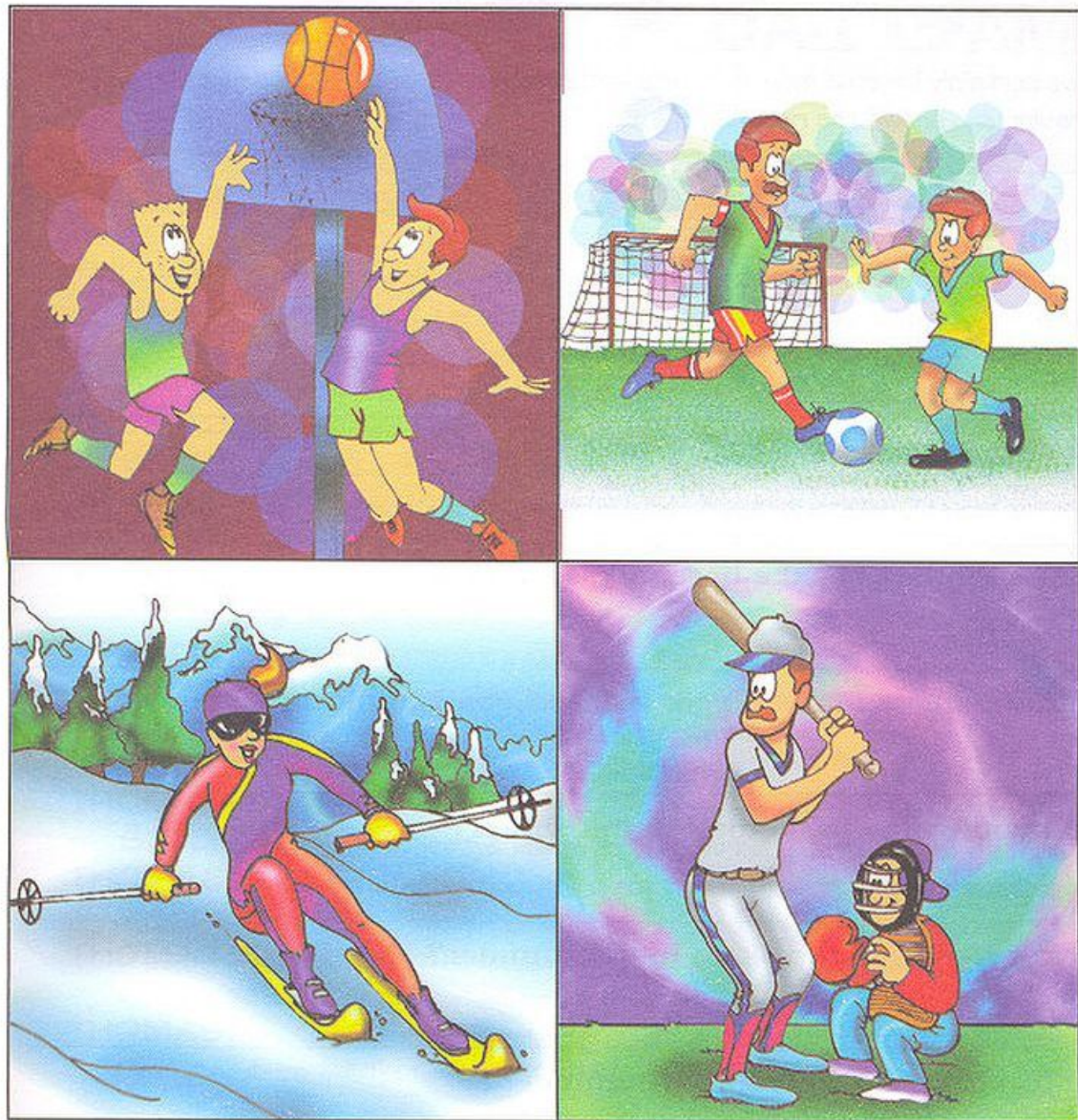


SPORTS

18
Lesson
eighteenEighteenth (18th)
Lesson

Baseball is a favorite sport in the United States. Little boys play baseball in parks, empty lots, streets and alleys. Soccer, on the other hand, is preferred by most people in Europe and in most Latin American countries.

Officially, the baseball season is from April to September. At the end of the season the two teams play against each other to find the winner of the "World Series". Excitement and tension rise in cities all over the country. Fans make long trips to watch the games and to shout from their seats in the bleachers.

American football which begins its season in autumn, attracts greater crowds at each game than basketball. There are many huge stadiums throughout the country, some seating 100,000 or more.



