

# Sports

## Talking about a particular sport

- You can **play** a specific sport:
  - ▶ *Do you play tennis?*
- This is used particularly for competitive sports in which one team or person **plays** or **plays against** another:
  - ▶ *We played them in last year's final.*
  - ▶ *Who are you playing against this afternoon?*
- Members of a sports team **play for** their team:
  - ▶ *He used to play for the Dallas Cowboys.*

- If the name of a sport or an activity ends in **-ing** we often use it with the verb **to go**:
  - ▶ *I go swimming twice a week.*
  - ▶ *Have you ever been rock climbing?*
- Typical sports and activities with this pattern include: **go skiing**; **go sailing**; **go riding** (BrE) or **go horseback riding** (NAme); and **go dancing**. Check at the entry for each sport to see if it can be used in this way.

Other sports and activities can take the verbs **to do** or **to go to**:

- *I do aerobics once or twice a week.*
- *I go to judo (= to my judo class) on Mondays.*

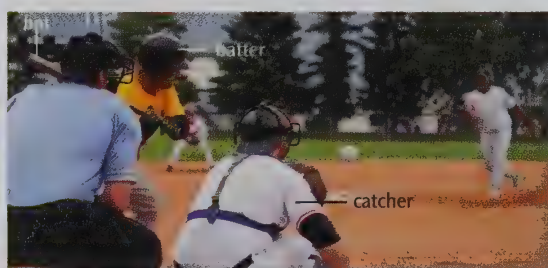
## Team Sports



cricket



basketball



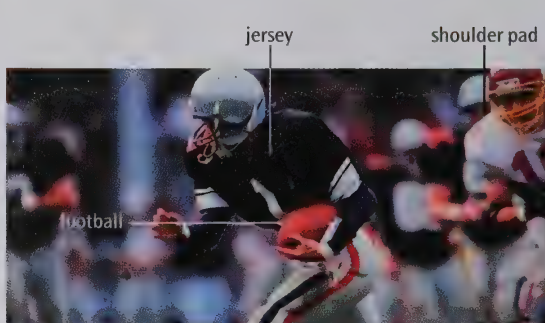
baseball



rugby



soccer (BrE also football)



American football (BrE) / football (NAme)



hockey (BrE) / field hockey (NAme)



ice hockey (BrE) / hockey (NAme)



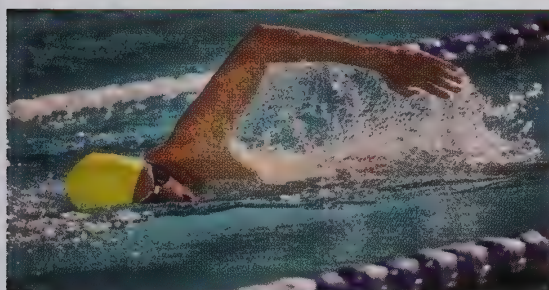
## Where sports are played

- The area that is specially marked for playing a sports game is often called a **pitch** (*BrE*), **field** or **court**, depending on the sport being played:
  - ▶ a cricket/football/rugby/hockey pitch (*BrE*)
  - ▶ a soccer/baseball field (*especially NAmE*)
  - ▶ a tennis/badminton/squash/basketball court
- A large sports ground surrounded by rows of seats for **spectators** is called a **stadium** (*plural stadiums or stadia*):
  - ▶ an all-seater stadium

## GRAMMAR POINT

- Names of American sports teams always start with 'the'; names of British sports teams almost never do. Names of sports teams may look either singular or plural but always take a plural verb:
  - ▶ *The Jazz are playing the Chicago Bulls.*
  - ▶ *Aston Villa have started the season well.*
- Teams are often referred to just by the name of the place they come from. In American English this means a singular verb is used, but in British English the verb is still plural.
  - ▶ *Cincinnati is having a great season.*
  - ▶ *Norwich were disappointed with the score.*

## Swimming



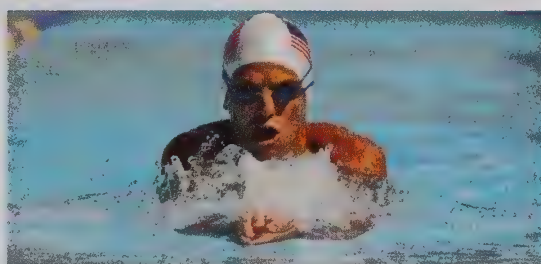
crawl



butterfly



backstroke



breaststroke

## Racket sports



tennis



badminton



squash

table tennis (*BrE*) / Ping-Pong™ (*NAmE*)



