

To check that you have understood all of it, you can read the attached script.

After listening try to answer the following listening comprehension questions:

1. Can you name any sports mentioned in the recording?
2. What is the American expression for athletics?
3. Ryan used to play a sport similar to baseball but instead of the person throwing the ball (pitcher), the ball is placed on a small post and the point of the game is to hit the ball with a bat and send it as far as possible... what is called?
4. Is ice hockey popular in the UK?

Solution:

1. Football, volleyball, basketball, yoga...
2. Track
3. Teeball
4. Ice hockey is a minority sport in the UK, usually played by girls.

Script

J: Did you play sports when you were at school Gareth?

G: I did, yes. We played football in the winter, and got very muddy and cold, wearing shorts. And then in the summer it was mainly athletics, both the running and the throwing things...and jumping as well.

J: What about now?

G: *Umm*, I jump less than I used to, but I play football once a week, a bit of badminton, and I go to the gym a few times as well.

J: Wow.

G: As you can tell by my muscular physique.

G: How about you?

J: *Umm* when I was at school I did volleyball and basketball and athletics...we called it track. now, as I got older I played less and less. I don't think I can say I play any sports exactly, *ummm* but I like to be active. I play tennis and I like yoga, and I like to hike, but I don't know if those are considered sports, per se.

M: I wouldn't call them sports. Just as I would not call golf a sport.

J: So what sports did you play as a child?

M: As a child? As a child I think I tried everything, but I was just not good at anything. As I got older, I got better at hockey, and I played hockey at high school and then for years afterwards...

G: When you say hockey do you mean, *ummm* like...in our country hockey is played by girls on a grassy field.

M: Well, English people would probably need to compete against girls in hockey, however, I mean proper ice hockey.

G: It's true, we're not afraid of the female sex. Ice hockey, so you play it on a frozen surface.

M: Well, when I was younger I played it on all surfaces. In winter we played on ice, in the warmer months we played

using rollerblades on concrete, and then there's also what we call street hockey where you just run around...in sneakers...and play on foot.

G: In that case I played street hockey as well. What about you, Ryan? Do you play any sports, or did you play sports at school?

R: I also played hockey, but only field hockey, because obviously we have no ice in Australia, apart from in the icebox, and *ummm*, but I wasn't particularly good at it. I also tried many sports like teeball, Australian-rules football, and many others, and failed at almost all of them. So, by about the age of fifteen I gave up playing sport, altogether, and really haven't played ever since.

M: What's teeball?

R: Teeball is a simpler form of baseball. Instead of having a pitcher, you have a ball sitting on a large tee.

M: Aha. Yes, they do that...small children do that in America. I didn't know that it was considered a real sport. I thought it was just a way of teaching children how to play baseball.

R: We played it as children. I think up to the age of ten or eleven, instead of baseball.

J: Alex?

A: *Umm*, at school we also played hockey in the winter. It was very competitive, and they have hard sticks, which hurt when they hit your ankles. *Umm* in the summer we did tennis and athletics. I used to like the high jump, because I could jump high. We did lots of different things, really, something different every term.

G: Oooh, what technique did you use for the high jump? Did you use "the Flosbury flop", or "straddle" or the scissors"... or "the just launch yourself over the bar and hope" technique?

A: I think it was the flop one, where you land on your back.

G: Yes.

A: At least I tried to do that, and never really succeeded.

M: Does anyone prefer watching sport to playing it?

G: It would depend on the sport.

M: For example?

G: Well, rugby is very painful so I like to watch it, whereas football is very boring to watch but fun to play so I select one or the other, but I like both I have to say, after all. What about you?

M: I enjoy playing football and playing hockey, and I also enjoy watching them as well.

J: So, you're both mentioning football and hockey, Gareth, in England, do you think one of those sports is the most popular sport in the country?

G: Oh well, ice hockey we hardly play at all, I mean it's very much a minority sport, but football's probably the most popular real sport in terms of both watching and playing in the UK. So football is what we tend to watch most of all.