Basketball season follows football season. The game was invented in the United States, to provide an indoor game that could be played in the evening and during the winter. Its fast plays and high scores make it a fascinating game to play and watch.

Just in recent years, winter sports have become extremely popular. Cities have ice-skating rinks where skaters can practice all year round when the ponds are no longer frozen. Ski resorts have become a thriving business, and ski lifts, once a real novelty, are springing up on slopes all over the northern part of the U.S., wherever snow can be expected.

Americans have certainly become more sports oriented in recent years and the increased sale of sports equipment shows the rising interest.

■ ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



1. What's the "World Series"?

2. Where is soccer played?

3. How many months does the baseball season last?

4. Why are football stadiums bigger than baseball stadiums?

5. Why can people play basketball in the winter?

6. What makes it possible to skate in the summer?

7. Does the football season begin in summer?

8. Where was basketball invented?

9. Why was it invented?

10. Why is basketball fascinating to watch?



PART II



DIALOGUE

GOING TO A BALL GAME



MR. THOMAS STEPHENSON TAKES HIS DAUGHTER, SALLY, TO A BASEBALL GAME.

THOMAS: Will you hurry up Sally? The game has already started.

SALLY: It's not my fault if we're late. It took you a long time to park the car.

THOMAS: O.K. Let's hurry, our seats are over there.

SALLY: You know I can't sit in the sun. It isn't very good for my complexion.

THOMAS: You won't have to sit in the sun. Our seats are in the grandstand.

SALLY: Are the bleachers numbered?

THOMAS: Yes, they are. Hey, look at those two seats behind home plate.

SALLY: Well, here we are. I hope you will tell me about the game.

THOMAS: Sure. Good heavens! They've already been playing for over twenty minutes.
The Yankees scored two runs in the second inning.

SALLY: There are nine innings in a game, aren't there?

THOMAS: That's right. Except when the score is tied after completing the ninth inning.
Then they play extra innings until the tie is broken.

SALLY: Who's that man getting ready to throw the ball?

THOMAS: That's the pitcher.

SALLY: And I suppose the player who will try to hit the ball is the batter, isn't that right?

THOMAS: Oh, you seem to know much more about baseball than I imagined. Look... the pitcher has thrown the ball.

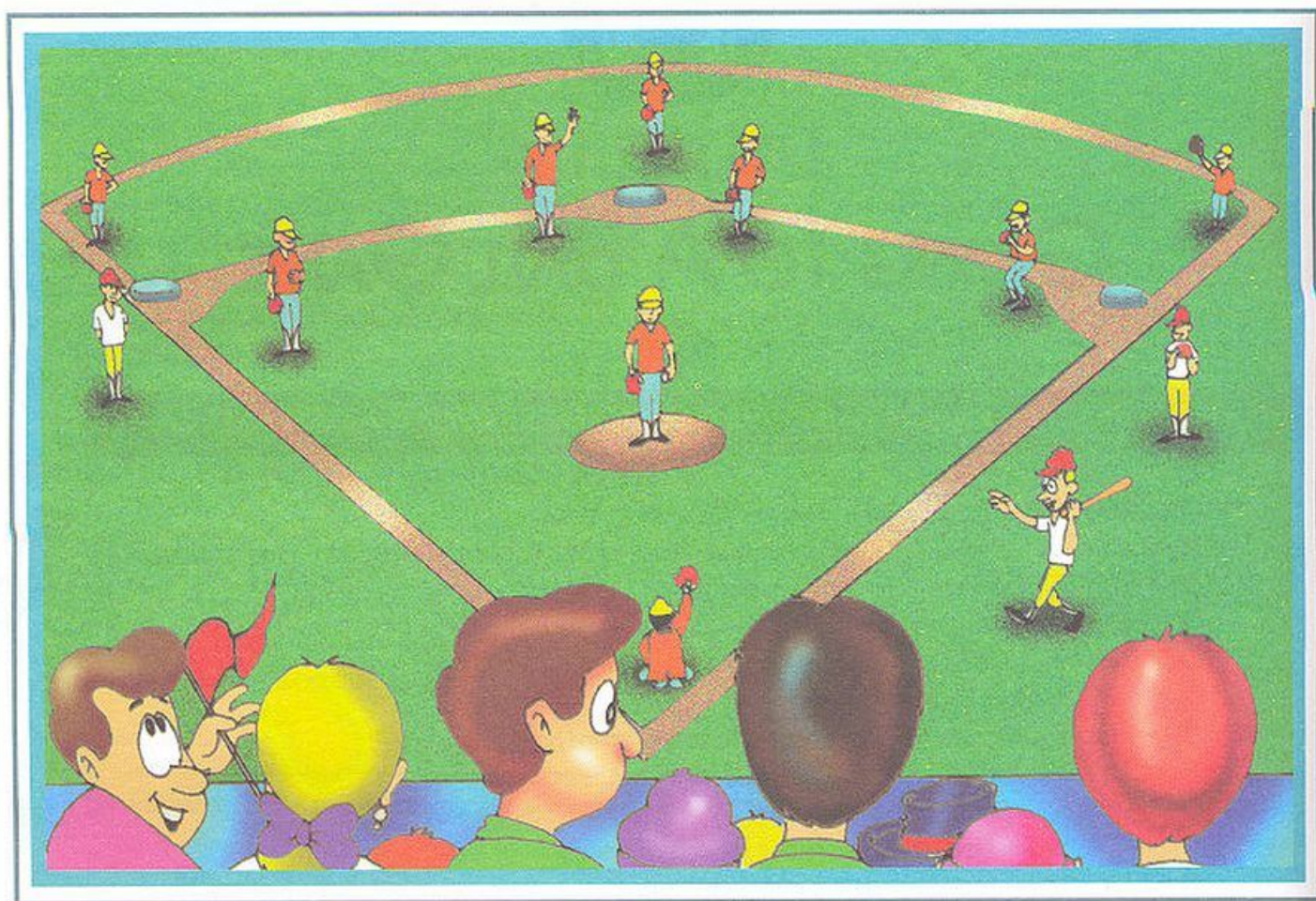
SALLY: And the batter has missed it. That man dressed in blue and wearing a mask has just shouted, "strike!"

