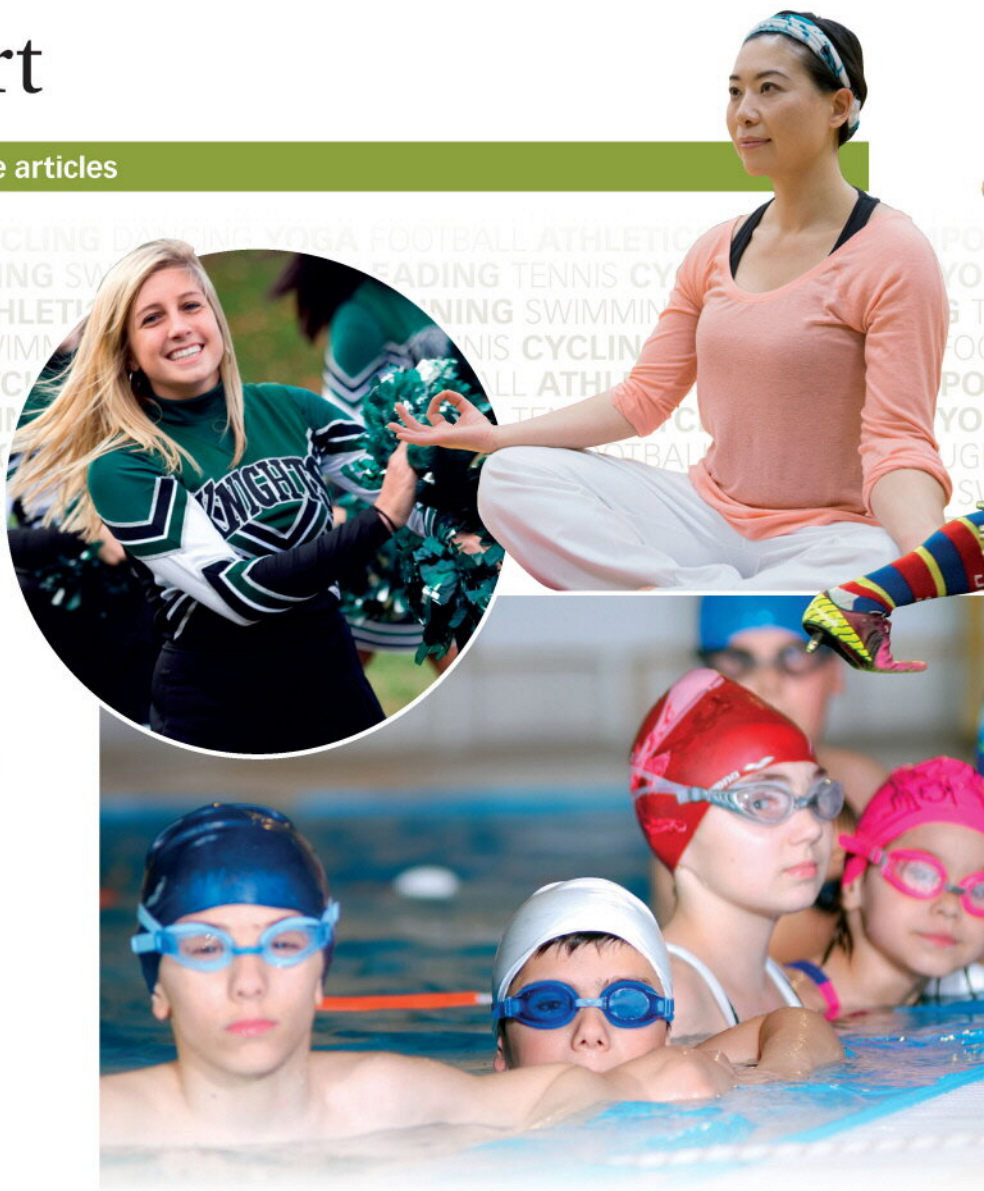


10.2 Competitive sport

GOALS ■ Talk about competition ■ Use articles

Vocabulary competitive sport

- 1 Look at the photos. Work with a partner and discuss the questions.
- Which of the sports and activities do you consider to be competitive or non-competitive?
 - Which did you (not) enjoy at school, or do you (not) enjoy now?
- 2a Read the article about what the government thinks of competitive sports. Do you agree with the government's point of view?



