

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What are your favourite sports?
- 2 Can you explain the rules?
- 3 What sports are popular in Britain?

Comprehension check**2**  Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 In which sport can players use their hands and feet to control a ball?
a football b rugby c basketball
- 2 Which sport has the oldest rules?
a football b rugby c cricket
- 3 Which sport is played in the Ashes tournament?
a football b rugby c cricket

3  Watch again. Choose the correct words to describe what you see.

- 1 a girl **kicking** / **catching** an orange football
- 2 a man in white **kicking** / **running with** a rugby ball
- 3 girls in dark blue playing **hockey** / **tennis**
- 4 a team in yellow playing **football** / **rugby**
- 5 a man in red **playing** / **refereeing** a rugby match
- 6 a **cricket** / **rugby** stadium in Australia

4  Watch again. Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- 1 Two hundred years ago, _____ games were popular in private schools in Britain.
- 2 The sport of _____ officially began in 1871.
- 3 In cricket, each team has _____ players.
- 4 In August 1882, _____ beat England in a cricket match.
- 5 There are _____ matches in an Ashes tournament.
- 6 _____ has won the Ashes 31 times.

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.

Have you ever played cricket? Would you like to? Why? / Why not?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. You may also need to add a prefix or a suffix.

- 1 When England lost the match, I was so _____ that I started crying. (happy)
- 2 We were very _____ when a girl from our school won a gold medal. (pride)
- 3 He experienced a lot of _____ before the final match of the tournament. (anxious)
- 4 The man reacted _____ when I asked him to stop talking during the tennis match. (anger)
- 5 He should feel _____ for scoring a goal with his hands. It was wrong. (shame)
- 6 _____, Germany won the match. They had the best team and played really well. (surprise)

7 Complete the text with the words below.

committee representatives rivalry rules tournament trophy

The Six Nations Championship

Every year in February and March, six European countries – England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales – play in the Six Nations rugby ¹_____. The organising ²_____, part of Rugby Europe, which includes ³_____ from each of the countries involved, arranges the matches. The ⁴_____ are simple: every country plays every other country once, and the team with the most points at the end is the winner and is awarded the Championship ⁵_____. It is hugely popular with European rugby fans, and there is always great ⁶_____ between the countries, especially, it seems, when England is playing. So, if you're visiting any of the countries involved in February or March next year, make sure you watch a game.

Extension

8 Work in groups. Find out about an unusual sport or game. Find some photos of people playing the sport and make a fact file about it. Include the following:

- a short history of the sport
- where people play the sport
- the rules of the sport
- a description of what is happening in the photos

9 Present your fact file to the class. Use the key phrases for describing and speculating about photos and identifying people in photos.

Describing photos

The photo shows ...

In the foreground / background, ...

Speculating about photos

It looks like some kind of ...

I think it's ... of some kind.

They're most likely ...

Identifying people in photos

The man with the red shirt ...

The woman jumping / running / kicking ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about various sports that originated in Britain.

Background

Many of the sports that we play or watch every week were either invented or organised in Britain. Some of these, like football and tennis, are popular all over the world, while others, like rugby and cricket, are only played professionally in a small number of countries.

Up until recently, cricket was only played in a few countries that were former British colonies, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Along with England, these countries have produced some of the world's greatest players and have dominated world cricket for the past hundred years. Every summer each of these countries plays a series of matches against one or two of the others. They play both one-day matches, and 'test matches' which each last for five days. The most famous of these competitions is the Ashes, which is played between England and Australia.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to expand on their answers and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 b 2 c 3 c

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to read the sentences and to try and remember which things they saw in the DVD clip.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 kicking 2 running with 3 hockey 4 football 5 refereeing 6 cricket

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to read the sentences and try to guess the missing words before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Read through the sentences and elicit the type of word that goes in each space. Play the DVD clip and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 ball 2 rugby 3 eleven 4 Australia 5 five 6 England

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read each sentence and decide what type of word goes in the gap before forming the answer from the word in brackets.
- **Weaker classes:** Elicit the type of word that goes in each space first.
- **Answers:** 1 unhappy 2 proud 3 anxiety 4 angrily 5 ashamed 6 Unsurprisingly

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the text first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class**, you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 tournament 2 committee 3 representatives 4 rules 5 trophy 4 rivalry

Extension

Exercise 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Paper, pens, computers with internet access, printer
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they are going to write a fact file about an unusual sport.
- **Language:** Find a photo of an unusual sport and elicit the key phrases.
- **Activity:** Give the students 5–8 minutes to use the internet to research their sport and find some photos. Then give them another 5–8 minutes to write their fact file, making sure they include all the information in the task. Finally, ask the groups to present their sports to the class.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have presented, ask the students to discuss which sports they would like to play and why. For homework, you could ask them to invent and write about a new sport.

British sports

Many modern sports have their origins in 19th century Britain. People all over the world enjoyed physical games for thousands of years, but it was the Victorians who organised and made rules for them. Without their influence, most of today's popular sports would be very different.

Take rugby, for example. Two hundred years ago, ball games similar to football and rugby were very popular in the country's famous private schools, but each school had completely different rules. It wasn't until 1863 that a committee decided to agree on a universal set of rules. However, there was some disagreement between different groups and some people became very angry.

Most of the representatives wanted a game that limited the use of the hands and encouraged skill more than force. In 1863 they created 'association' football, which most people now call football or soccer.

But others felt the game should be more physical and, most importantly, that players should be allowed to use their hands as well as their feet. In 1871 they formed the Rugby Football Union and the sport of rugby was born.

But one typically British sport that the Victorians didn't organise was cricket. The Marylebone Cricket Club invented the first set of cricket rules in 1788 and many of these basic laws still apply today. There are still two teams of eleven players. One team bats, and the other team bowls and fields. The batter tries to hit the ball and run between the 'wickets'. This is called a run. The bowler tries to hit the wickets and the fielder tries to catch the ball. If they can do this, the batter is out. But while the Victorians didn't create these rules, they did make one huge contribution to cricket: the Ashes.

In the 19th century, England often played colonies like India, the West Indies and Australia, but the English almost always won. So it was a huge surprise when Australia beat England on 29 August 1882. The English were deeply ashamed of this defeat. And the Australians jokingly referred to this match as the death of English cricket. They burned a wicket or a cricket ball – we still don't know what exactly – and put the ashes in an urn. They then offered it to the English cricket team.

Since then, Australia and England have played a tournament called the Ashes at least once every four years – but usually more often – and they take turns to play in England and Australia. Each tournament includes five matches, each taking up to five days to play. At the end, the winners receive a glass trophy based on the original urn of ashes. For English and Australian cricket fans it is a sporting event not to be missed, and winning is a matter of great national pride.

This is the Adelaide Oval on Ashes day. It's an extremely popular event and thousands of people happily travel miles to watch the cricket. But it isn't all fun. For over 130 years, there has been an intense rivalry between England and Australia. By the time the two countries meet again, England will have won 31 tournaments and Australia will have won 32 tournaments. If England win next time it will be a draw, so most people predict the next Ashes will be an exciting but anxious event for cricket lovers in both countries.