

- 1 Read the webpage and look at the pictures. Have you tried any of these sports, seen them live, or watched them on TV? Discuss in pairs.

International **SPORTS** Organization

Which sports are popular in your country? Which sports activities would you recommend to a visitor to your country? Write a report for ISO members about sports in your country, and we will post it on this webpage.

Jude, U.S.	  	POSTED: 12 May SEE MORE ...
David, Argentina	  	POSTED: 18 May SEE MORE ...
Maarit, Finland	  	POSTED: 25 May SEE MORE ...

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- 2 A Read the first paragraph of a report from the website. Who wrote the report: Jude, David, or Maarit?

Sports in my country

1 _____
Sports are a very popular leisure activity in my country, and there are fantastic facilities in most towns and cities. Finland has a very cold climate, though, and in winter, parts of the country are covered with snow for six months. This means that people enjoy doing different sports activities in different seasons.

2 _____
Cross-country skiing is an extremely popular sport here. As there are very few mountains in Finland, people ski on flat land through the country's forests. It is a great way to stay in shape and enjoy the country's natural beauty. Ice skating and hockey are popular as well as skiing. Moreover, hockey, ski jumping, and snowboarding are popular spectator sports.

3 _____
A lot of Finns enjoy swimming in indoor and outdoor pools, in the sea, or in the country's lakes. In addition to this, thousands of people regularly go ice-swimming.

They go to frozen lakes where they cut holes in the ice and jump in the water. I would recommend going ice-swimming after a visit to a hot sauna, which is another national tradition.

4 _____
It is easy to play any of the world's most popular sports here. There are tennis courts and soccer fields everywhere, and basketball has recently become very popular. In addition, if you are interested in discovering Finnish sports, I suggest trying pesäpallo. This is a fast-moving bat-and-ball sport that is similar to baseball and is usually played in the warmer summer months.

5 _____
Sports are a big part of life in Finland. This is one reason why the country produces many world champions, like Formula One auto-racing driver Mika Häkkinen. It is possible to practice any major sport here, but while you are visiting us, remember to try out our local sports and traditional activities as well.

Skill writing a report

Make your report interesting and easy for the reader to follow.

- Organize the content of your report into sections with one main topic in each section. A section can contain one or more paragraphs.
- Use headings for each section of your report.
- Include relevant factual information, and make some suggestions or recommendations for the reader, e.g. *I suggest + -ing, I would recommend + -ing, remember to + base form.*
- Reports are usually fairly formal, so avoid using informal language.

A Read the Skill box. Match headings a–e with sections 1–5 in the report.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| a Our success at sports _____ | d Winter sports _____ |
| b National and international sports _____ | e Water sports _____ |
| c Sports and climate in my country _____ | |

B What recommendations does the writer make? Match sentence parts 1–3 with a–c to make complete sentences. Then check your answers in the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I would recommend | a trying pesäpallo. |
| 2 If you are interested in discovering Finnish sports, I suggest | b to try out our local sports and traditional activities. |
| 3 While you are visiting us, remember | c going ice-swimming. |