

**Reading**

1) Read the following article about a famous some superstitions related to sports. Then, match the missing headlines. (5p)

***It is not only the players who are superstitious / A good example is Serena Williams / Superstitions and rituals are very common among fans / After my wife left the room, Murray lost the fourth set / The superstitions and rituals are not confined to the court***

**If I bounce the ball five times...**

**Matthew Syed** writes about sports superstition.

**Tennis players are strange people**

Have you noticed how they always ask for three balls instead of two, how they bounce the ball the same number of times before serving, as if any change from their routine might result in disaster?

\_\_\_\_\_, the number 1 female tennis player. When she had played so badly at the French Open she answered, "I didn't tie my shoe laces right, and I didn't bounce the ball five times, and I didn't bring my shower sandals to the court with me. I didn't have my extra dress. I just knew it was fate; it wasn't going to happen.

\_\_\_\_\_. Goran Ivanisevic, Wimbledon champion in 2001, was convinced that if he won a match, he had to repeat everything he did the previous day, such as eating the same food at the same restaurant, talking to the same people, and watching the same TV shows. One year this meant that he had to watch *Teletubbies* every morning during his Wimbledon campaign. "Sometimes it got very boring," he said.

\_\_\_\_\_. As we were watching tennis player Andy Murray play the fourth set at Wimbledon, my wife suddenly got up and went to the kitchen. "He keeps losing games when I'm in the room," she said. "If I go out now, he'll win".



\_\_\_\_\_. Last year, a survey of a British soccer supporters found that a 21% had a lucky charm (anything from a scarf to a lucky coin), while another questionnaire revealed that 70% of Spanish soccer fans performed pre-match rituals (like wearing "lucky" clothes, eating the same food or drink, or watching games with the same people).

\_\_\_\_\_. She returned, and won the fifth. I laughed at her, and then remembered my soccer team, Spurs, who were losing 1-0 in the Carling Cup. "If I leave the room now, Spurs will score," I told my kids, after 27 minutes of overtime. I left the room and they scored. Twice.

**2) Read again and answer the following questions (1x3=3p)**

1. Who was the champion at Wimbledon in 2001?

2. Why did the man's wife leave the room while Murray was playing?

3. How many minutes did the Spurs play overtime?

**3) Look at the underlined words in the text and match them with their meaning. (4x1=4p)**

- Fasten things together or hold them in a particular position using a string or rope: \_\_\_\_\_
- A period of time added to the end of a sports game: \_\_\_\_\_
- A set of questions you ask a large number of people to find out their opinion: \_\_\_\_\_
- Throw the ball up in the air and hitting it over the net: \_\_\_\_\_



Bill: Because of weather conditions, they had to \_\_\_\_\_ the competition off till next month.

Kevin: They are going to \_\_\_\_\_ a project focused on young athletes.

Alex: You have to \_\_\_\_\_ on well with your team in order to cooperate and succeed.

Edward: If we \_\_\_\_\_ an effort, we will win the match.

Daniel: The team was very unhappy about losing the championship. But, they will \_\_\_\_\_ over it.

8) Peter is reading about the Extreme Breath-Holding World Record. Change the words in CAPITALS to complete the sentences. (6x1=6)

### EXTREME BREATH-HOLDING WORLD RECORD

When David Blaine held his breath underwater for 17 minutes and 4 seconds in 2008, it made an \_\_\_\_\_ (IMPRESS) on people all over the world. It was an extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_ (ACHIEVE). Blaine prepared himself for months in advance, with the help of experienced \_\_\_\_\_ (TRAIN). He had also taken part in similar tests of endurance before, so he knew what to expect. However, many \_\_\_\_\_ (JOURNAL) doubted that Blaine's attempt would be successful. Some people still wonder if it was real. We spoke to Dr. Alan Sharp who gave us an \_\_\_\_\_ (EXPLAIN) of how it is possible. "Under the right conditions, the human body can survive for a long time without air. The key is to get your mind to control your body. Most people can hold their breath for about 2 minutes but, with practice, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ (POSSIBLE) of increasing that time. People who take part in such tests relax their bodies so that everything slows down, and they need less oxygen. They even try to think less and stay calm. Of course, you need to be very healthy, too."

9) What would you do in these imaginary situations? Finish the sentences with your own ideas. (2x4=8p)

1. If I lived near the beach, .....
2. If I could try any extreme sport, .....
3. If I had more free time, .....
4. ..... I would be happier.

10) Peter is watching the "Law and Order" TV series. Report what these people said. (3x5=15)

- a. Female Witness: "I saw the suspect stealing my car."  
The witness said \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Judge: "What do you have to say?"  
The judge asked the suspect \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Male Suspect: "That's not true."  
The suspect \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Judge: "Speak a bit louder."  
At this point, the judge \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Male Suspect: "It's not true. I've never stolen a car."  
The suspect \_\_\_\_\_



LAW & ORDER  
THUR 9/27 NBC