



Pickleball (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How many ball games can you think of?
2. Which of them are the most popular in your country?
3. Which are you most interested in, as a player or a spectator?
4. Have you ever heard of a game called pickleball? If so, what do you know about it?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. Pickleball was invented in the US in the year _____.
2. Players have to hit a ball over a _____-inch-high net.
3. A game of pickleball is usually played to _____ points.
4. The game first became popular in the Pacific _____ region.
5. In _____ it became a professional sport.
6. It's particularly popular in _____ and _____, as well as in the US and Asia.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What other ball games is pickleball similar to?
2. What kind of ball is pickleball played with?
3. How do the serving players get points?
4. Why has the sport become so popular?
5. How many adults in the US played pickleball in the 12 months before the 2023 study?
6. How much do professional players earn a year, on average?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. The _____ price of a flat in London £550.
2. The doctor told Kyle his foot would hurt for a bit, but it would get better _____.
3. The insect that bit me didn't look like a mosquito. It _____ a wasp.
4. The restaurant was full because of the summer festival, but we _____ managed to get a table.
5. A _____ is a type of racquet or bat used for playing table tennis.
6. I prefer to sit in this old armchair. It's _____ comfortable than our new ones.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Vivienne David is a professional pickleball player. She ¹_____ (is/has/was) born in Canada, but later her family ²_____ (transferred/moved/transported) to Florida, where her father opened a tennis shop.

Vivienne started playing tennis when she was 8 years of ³_____ (age/old/aged). Then when she was fifteen she began working in the family shop, which also sold pickleball equipment. There she saw that many of the people who played pickleball were quite old, so she wasn't interested ⁴_____ (in/to/for) it at first.

Then one day her father ⁵_____ (put/set/stood) up a demonstration of pickleball and Vivienne found that it wasn't ⁶_____ (very/much/as) simple as she thought. She began to train seriously and in 2018 she played her first tournament and won.

F – Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

resemble unique popularity format perforated
attributed industry official particularly average

G – Write about it

Write about a ball game that's popular in your country. Mention:

- how many people can play it;
- what equipment is used;
- how points are scored;
- what players have to do to win;
- whether you play/watch it and how often.

Jaws (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Where do you usually spend your summer holidays?
2. Do you like beach holidays? Why (not)?
3. Can you swim?
4. If so, do you prefer to swim in a swimming pool? Or in the sea? Or in a river or a lake? Why?
5. What are the dangers involved in swimming in these places?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The film *Jaws* is based on a true story.
2. The main characters are three men who hunt a man-eating shark.
3. Work on the film was delayed because of bad weather.
4. The mechanical sharks used in the film were the same size as the largest shark ever caught.
5. The film cost over \$9 million dollars to make.
6. The first film was followed by three sequels.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Which catchphrase became popular as a result of *Jaws*?
2. When do people use this catchphrase?
3. Who are the three characters who go after the shark?
4. Why is it necessary for them to hunt and kill the shark?
5. What problem did Spielberg have with the mechanical sharks created for the film?

- How did he solve this problem?
- Which of the film's main characters is killed by the shark?
- What prize did the film's soundtrack win?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

- These Sudoku puzzles are too easy. I'm going to buy a magazine with more _____ puzzles.
- John Williams composed the _____ for Star Wars, *Jurassic Park* and the *Harry Potter* films.
- Why don't you take a bus there _____ a taxi. It'll cost you a lot less.
- Up to now, all the *Mission Impossible* films have _____ actor Tom Cruise.
- It _____ us to see dolphins swimming around the boat on our trip to Florida last year.
- Gorillas have very strong _____. An adult male can break open a coconut with a bite.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

In 1971, Peter Benchley, the author of the novel *Jaws*, on ¹_____ the film of the same name was based, was a freelance journalist. He was working for a number of newspapers when he ²_____ interested in the exploits of an eccentric fisherman called Frank Mundus. Mundus was a charter captain who took paying guests out for "Monster Fishing" trips on his boat *Cricket II*. During these trips, he ³_____ sometimes caught great white sharks, including one that ⁴_____ 2060 kg. Mundus was the inspiration for the character Quint, played ⁵_____ actor Robert Shaw in the film version. ⁶_____ he started his career as a shark hunter, he later came to regret it and became a shark conservationist who urged fishermen not to kill the sharks they caught but to photograph them and release them.

F – Talk about it

- Are there a lot of sharks in the waters around your country?
- If so, have you ever seen one?
- Do you know of any fatal shark attacks in your country?
- Can you name any countries where shark attacks are frequent?
- Would you swim in the sea in these places?

