

# 7 Language Skills worksheet

## Reading

- 1 Read this article about the Tour de France. How many people competed in the first race?

### Tour de France

The Tour de France is the most famous cycling race in the world. It takes over three weeks to cover a distance of around 3,500 km. The route changes every year, but always finishes in Paris. It has been described as the most difficult event an athlete can do – similar to running a marathon several days a week for three weeks, or climbing three Mount Everests.

The event was started in 1903 by a journalist from a sporting magazine, Géo Lefèvre. He wanted to start a cycle race across France as part of a political argument with another magazine. It was intended to raise publicity for the magazine. It would be the longest race ever attempted, but it was difficult to organize. Only 15 people entered when the route was first announced so the organizers made the course shorter, and offered money to people who did well in the race. Then the cost of entry was reduced, and the prize money was increased to try and encourage more people to take part. Finally, 60 people had entered, and the race started on 1st July 1903.

Twenty-one people finished, and the race was a huge success, but because of the low finish rate it was nearly stopped after its second year. People wanted to win so much that there was lots of cheating, with

cyclists fighting, or getting into cars to drive part of the way. However, it overcame these problems to become the famous annual event it is today.

Now, people from all around the world watch the race on TV or come to watch it in France. Cyclists enter in national teams – there are usually 20 to 22 teams, with nine riders in each. The race is divided into stages, each covering a particular distance. The rules have changed a lot over the years, as the organizers try to find the best way to judge people.

The rider who finishes in the quickest time is given a yellow jersey – in 2015, this went to Chris Froome from the UK. There are different coloured jerseys for those who succeed in other ways, such as cycling up mountains or winning the most points. In the 2015 race, cyclist Peter Sagan won the green jersey for winning the most points – the first rider since Germany's Erik Zabel to win four green jerseys in a row.



- 2 Are the sentences (T) true or (F) false?

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1 The Tour de France covers the same route every year. | T / F |
| 2 The event was started by a cyclist.                  | T / F |
| 3 The first route was too long for most people.        | T / F |
| 4 There was a lot of cheating in the first two races.  | T / F |
| 5 Cyclists enter as individuals.                       | T / F |
| 6 The rules haven't changed since the race began.      | T / F |
| 7 Peter Sagan won the yellow jersey.                   | T / F |

- 3 Check your answers. Now correct the false sentences.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

# 7 Language Skills worksheet

## Writing

- 4 You are going to write a short article for your blog about your favourite sport. Use the notes below to help you write a paragraph of 80 to 100 words.



- General background information about the sport
- Where and how it is played
- The name of any famous competitions
- Your opinion

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### Remember!

The passive:

*It is played on a pitch.*

*It was started in 1926.*

*The 2020 Olympics will be held in Tokyo.*

## Listening

- 5  07 Listen to an interview with a gymnast and circle the correct answers.



- 1 Vicky Greenwood
  - a) has been in the Olympics.
  - b) is in the 2016 Olympics.
  - c) wants to be in the 2020 Olympics.
  - d) is going to be in the 2020 Olympics.
- 2 Next month, she
  - a) is entering a competition in France.
  - b) is entering a competition in England.
  - c) is entering two competitions.
  - d) isn't entering any competitions.
- 3 She starts training at six o'clock
  - a) four days a week.
  - b) six days a week.
  - c) three days a week.
  - d) five days a week.
- 4 How does she feel at the moment?
  - a) Tired.
  - b) Hungry.
  - c) Bored.
  - d) Healthy.
- 5 Why does she like training with a team?
  - a) It's motivating.
  - b) It's good for competitions.
  - c) Because they do special exercises.
  - d) Because she likes her coach.
- 6 What does Vicky say about her coach?
  - a) She doesn't like it when Vicky gets injured.
  - b) She won't let Vicky compete.
  - c) Vicky doesn't know where she'd be without her.
  - d) She trains with Vicky.

# 7 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking pairwork Student A

1 Ask your partner questions to fill in the gaps on your sheet.

Where were the first Olympic Games held?

- 1 The first Olympic Games were held in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The longest tennis match was played at Wimbledon in 2010 and lasted over 11 hours.
- 3 The first 4-minute mile was run in England by Roger Bannister.
- 4 The 2014 World Cup was won by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The first baseball caps were made of straw.
- 6 Cricket was first played in England in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Rugby was first played at an English private school.
- 8 The World Cup is held every \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 In 2002 the World Cup was held in two places: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 The first Olympic race was won by a chef named Coroebus.
- 11 About 52,000 tennis balls are used during the Wimbledon Championships.
- 12 A football is made of \_\_\_\_\_ leather panels which are sewn together.
- 13 Golf was played on the Moon by the American astronaut Alan Shepard in 1971.
- 14 The first \_\_\_\_\_ was held in Le Mans, France in 1901.
- 15 Volleyball was invented by William George Morgan in 1895.
- 16 The World Cup trophy is made of \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Discuss the sporting facts you didn't know with your partner.

# 7 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking pairwork Student B

1 Ask your partner questions to fill in the gaps on your sheet.

When was the longest tennis match played?

- 1 The first Olympic Games were held in Athens.
  - 2 The longest tennis match was played at Wimbledon in \_\_\_\_\_ and lasted over 11 hours.
  - 3 The first 4-minute mile was run in \_\_\_\_\_ by Roger Bannister.
  - 4 The 2014 World Cup was won by Germany.
  - 5 The first baseball caps were made of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 6 Cricket was first played in England in the 14th century.
  - 7 Rugby was first played \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8 The World Cup is held every four years.
  - 9 In 2002 the World Cup was held in two places: Seoul and Tokyo.
  - 10 The first Olympic race was won by \_\_\_\_\_ named Coroebus.
  - 11 About \_\_\_\_\_ tennis balls are used during the Wimbledon Championships.
  - 12 A football is made of 32 leather panels which are sewn together.
  - 13 \_\_\_\_\_ was played on the Moon by the American astronaut Alan Shepard in 1971.
  - 14 The first Formula One Grand Prix race was held in Le Mans, France in 1901.
  - 15 \_\_\_\_\_ was invented by William George Morgan in 1895.
  - 16 The World Cup trophy is made of gold.
- 2 Discuss the sporting facts you didn't know with your partner.

# 7 Language Skills worksheet

## Speaking: Teacher's notes

### Language

Passive tenses  
Sport

### Instructions

- 1 Divide the class into pairs and decide who is Student A and B in each pair. Hand out one Student A worksheet and one Student B worksheet to each pair. Tell them they must not look at each other's sheets.
- 2 In pairs, students take it in turns to ask one another questions to fill in the gaps on their sheets.
- 3 Go through the answers with the class, discussing the sporting facts they didn't know about.

### Answers

- 1 The first Olympic Games were held in Athens.
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- 3 The first 4-minute mile was run in England by Roger Bannister.
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### Optional activity

- In pairs, students write about their favourite sporting event giving details of the sport, where it is held, when and how often it is held, and who the major stars are.