_____ 1. John doesn't like cats,	a. isn't he?
_____ 2. You don't know the answer,	b. do you?
_____ 3. He's coming to the party,	c. are you?
_____ 4. Markus isn't in the office today,	d. wasn't he?
_____ 5. You're not going to wear that T-shirt,	e. doesn't she?
_____ 6. Alan got a new job,	f. is he?
_____ 7. Risa lives in Tokyo,	g. didn't he?
_____ 8. Nicholas was late for class,	h. does he?

C Add a tag question to each sentence.

1. That kind of snake is dangerous, _____?
2. Some cleaning products are toxic, _____?
3. He wasn't injured in the accident, _____?
4. You hurt yourself, _____?
5. Many accidents at home can be prevented, _____?
6. He's not leaving for the airport yet, _____?
7. They haven't been having the best luck recently, _____?
8. You stayed up late to watch that show last night, _____?

Lesson B Listening

A 17 Listen to the conversation and match each sportsperson to their sport.

_____ 1. Judy Guinness	a. long jump
_____ 2. Luz Long	b. marathon running
_____ 3. Matthew Rees	c. fencing

B 17 Listen again and circle the correct answers.

1. What did Judy Guinness do?
 - a. She told Olympic judges that they were wrong.
 - b. She managed to avoid hurting her opponent.
 - c. She refused one point the judges had given her.
2. What did Luz Long do?
 - a. He fouled two jumps.
 - b. He helped his opponent.
 - c. He jumped beyond the line.
3. What did Matthew Rees do?
 - a. He let another runner win the marathon.
 - b. He stopped a runner from hurting himself.
 - c. He stopped running to support a struggling runner.



▲ Judy Guinness stands in silver position on the podium.

C 17 Listen again and write the answers to these questions.

1. In which year did the Judy Guinness story happen?
2. Where did the Olympics take place that year?
3. What was the first name of Judy Guinness' opponent?
4. In which year did the Luz Long story happen?
5. Where did the Olympics take place that year?
6. What was the first name of Luz Long's opponent?
7. In which year did the Matthew Rees story happen?
8. Where did the marathon he ran take place?
9. What is the first name of the other runner mentioned in the story?

D Read the sentences and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- _____ 1. Amy is researching stories of great sportsmanship.
- _____ 2. Jasim is not very interested in Amy's project.
- _____ 3. At first, the judges counted extra points that Judy Guinness hadn't scored.
- _____ 4. If he hadn't helped his opponent, Luz Long might have won the Olympic gold.
- _____ 5. Matthew Rees was in trouble before the last 200 meters.
- _____ 6. "Hats off" to someone means you respect and admire that person.

Lesson C Vocabulary and Grammar



A Complete each sentence with a word from the box.

balance
speedcommitment
staminacommunication
strengthleadership
teamwork

1. I'm not sure that _____ between the team and the coach is very good.
2. The individual players are average, but they keep winning because of their great _____.
3. To compete at a high level, you need _____ and many hours of training every day.
4. Running a marathon requires a lot of _____.
5. Gymnasts need great _____ to be able to jump and not fall when they land.
6. After that terrible first half, it took the team a lot of _____ of character to win the game.
7. Both teams were angry, but both captains showed great _____, and everybody behaved well.
8. I don't know how someone as tall as Usain Bolt can possibly run at that _____.

B Complete the school principal's award ceremony speech with the words from A.

Thank you all very much for coming, and welcome to all the parents here. Today we celebrate yet another district championship title for our school's girls' soccer team. Team, we are very proud of you. Each of you has shown great (1) _____ by never missing one practice, and under your captain's (2) _____, you have proved that (3) _____ matters even more than individual brilliance. (4) _____ within the team is so good that sometimes it looks like they can read each other's minds, doesn't it? It's been a long season that has tested our players' (5) _____, and we all feared the worst when in the final, Sharma, our fantastic goalkeeper, lost her (6) _____ and fell badly on one foot. But that's when all that training paid off: the (7) _____ of her muscles kept the ankle from twisting, she was back in goal in no time, and everybody started breathing again. And then we stopped breathing once more ten minutes later when six—six!—of our players ran at amazing (8) _____, beat the opposition's defense, and scored the winning goal. What a moment that was! So, thank you, team, for making us proud. Please give our wonderful team a round of applause.