William Blake (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

- Do you like poetry?
- Do you have a favourite poem or a favourite poet?
- Does poetry still have a role in today's world, in your opinion?
- If so, what do you think that role is?/If not, why not?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

- William Blake was born in London in the
 a) mid-18th century. b) early 17th century. c) late 18th century.
- Blake
 a) didn't get an education. b) went to a religious school. c) was taught by his mother.
- At the age of ten, he went to drawing school and then became an apprentice.
 a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.

4. In his spare time, he
a) wrote poems. b) created pictures. c) Both of these.
5. His poems
a) contain difficult language. b) are loved by many people. c) aren't popular now.
6. Blake's ideas were
a) purely rational. b) purely imaginative. c) a mixture of reason and imagination.
7. His epic books, *Milton* and *Jerusalem*,
a) were written in the 1790s. b) took 20 years to write. c) were not illuminated.
8. When Blake died, he was
a) poor and unknown. b) poor but famous. c) sad and all alone.

C – Read and answer

Read the three parts of the article and answer the questions.

1. What kind of visual artist was William Blake?
2. In what way was he "a challenge to the social, political and religious orders" of his era?
3. What were the signs that he was an unusually imaginative child?
4. What were Blake's lyric poems about?
5. What were his visions like to him?
6. What inspired Blake to write the epic poem *Milton*?
7. What did Blake do while he was dying?
8. What is unusual about Blake's pictures?
9. How did the poem *Jerusalem* become a hymn?
10. When and where is it performed every year?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Most zoos no longer keep large animals like lions and tigers in _____.
2. I was a _____ to tell Rory my secret. He's such a gossip. Now everybody knows.
3. The ancient Romans used _____ mostly for racing and for triumphal processions.
4. Mia's friends _____ her to leave her office job and start a business of her own.
5. The young man looked honest but he was a fraud. Appearances can be _____.
6. The dog keeps scratching. I think he may have _____.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. William Blake was ignored during his _____ (LIFE).
2. Many of his contemporaries even considered him to be _____ (SANE).
3. Now he is seen as one of the greatest _____ (CONTRIBUTE) to British art and literature.
4. During his _____ (CHILD), his parents were supportive of his vivid imagination.
5. His wife Catherine helped him with his art _____ (THROUGH) their marriage.
6. The hymn *Jerusalem* is often regarded as the _____ (OFFICE) English National Anthem.
7. Many of the lines of the hymn have entered Britain's national _____ (CONSCIOUS).
8. It is sung every year at the BBC Proms, a _____ (HIGH) popular summer music festival.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's most famous poets. Include:

- some biographical information;
 - what kind of poetry he/she writes/wrote;
 - what the topics of his/her poetry are;
 - the titles of his/her major works or collections.
-

Wikipedia (C1 Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you have an encyclopedia at home?
2. If so, which encyclopedia is it? How old is it? How often do you consult it?
3. Do you ever use Wikipedia? If so how often?
4. What do you know about the history of Wikipedia?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen to the two parts of the article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

Part One

1. In the 1990s, Jimmy Wales had the idea of an online encyclopedia only in English.
2. At first, he wasn't sure about allowing ordinary people to write content for the encyclopedia.
3. Michael Peel became a Wikipedia editor before he got his university degree.
4. The staff of the Wikimedia Foundation are all unpaid volunteers.
5. The principle behind the information in Wikipedia is that it must be the truth,
6. Michael Peel edits Wikipedia content using his own name.
7. People aren't allowed to write about themselves on Wikipedia.

Part Two

8. Different countries have their own editions of Wikipedia.
9. The different language versions of Wikipedia pages are not always just translations.
10. Some people started editing content when they were still of school-age.

C – Read and answer

Read the two parts of the article and answer the questions.

1. How did Wikipedia become an open-source project rather than a profit-driven one?
2. What is the purpose of the Wikimedia Foundation?
3. What protection does Section 230 of US law give Wikipedia?
4. How does Wikipedia deal with controversial content?
5. Why do some editors receive death threats?
6. What change is Wikipedia going to make to protect anonymous editors from death threats?
7. Why is it an advantage for Wikipedia to be funded mostly by small donors?
8. What is Wikipedia doing to try ensure smaller languages are represented?
9. What is Abstract Wikipedia?
10. What is Wikipedia doing to adapt to the widespread use of mobile phones? Why?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Many island nations are heavily _____ on tourism.
2. Chloe went to an employment tribunal claiming her employer hadn't treated her _____.
3. The information must be correct. It comes from a _____ source.
4. Rob doesn't like his present boss. He got on a lot better with his _____ boss.
5. The _____ is a very serious one. We need to discuss it right away.
6. We didn't expect the repairs to cost so much. The costs just kept _____.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

It looks as ¹_____ (like/though/that/although) Jimmy Wales was destined to create encyclopedias. He was ²_____ (raised/brought/grown/kept) in a family where learning was highly regarded. Moreover, his mother and grandmother ³_____ (drove/worked/conduct-

ed/ran) a small private school, where he and his three siblings were educated. When he was a small child, his mother bought a World Book Encyclopedia from a door-to-door salesman. ⁴ _____ (During/However/While/As) Jimmy grew up, he became an avid reader and the encyclopedia was a ⁵ _____ (pride/prized/prime/praised) possession of his. He claims he also spent hours poring ⁶ _____ (down/on/over/at) the Encyclopedia Britannica at school.

