

VOCABULARY



SPORTS IDIOMS

There are many idioms in English related to sport. How many of you are **on the ball** when it comes to this important aspect?

(**On the ball** = to be alert and knowledgeable about something)

1 Match A to B to form idioms. Pay attention to the words in colour.

A

- 1 There was no question that they **won**
- 2 It's **par for**
- 3 Try to stay **ahead**

B

- a **the course** to fall while cycling.
- b **of the game**.
- c **hands down**.

2 Match each idiom in Exercise 1 to its meaning below.

- 1 in an advantageous position
- 2 typical, normal
- 3 had a decisive victory

3 Choose the correct meaning for the idioms in colour below.

- 1 I've done what I could. Now **the ball's in your court**. (*it's your turn to act / there's nothing you can do*)
- 2 I don't know what my boss wants. He keeps **moving the goalposts**. (*criticising and complaining / changing the rules or aims*)
- 3 I think it was **jumping the gun** to buy the ring before she agreed to marry him. (*doing something too early / causing bad luck*)
- 4 With all this work, I can hardly **keep my head above water**. (*think clearly / keep up with demands*)
- 5 I didn't get a chance to **learn the ropes** before they gave me my first assignment. (*meet everyone / deal with a new situation*)

4 Which of the following sports do you think each idiom in Exercise 3 comes from?
sailing | tennis | swimming | football | running

LISTENING A Radio Programme

5 How many sports can you name that use a ball?

1/36 6 You are going to hear a radio programme about the balls used in different sports. Listen to the first part of the programme. Which of the following do we learn about footballs?

- 1 why the classic football is black and white
- 2 why footballs have 32 panels
- 3 the shape of football panels
- 4 the number of panels on the 2018 World Cup ball
- 5 the colour of the 2018 World Cup ball

1/37 7 Listen to the second part of the radio programme and complete the sentences. Use 1-3 words or numbers.

- 1 It took ... years for basketball to get its own ball.
- 2 A basketball has ... panels.
- 3 Rugby balls have got ... shape.
- 4 Tennis balls were originally
- 5 The fuzz on tennis balls prevents them from going



LOOKING AT PRONUNCIATION

1/38 1 Listen and repeat the words below from the radio programme.

fans /æ/ cup /ʌ/

1/39 2 Which word in each group doesn't belong? Listen and check your answers.

1 /æ/ panel black ball hands

2 /ʌ/ some rugby sure won

Pronunciation Practice page 106

TECHNO TASK

Go online to identify the sports that use the equipment shown in the pictures. Then choose one of the sports and write a short description of how it's played.