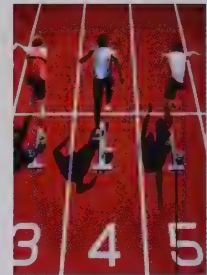
## People who take part in sports

- A person who **plays** a particular sport is usually called a football/tennis/basketball **player**:
  - ▶ *Welsh rugby players could get £2000 each from a new sponsorship deal.*
- Some sports have a special name for the players or people who do them. Some of these names end in **-er** but others do not follow a particular pattern. Check near the entry for each sport to find the correct word.
  - ▶ *talented young footballers (BrE only)*
  - ▶ *an Olympic boxer*
  - ▶ *top athletes from around the world*
  - ▶ *cyclists competing in the Tour de France*

## Track events



hurdling



sprinting

starting blocks

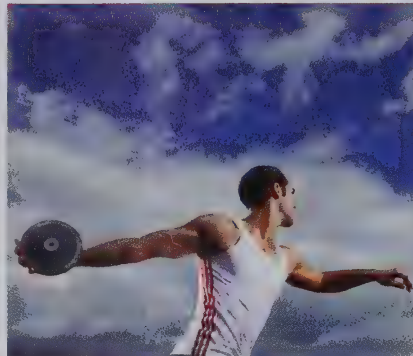
### Track events

- *run the 100 metres*
- *run the relay*

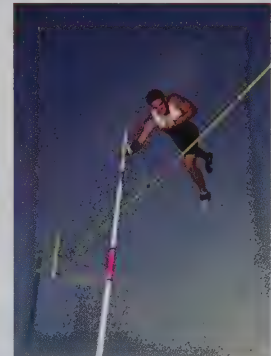
## Field events



the high jump



the discus



the pole vault



the hammer



the javelin

### Field events

- *do the long jump*
- *do the high jump*
- *do the pole vault*
- *do the triple jump*
- *throw the javelin*
- *throw the discus*
- *throw the hammer*
- *put the shot*

## Equestrian sports



horse racing



showjumping



polo



## Talking about sports in general

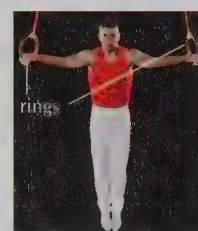
- You can **do sport** (BrE):
  - ▶ *Do you do a lot of sport?*
  - ...or you can **play sports** (especially NAmE):
    - ▶ *We played sports together when we were kids.*
  - ...but these verbs are not used very often. It is more usual to talk about liking sport/sports or **being good at** sport/sports:
    - ▶ *Are you good at sport?* (BrE)
    - ▶ *Are you good at sports?* (NAmE)
    - ▶ *What sports do you like best?*
- Do **not** say that you 'practise' sport or a sport if you just mean that you do or play it. Say:
  - ▶ *I love sport.* (BrE)
  - ▶ *I love sports.* (NAmE)
  - (No other verb is necessary.)
  - NOT** *I love practising sport.*
- Say which sports you play:
  - ▶ *Every Sunday I play volleyball or badminton with my friends.*
  - NOT** *Every Sunday I practise sport with my friends.*
- However, you can use the verb 'practise', especially in American English (where it is spelt 'practice'), if it means 'to train':
  - ▶ *The team is practicing for its big game.* (NAmE)
  - ▶ *The team are in training for their big match.* (BrE)

### GRAMMAR POINT

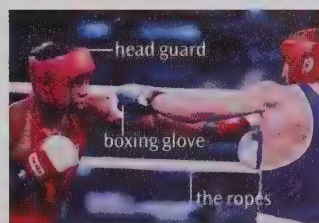
- The names of sports can be used like adjectives before other nouns:
  - ▶ *a tennis match*
  - ▶ *cycling shorts*
  - ▶ *a football team*
- The words sports and sporting (but not 'sport') can be used in the same way:
  - ▶ *a sports club*
  - ▶ *sports shoes*
  - ▶ *a sporting event*
  - ▶ *sporting goods*



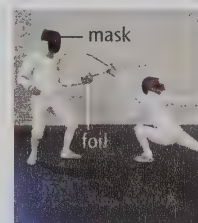
cycling



gymnastics



boxing



fencing

## Winter sports



bobsleigh (BrE) / bobsled (NAmE)



the luge



downhill skiing

binding



cross-country skiing