



WHAT'S YOUR GAME?

1 Think about your favourite sport. Do you have to run a lot, or do you use a bat? There are many different types of sport. Sometimes it can be hard to choose which one you like the best. It can be even harder to choose one to play. Here is one easy question you can ask yourself.

2 Do you enjoy team sports or solo sports?

Team sports are games such as soccer, netball, cricket and football.

It's great to be in a team. You get to play with your friends. Even strangers will be your friends after a season.

3 Players in a team support each other. A team cannot play well unless all the team members work together. Don't worry if you don't score a goal in one game. You helped in your own way. That first place trophy belongs to you, because you're part of a team.

Your teammates will make you feel good when you play really well. You can also learn a lot from them. Watch the star batter next time they're at the crease. What is different about the way they hold the bat? Maybe you could try holding it that way when it's your turn.

4 It can be easy to find a team to try out for these days. There are so many of them around. A lot of these teams will have sponsors. A sponsor is a company that donates money to pay for uniforms and equipment.

5 But, maybe you don't want to play in a team. If you play a sport by yourself, this is called a solo sport. This can be a sport such as golf or tennis. Maybe you really like running.

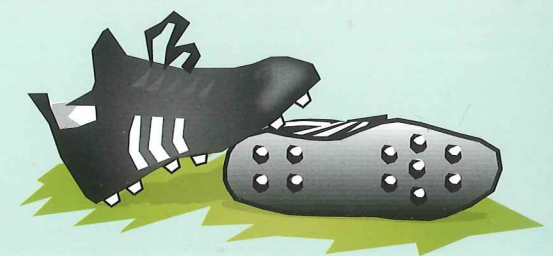
You practise different skills in solo sport. There aren't any teammates to help you, so you need to be good at everything. The best thing about this is that you can choose when and where you train. Solo sports still have coaches, but they focus all of their attention on you.

6 When you win a competition in solo sport, you know that it was because you worked so hard. Other people know this too. This means that there's only one person who will be congratulated after a competition. Guess who?

7 A fun thing that you can do in solo sport is set yourself challenges. Try to hit a hole in one. Run faster. Jump higher. Swim further. While you can set goals like these in team sports, you have more control when it's just you training. Imagine how great it feels to see how much you've improved in a few months.

8 It is also cheaper to travel to sporting competitions when you're not in a team. A team can't travel to another country if lots of players can't afford it. If you're going to play tennis in France, you just have to raise money for one person.

9 As you can see, team sports and solo sports work for different people. It is terrific being able to build up your own skills. But, as a kid it is so much fun being able to play with your friends. Being in a team gives you both of these. Have a think for yourself. What kind of sportsperson are you?





Questions

- 1 What is not listed as a team sport?
 - a netball
 - b golf
 - c soccer
- 2 Sponsors donate money so sporting teams can pay for
 - a equipment and coaching.
 - b coaching and uniforms.
 - c equipment and uniforms.
- 3 You can learn a lot by watching
 - a your teammates.
 - b yourself.
 - c the ball.
- 4 What is an example of setting yourself a challenge?
 - a Watching the star batter.
 - b Trying to run faster.
 - c Winning the soccer trophy.
- 5 What is an important difference between team sport and solo sport?
 - a Team sports use balls of different sizes.
 - b Coaching isn't important in solo sports.
 - c You play with your friends in team sports.
- 6 You would not expect the writer of this text to say:
 - a "Kids who play solo sports get to learn lots of skills."
 - b "Golfers get more coaching than netballers."
 - c "It's very hard to get a hole in one. There's no point trying."

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

strangers teammates improved
cheaper terrific

- 7 Got better (7)
- 8 People you don't know (2)
- 9 The opposite of dearer (8)
- 10 A word meaning fantastic (9)
- 11 The people on your side in sport (3)

Grammar

A **suffix** is a letter or letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning. E.g. care/careless. Add a **suffix** from the box to make words from the text.

ment er ent ed

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 12 cheap | 13 equip |
| 14 help | 15 differ |

Back To The Text...

- 16 The writer believes participation in sport is a good thing.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 What would be a good sub-heading for section 4?
 - a Sporting Sponsors
 - b Solo Sports

- 18 Team coaches focus all their attention on one person.
 - a true
 - b false

Think About This

- 19 Look at the illustration on page 2. The boots will most likely be used
 - a in a solo sport.
 - b in a team sport.
- 20 Look at the illustration on the front of the card. Only three of these sports ever use a ball.
 - a true
 - b false
- 21 The word *support* in section 3 means
 - a like.
 - b hold up.
 - c hold.
 - d encourage.
- 22 The word *donates* in section 4 means
 - a gives.
 - b takes.
 - c collects.
 - d keeps.
- 23 Another good name for this text would be
 - a Super Sports.
 - b Soccer Rules!
 - c Team vs Solo.

Challenge Option

Design: Choose one solo and one team sport. Draw them both on a poster.