C Complete each sentence with a relative pronoun. If two pronouns are possible, write both.

1. That's the player _____ was sent off after five minutes.
2. He scored the point _____ changed everything.
3. She's the girl _____ parents could not attend the ceremony.
4. I like movies _____ tell stories about great sportspeople.
5. Will there ever be an athlete _____ can run faster than Usain Bolt?
6. This is the stadium _____ was built for the Olympic games.

Lesson **D** Reading 

A Champion Who Championed Sport for All

When (1) **their** talent brings them wealth and people's attention, some great athletes use (2) **them** to benefit others.

Dutch soccer player Johan Cruyff is a case in point. He was born in April, 1947 in Amsterdam, (3) **which** is home to the soccer team Ajax. Cruyff, (4) **whose** father died when he was 12, grew up in a poor neighborhood near Ajax's stadium, (5) **where** his mother worked as a cleaner. From an early age, he played soccer in the street with other children. Then, at the age of ten, he joined the Ajax youth team.

Cruyff was noticed by Ajax manager Rinus Michels, (6) **who** had invented a new way of playing, called *Total Soccer*. In Total Soccer, all the players (except the goalkeeper) moved around and played all positions. Cruyff was perfect for (7) **it**, as he had the skills, the speed, and the intelligence to play in any position. Soon, his extraordinary talent and spectacular style became very well known internationally, and in addition to being captain of the Netherlands national team, (8) **he** played for various teams in Europe and the US. He was voted best European soccer player of all time, and second best (after the Brazilian, Pelé) in the world.

When (9) **he** was living in the US with his wife and three children, Cruyff noticed a young boy (10) **who** lived next door and was always alone while other children played outside. (11) **He** had Down syndrome, and he was not accepted by the other children. Cruyff started playing with him, and he noticed that the games and sports that (12) **they** played together were helping the child to develop and find some confidence—to the point that one day the boy just walked up to the place (13) **where** the other children were playing and joined them. From then on, he was part of the group.

This friendship confirmed Cruyff's belief that sports are important for children not only because they make them stronger and healthier, but also because (14) **they** connect children to each other even if (15) **they** come from different cultures and have different levels of ability. However, (16) **he** also knew that not all children have an opportunity to play sports: disabilities, lack of money, or lack of space can all stop children from being active.

So, in 1997, Cruyff started the Johan Cruyff Foundation. It builds small soccer fields—called "Cruyff Courts"—with artificial grass in poor neighborhoods, supports projects for children with disabilities, and brings mobile courts to refugee centers. By the time Cruyff died in March, 2016, his foundation had built over 200 Cruyff Courts all over the world, 33 of (17) **which** were specially designed for children with disabilities. The foundation continues his work and has built many more courts since (18) **his** death.

▼ Ajax's stadium was renamed the Johan Cruyff Arena in 2018.



A Skim the article about Johan Cruyff and check the true sentence.

- 1. Cruyff was the best goalkeeper in the history of European soccer.
- 2. Cruyff created his foundation because a young boy asked him to.
- 3. When he was a child, Cruyff had space to play that a lot of children today don't have.

B Read the article. Then read the sentences and write **T** (true), **F** (false), or **NG** (not given).

- _____ 1. Cruyff's parents supported his passion for soccer.
- _____ 2. Ajax is a soccer team in Amsterdam.
- _____ 3. Cruyff's first team employed his mother as a cleaner.
- _____ 4. Cruyff invented Total Soccer.
- _____ 5. Cruyff's style was very exciting to watch.
- _____ 6. Cruyff used sports to connect with a child with a disability.
- _____ 7. Cruyff didn't like children playing outside his house in the US.
- _____ 8. Cruyff believed that children of different backgrounds must not play together.
- _____ 9. Cruyff died soon after his 69th birthday.
- _____ 10. The Cruyff Foundation works for children who don't have access to sports facilities.

C Look at the pronouns in bold in the text and write who or what they refer to.

1. their some great athletes
2. them
3. which
4. whose
5. where
6. who
7. it
8. he
9. he
10. who
11. He
12. they
13. where
14. they
15. they
16. he
17. which
18. his



▲ Cruyff's style of soccer was popular all around the world, as shown in his appearance on this postage stamp from Malawi.

