

Sports and leisure activities - Reading walking soccer

Read the article to answer the questions - Use complete answers in the boxes.

1 Do more people watch the World Cup or the Olympic Games on TV?

2 Which types of teams play soccer every weekend?

3 How old are the players in walking soccer?

4 What are the health benefits of walking soccer?

5 Which two rules are different from normal soccer?

6 Why don't many people watch walking soccer?

7 How many teams play walking soccer in the United Kingdom now?

Walking Soccer

Globally, more people play soccer than any other sport, and more people watch the World Cup on TV than the Olympic Games. Every weekend, thousands of teams meet in different countries to compete against each other. That includes famous teams such as Real Madrid and Manchester United, and local teams of people playing competitively or just for fun. From an early age, schoolchildren play soccer in their physical education classes and compete against teams from other schools. Now, a new type of soccer is growing in popularity. It's called "walking soccer."

Most soccer players retire from competitive games in their 30s, but walking soccer is for people over 50. It's a great way to keep fit and it can help older people live longer. Doctors also say it's good for the mind. Most walking soccer matches are informal and social. Most of the rules are the same as for normal soccer, but everything is much slower. Players have to walk with the ball—they can't run. Also, players have to keep one foot on the ground at all times, so they can't jump.

Not surprisingly, walking soccer doesn't get many spectators because it is very slow. But more and more people like playing it. For example, in the United Kingdom, there were around 100 teams two years ago. Now there are over 800, with regular competitions in different parts of the country every year.

Grammar -ing form

3 Complete the sentences with the -ing form of these verbs.

join become watch cycle fly
learn lose play sit

- 1 Playing tennis is fun and it's very good for your health.
- 2 We love _____ because you get fit and watch the countryside go by at the same time.
- 3 _____ to play the piano takes years of practice.
- 4 I'm very competitive. When I play games, I don't like _____. I get really angry.
- 5 _____ in front of the TV all day isn't good for you.
- 6 Are you interested in _____ our team? We still have some spots available.
- 7 I don't like traveling by plane because I'm afraid of _____.
- 8 Have you ever thought of _____ a professional athlete in the future?
- 9 You play golf every week, so why do you hate _____ it on TV?

5 Dictation Kristi Leskinen

► 12 Listen to part of a documentary about the skier Kristi Leskinen. Complete the text with the words you hear.



Kristi Leskinen is a famous skier. She _____, but her favorite place is Mammoth Mountain in the USA.

_____ such as kayaking, but she _____.

Recently, she was in a TV show called The Superstars. In the show, famous _____

_____ that _____ Kristi won _____. But

now it's winter again, so she needs to go back to the mountains and start training. This year, she'd

_____ a lot more medals.

Interview with a sports person



Make a conversation with your partner about interviewing a sports person. Use complete sentences and the grammar you have been learning in this course. Prepare to present your conversation in class after you have finished writing it here.