A new edition of *The World Book Encyclopedia* was published every year and ⁷ _____ (sellers/owners/holders/writers) were sent stickers and invited to paste them on the pages to update the entries. Jimmy says he did this regularly: "I started as a ⁸ _____ (kid/guy/type/young) revising the encyclopedia by stickering the one my mother bought."

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. What are the advantages/disadvantages of an open-source encyclopedia like Wikipedia?
 2. What are the advantages/disadvantages of traditional encyclopedias like *The Encyclopedia Britannica*?
 3. Which kind of encyclopedia do you prefer?
-

Answers: Pickleball (A2)

B – Listen and answer

1. 1965 2. thirty-four 3. eleven 4. Northwest 5. 2019 6. Australia – New Zealand

C – Read and answer

1. It's similar to tennis and ping-pong. 2. It's played with a perforated plastic ball. 3. They get points when the receiving player or team doesn't return the ball or commits an infraction. 4. It has become popular because its rules are simple, it isn't expensive and people of all ages and fitness levels can play it. 5. 48.3 million. 6. They earn \$260,000, on average.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. average 2. over time 3. resembled 4. eventually 5. paddle 6. far more

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. was 2. moved 3. age 4. in 5. set 6. as

F – Check your pronunciation

1. resemble unique popularity format perforated
attributed industry official particularly average
-

Answers: Jaws (B1)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It's based on a novel by Peter Benchley. 2. T 3. T 4. F – They were much bigger than the largest shark ever caught. 5. F – It cost less than \$9 million dollars to make. 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. The catchphrase: "You're gonna need a bigger boat." 2. When a situation is much more challenging and complex than expected. 3. They are a police chief, a marine biologist and a professional shark hunter. 4. Because it has been attacking people at a beach community. 5. They often malfunctioned. 6. He mostly suggested the presence of the shark, without showing it. 7. Quint, the professional shark hunter, is killed by the shark. 8. It won an Academy Award (Oscar) for its soundtrack.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. challenging 2. soundtracks 3. rather than 4. starred 5. thrilled 6. jaws

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. which 2. became/got 3. had 4. weighed 5. by 6. Although/Though/While

Answers: William Blake (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. a 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. a

C – Read and answer

1. He was a poet and engraver. 2. He was critical of colonialism and slavery. He also thought the church oppressed ordinary people. 3. He had visions. For example, he said he saw God at his window and angels on trees in the local park. 4. They were about various subjects like childhood, education, established religion, free will and free love. 5. They were as real as life itself. 6. The appearance to him of John Milton in a vision. 7. He sang his own poetry and of his visions of Heaven. He also drew a portrait of his wife. 8. Words and images appear together. 9. It was set to music by Sir Hubert Parry during World War One. 10. At the BBC's Last Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. cages 2. fool 3. chariots 4. encouraged 5. deceptive 6. fleas

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. lifetime 2. insane 3. contributors 4. childhood 5. throughout 6. unofficial
7. consciousness 8. highly

Answers: Wikipedia (C1)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – He had the idea of an online multilingual encyclopedia. 2. T 3. T 4. F – About six hundred people employed by Wikimedia Foundation are paid staff. 5. F – Its principle is verifiability, not truth. 6. T 7. T 8. F – There are language editions, not country editions. 9. T 10. T

C – Read and answer

1. Because this was the proposal of the group of editors, who were tired of rigid hierarchical structures and suggested that the encyclopedia should accept contributions from ordinary people. 2. Its purpose is to help with maintenance and organisation. 3. It protects it from responsibility for the content published on the website, because the content is put there by volunteers and the Foundation is not doing the editing. 4. It includes different points of view and there are talk pages where readers can see the discussions. If there is vandalism on a particular page, the page can be protected so that only certain people can edit it. 5. Because they're reverting vandalism. 6. The IP addresses of its anonymous editors are going to be hidden. 7. Because it gives them a lot of independence, since they aren't reliant on companies or on government funding. 8. There's an incubator where a Wikipedia can be started in a new language. If it gets big enough, it can become its own Wikipedia. 9. It's a project aimed at creating encyclopedias completely multilingually. 10. It's making it possible to edit content through Wikidata games because it's difficult to edit on a phone.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. reliant 2. fairly 3. reliable 4. former 5. issue 6. mounting up

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. though 2. raised 3. ran 4. As 5. prized 6. over 7. owners 8. kid