Lesson E Writing

A Read the notes for a blog post about a movie. Then number the events in the order they happened.

A Movie Just about Sports? Not Quite

I was recently looking for a sports movie to review for my media class, when by chance I found one that was completely new to me. It's a fantasy story, made in the 1980s, and I loved it. It's called *Field of Dreams*.

It's the story of Ray Kinsella. Ray is a young man. Ray has bought a corn farm in Iowa with Ray's wife and young daughter. Years before, Ray had had a disagreement with Ray's father. The argument was about Shoeless Joe Jackson. Shoeless Joe was a controversial baseball player. Shoeless Joe was already dead at the time. Shoeless Joe was Ray's father's hero. Shoeless Joe had been accused of taking money to lose a game. Ray knew that the accusation had never been proven. Ray had told Ray's father that Ray could not respect a man if the man's hero was dishonest. Ray didn't really mean it. Ray's father had unexpectedly died before Ray could apologize.

Now in trouble with Ray's farm, Ray misses Ray's father so much that, following some strange signs, Ray makes the crazy decision to build a baseball field in part of the farm instead of planting corn everywhere. Ray's need to make peace with Ray's father makes Shoeless Joe's ghost appear. Shoeless Joe is followed by many other famous dead baseball players. The players' ghosts mysteriously come out of the corn field to play in Ray's field. Ray realizes that if the players step out of the playing area and cross the white lines, the players will not be able to get back into the playing area, the players will have to return to the corn field and the players will never come out of the corn field again.

One night, Ray asks Shoeless that, in return for building the baseball field, the players allow Ray to follow the players into the corn field, so Ray can see what's in the corn field. Shoeless tells Ray that Ray can't, and Ray gets upset because Ray thinks that Ray deserves a reward. But when all the players have gone back into the corn field, Ray turns around and sees Ray's father.

- _____ a. Dead baseball players come out to play on the baseball field.
- _____ b. Ray and his father have a disagreement about Shoeless Joe Jackson.
- _____ c. Ray meets his father again.
- _____ d. Shoeless Joe Jackson is accused of taking money to lose a game.
- _____ e. Ray builds a baseball field, not knowing it is magic.
- _____ f. Shoeless Joe Jackson stops Ray from following the players.
- _____ g. Ray wishes he had apologized to his father before it was too late.
- _____ h. The accusations against Shoeless Joe Jackson are not proven.
- _____ i. Shoeless Joe Jackson dies.
- _____ j. Ray's father dies.

Review

A Complete the text with the correct form of the words in the box.

athlete champion compete fail

Pierre de Coubertin, the man who reinvented the ancient Greek Olympic Games at the end of the 19th century, (1) _____ the inclusion of physical education in French schools. He believed sports taught young people that the important thing was to (2) _____, not to win. Sports act as a school for life, in which we learn to keep our self-control when we (3) _____, and we learn from our (4) _____. Team sports teach us that in order to win, we don't just need to be (5) _____, but also cooperative—no team can keep winning with just one superstar (6) _____ who doesn't play with his or her teammates. That's why (7) _____ skills are not enough to be a true (8) _____.

B Read the tag questions and complete the statements.

1. _____ going to the track and field event this weekend, aren't you?
2. _____ like raw fish, does he?
3. _____ perform live really well as a group, can't they?
4. _____ working on Friday night, is he?
5. _____ make a lot of money selling sneakers, will he?
6. _____ think about studying harder for the exam, shouldn't they?

C Complete each sentence with a word from the box and a relative pronoun.

balance commitment communication leadership
speed stamina strength teamwork

1. There's the gymnast _____ was able to _____ on one hand.
2. _____ is a skill _____ involves more than being someone's boss.
3. She is the woman _____ showed great _____ by lifting the car.
4. Athletes _____ can run long distances demonstrate incredible _____.
5. Body language is one form of _____ a team uses when they play.
6. _____ is important for a group of people _____ needs to meet a deadline.
7. It was his _____ to the sport _____ made him a champion.
8. _____ is just one factor _____ is important for winning an 800-meter race.