

Wimbledon

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For 50 weeks of every year, Wimbledon is an ordinary **suburb** in South West London. But for two weeks in June and July, it becomes one of the most famous places in the world.

This is because Wimbledon is the home of tennis and the Wimbledon Championships are the oldest tennis tournament in the world. More than one billion people in two hundred different countries watch the Wimbledon Championships every year.

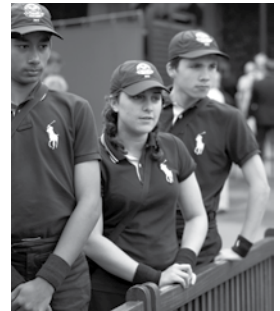


Wimbledon has got 19 tennis courts. They are all grass courts and the most important one is Centre Court. It has a special **retractable** roof, so that players can continue playing even when it rains. There are 15,000 seats at Centre Court, but the best seats of all are in the Royal Box. This is a special area, with 74 seats.

Members of the Royal Family, their friends or other famous people sit in the Royal Box. When the Queen is in the Royal Box, all players have to **bow** to her as they enter or leave Centre Court.



Hundreds of thousands of people **apply** to buy tickets to watch the tennis at Wimbledon, but if you can't buy a ticket **in advance**, you can also **queue** up at Wimbledon on the day of the match. In fact, many people start queuing the night before an important match.



Wimbledon **employs** special ball boys and ball girls. These young people, aged between 14 and 16 come from local schools. They have to run and collect the tennis balls during the match. They have special training for four months and of course they are all very fast runners!

Many **spectators** at Wimbledon eat strawberries and cream while they watch the tennis. In 2015, Wimbledon sold 142,000 portions of strawberries with cream. But you can also buy other snacks, for example, sausage sandwiches, pizza and fish and chips.



Glossary:

suburb – dzielnica podmiejska
retractable – wysuwany i chowany
bow – ukłonić się

apply – starać się, ubiegać się o coś
in advance – z góry, z wyprzedzeniem

queue – ustawić się w kolejce
employ – zatrudnić
spectator – kibic, widz

1 Pracujcie w parach. Przeczytajcie tekst i znajdźcie słowa pasujące do definicji poniżej.

- 1 The place where the Royal Family sits.
- 2 The most important tennis court at Wimbledon.
- 3 The name of the boys and girls who work at Wimbledon.

2 Przeczytaj tekst ponownie i odpowiedz na pytania.

- 1 Where is Wimbledon?
- 2 Why can players play tennis on Centre Court when it rains?
- 3 What do players do when the Queen is in the Royal Box?
- 4 Why do people queue at Wimbledon the night before an important match?
- 5 How long is the training for the ball boys and girls?
- 6 How many portions of strawberries and cream did Wimbledon sell in 2015?



Check your memory

Zakryj tekst i wybierz właściwe liczby i słowa.

- 1 The Wimbledon Championships are in **June and July** / April and May.
- 2 Wimbledon has got **19** / 16 tennis courts.
- 3 There are **56** / 74 seats in the Royal Box.
- 4 Ball boys and girls are between the ages of **15 and 17** / 14 and 16.



My turn

Napisz krótką informację na temat ważnego wydarzenia sportowego w Polsce.

- 1 where it is
- 2 how big it is
- 3 any special features