SPORT OLYMPICS

SPORTING COMPETITION?

As figures show that more and more children are overweight, the government has announced that highly ¹_____ sports days and ²_____ are to be re-introduced at schools. Under the new plans, schools will play ³_____ each other in an Olympics-style event, with sports such as football, athletics, rugby, swimming, tennis and cycling. Winning teams will ⁴_____ in sixty county competitions before going on to a national ⁵_____.

For too long, schools have been avoiding competitive sports, introducing activities such as yoga, trampolining, cheerleading and dancing instead. They seem to believe that losing a ⁶_____ will make people feel bad about themselves. We have to realize that taking ⁷_____ in competitive sport is not bad for people's self-esteem. Whether you ⁸_____ or ⁹_____, competitive sport teaches people to work in a ¹⁰_____ and to try hard to be the best that they can be. These are skills which are just as important in the workplace as they are in school.

It is also hoped that the new plans will help Britain to ¹¹_____ records in future Olympic Games.

- 3 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
- 1 A prize was given to the *win / winner* of the race.
 - 2 There were several different types of sports in a *race / tournament*.
 - 3 Next week my football team will *play against / take part in* the current champion.
 - 4 As well as winning a gold medal, she also *broke / competed* the world record.
 - 5 He's so competitive - he hates *losing / taking part*.
 - 6 We won the first few matches, but lost in the *race / final*.

- 4a 10.4))) Listen to six different opinions on competitive sports and tick the box you think is closest to each opinion.

Speaker	1	2	3	4	5	6
Against						
In favour of						
Has a different idea						

- b Complete the article using the words in the box.

against break compete competitive final lose part race team tournaments win

- c 10.3))) Listen and check your answers.

- b 10.4))) Listen again. Make notes about what each speaker says and the reasons they give. Discuss your answers with a partner.



Grammar & Speaking using articles: a/an, the, - (no article)

5a Complete the extracts from the listening with *a/an, the* or - (no article).

- 1 It's just unrealistic for children to be told that everyone can win; ¹ _____ life is competitive.
- 2 If you lose ² _____ race, then you should just try harder.
- 3 That's what I learnt when I was at ³ _____ school.
- 4 I don't think more competition is ⁴ _____ answer.
- 5 The school used to hold sports days in ⁵ _____ public park, so everyone in ⁶ _____ park could watch.

b 10.5))) Listen and check your answers.

6 Match answers 1-6 in exercise 5a to rules a-f in the Grammar focus box.

GRAMMAR FOCUS *a/an, the, - (no article)*

- We use *a/an* (indefinite article):
 - a when something is one of many _____
 - b when we mention something for the first time _____
- We use *the* (definite article):
 - c when it is the only one of something, or the only one in a place _____
 - d when we have talked about the things before _____
- We use no article:
 - e when we talk about plural and uncountable nouns in general. _____
 - f in some common phrases after a preposition _____

→ Grammar Reference page 155

7a Complete the text with *a/an, the* or - (no article).

Almost unheard of in Europe, sepak takraw is ¹ _____ extremely popular sport throughout East Asia, and is growing in popularity in countries like the United States, Switzerland and Canada. Roughly translated as 'kickball' it is ² _____ thrilling mixture of soccer, volleyball and gymnastics. ³ _____ game is played with ⁴ _____ net and ball, but ⁵ _____ players are only allowed to use their feet to get ⁶ _____ ball over ⁷ _____ net. Each team has three players and ⁸ _____ first team to score 21 wins. Usually introduced to sepak takraw at ⁹ _____ school, players have to be very fit and practise daily to achieve ¹⁰ _____ almost super-hero skills needed to win ¹¹ _____ international matches.



b Match 1-11 to rules a-f in the Grammar focus box.

8a **TASK** Work with a partner. Which quote do you agree with most? Give your reasons.

'Whoever said, "It's not whether you win or lose that counts," probably lost.'

Martina Navratilova (tennis player)

'Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game.'

Michael Jordan (basketball player)

'You have to fight to reach your dream. You have to sacrifice and work hard for it.'

Lionel Messi (soccer player)

b Listen to another pair who have a different view. Discuss the different views together.

c Decide together who had the best arguments. Why?

▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 10