

2 Read the text and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

- 1 Mario started playing at a tennis club
A when he was three.
B four years ago.
C a month ago.
- 2 Mario's first big match was for
A his area team.
B his tennis club.
C the national team.
- 3 How many people does Mario say usually go to his matches?
A 5
B 20
C 200
- 4 Mario was surprised by
A how relaxed he was.
B how good the other player was.
C how well he did at the beginning of the match.
- 5 What did Mario break?
A his racket
B his foot
C the court.
- 6 Mario says his family
A didn't come to the match.
B were very near to where Mario's match was.
C were too anxious to watch some of the match.
- 7 Why did the other player try to end the match early?
A He said he was too tired.
B He said he was injured.
C He said he was worried.
- 8 At the moment, Mario
A is spending time with his family.
B is playing another match.
C has a painful foot.

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My First Big Tennis Match

My name's Mario and I love tennis! My first game was when I was three. Then, four years ago, I joined my first club and started playing against other clubs. A month ago, my coach said that the area team wanted me to play for them. If I do well, the next step is to play for my country at national level. So my first big match was very important!

I played against the under-16 national champion. At most of my matches there are maybe twenty people watching, including five from my family. At this match, there were two hundred people! I surprised myself, not by how relaxed I was – I was very nervous, or how good the other player was, but by winning the first four games. After that, I didn't do so well. First, I hurt my foot. Most tennis courts I play on are soft grass, but this one was hard. I jumped to get the ball and hurt it when I came down (my racket hit the court too and broke into two pieces!). I was OK, but I wasn't as fast after that.

Anyway, the other guy got really tired after winning the first set so I started doing better. It was close and my family had to stop watching, they were so worried! I can't remember the last four games very well. I suddenly felt good and won three of the games easily, then the other player tried to stop the match, saying he was hurt. I said we had to carry on and so we played the final game. It was close, but I got the final point with a lovely shot.

I'm playing in another match in two weeks – I hope my foot's better by then!