

ACTIVITY 18: READING: A Paralympic sport

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AN EXCITING SPORT FOR PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS

A. It's one of the most exciting modern sports for players and spectators. It's fast, it's noisy and sometimes dangerous. What is it? It's wheelchair basketball.



B. But wheelchair basketball isn't a new sport. The first organized wheelchair basketball match was in November 1946 and I was between two teams in the USA.

C. In the 1950s, wheelchair basketball became more and more popular and in 1960 it was one of eight sports in the first Paralympics Games in Rome, Italy. The winners of the first gold medal were the British team.

E. Wheelchair basketball isn't very different to basketball. For example, there are five players in each team and the hoops are three metres high. The match is forty minutes long with four parts of ten minutes. These things are all the same as basketball.

D. Other sports at the first Paralympics were table tennis, athletics and swimming, but for many people, basketball was perhaps one of the most exciting.

F. There are now 100,000 wheelchair basketball players in different countries. Some people play for fun with friends. Other people play in national Olympic teams. Watch them on TV at the next Olympics and enjoy the game!

3. Read the text again. Where can you find the information? Write the paragraphs.

1. The name of a fast and exciting sport.	A
2. The number of wheelchair basketball in the world.	
3. The home city of the first Paralympics.	
4. The number of players in a basketball team.	
5. The sports in the first Paralympics.	
6. The date of the first wheelchair basketball match.	

4. Read the text again. Write true or false.

1. Wheelchair basketball is slow.	False
2. The first wheelchair basketball match was in 1950.	
3. The first Paralympics was in Italy.	
4. Swimming was one of the first Paralympics sport.	
5. Wheelchair basketball is very different to basketball.	
6. Wheelchair basketball is very popular in different countries.	
7. The match is fourteen minutes long.	