

Sports in Great Britain □ □

England is a sports-loving nation. Sports in England take many forms: organized sports, which attract huge crowds to encourage their favourite teams to victory, athletic games played for recreation and others. Some sports are called spectator, when the number of spectators is greater than the number of people playing in the game. Other sports are called participant, sports attracting large crowds only on special occasions such as tournaments.

The game peculiarly associated with England is cricket. Many other games are English in origin, too, but have been accepted with enthusiasm in other countries. Cricket has been seriously and extensively played only in the Commonwealth countries, particularly in Australia, India, Pakistan. Cricket is slow, and a spectator, sitting in the afternoon sun after his lunch, may be excused for a little sleep for half an hour. Cricket is making no progress in popularity.

Association football or soccer is very popular. Nearly 49 million spectators each year attend matches between the great professional teams organized by the Football League. The biggest event in England is Cup Final played at the Empire Stadium, in Wembley, a London suburb. Rugby football is played with an egg-shaped ball which may be carried and thrown. Rugby is played mainly by amateurs.

The games of golf and tennis are played by great numbers of people. Golf is played in the countryside. It consists in driving a small ball towards and into holes separated by considerable distances, by means of special golf clubs. The aim is to go round using as few strokes as possible. There are many tennis clubs, but every town provides tennis courts in public parks. The world championship tennis matches are held in Wimbledon in London during June and July.

Next to football, the chief spectator sport in Britain is horse-racing. A lot of people are interested in the races and risk money on the horse which they think will win. Britain is also famous for motor-car racing, boat racing, dog racing, and even races for donkeys. The famous

boat race between the teams of Oxford and Cambridge attracts large crowds of people.

Various forms of athletics, such as running, boxing, jumping, swimming are wide-spread in England. The English weather is not always cold enough to ski, skate, or toboggan, but winter is a good season for hunting and fishing.

Indeed sport in one form or another is an essential part of daily life in Britain.

Translate the following sentences into English.

1. В Великобритании, стране любителей спорта, получили распространение различные виды спорта и спортивные игры.
2. Крупные соревнования по многим видам спорта привлекают огромное число зрителей.
3. Крикет — чисто национальная игра, она получила распространение только в странах Содружества.
4. Популярность клубного футбола быстро растет.
5. Регби — в основном профессиональный вид спорта.
6. Многие англичане любят скачки и ставят деньги на лошадей.

7. Среди англичан популярность завоевали как спортивные игры, так и различные виды спорта, в том числе различные виды легкой атлетики.

8. Спорт в той или иной разновидности играет важную роль в повседневной жизни Великобритании.

1. In Great Britain, a country of sports-lovers, different sports and athletic games are accepted.

2. Important competitions in many kinds of sports attract huge crowds of spectators.

3. Cricket is a game peculiarly associated with England, it is extensively accepted only in the countries of the Commonwealth.

4. Association football is making rapid progress in popularity.

5. Rugby is mainly an amateur sport.

6. A lot of people in England are interested in horse racing and risk money on horses.

7. Both athletic games and different kinds of sports are popular in England, including different kinds of track-and-field.

8. Sports in one form or another is an essential part of daily life in Britain.