THOMAS: That's the umpire. He decides whether the pitcher has thrown a ball or a strike.

SALLY: He must be an important person.

THOMAS: Yes. Though some fans wouldn't agree with you, especially when his decision goes against their favorite team. Well, The Yankees beat the Red Sox two to nothing.





■ ANSWER:



1. Did they get to the game late?

2. What's the relationship between Mr. Stephenson and the girl?

3. Where are they going to sit?

4. What happens when the score is tied after finishing the ninth inning?

5. Why do some fans, occasionally, hate the umpire?



■ GIVE YOUR OWN ANSWER:



1. Do you practice any sports?

2. If yes, which one?

3. Which sport would you like to begin practicing?

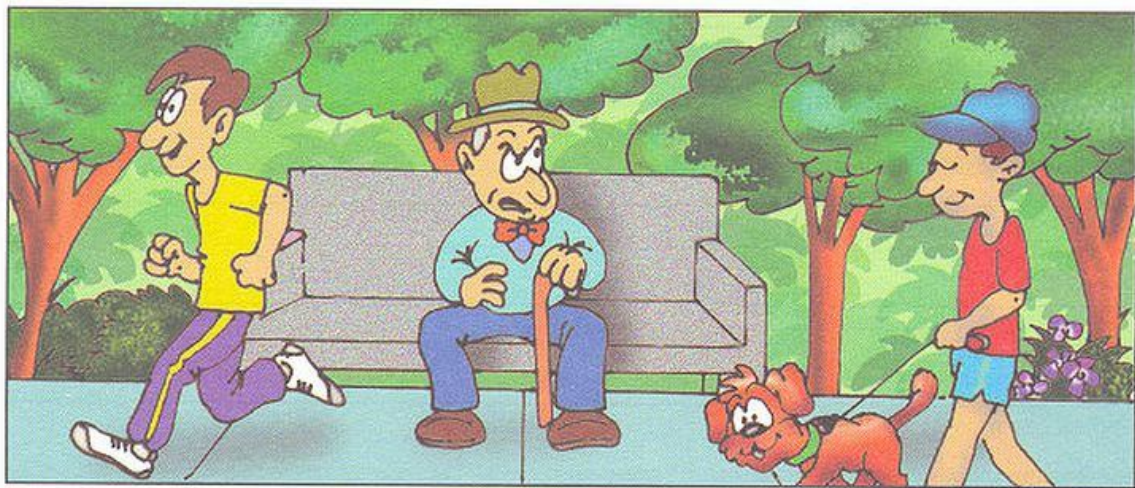
4. In your opinion is it necessary to practice some kind of sport?
Why/Why not?

5. In your country, which sport is the most popular?



■ OBSERVE.

■ FUNCTION: COMPLAINING



I HATE... ————— **DON'T YOU JUST HATE...?**

I DON'T LIKE... ————— **I CAN'T STAND..., CAN YOU?**

I'M TIRED OF... ————— **I'M FED UP WITH...**

I DON'T FEEL... ————— **I'M DISAPPOINTED WITH THE WAY YOU BEHAVE...**

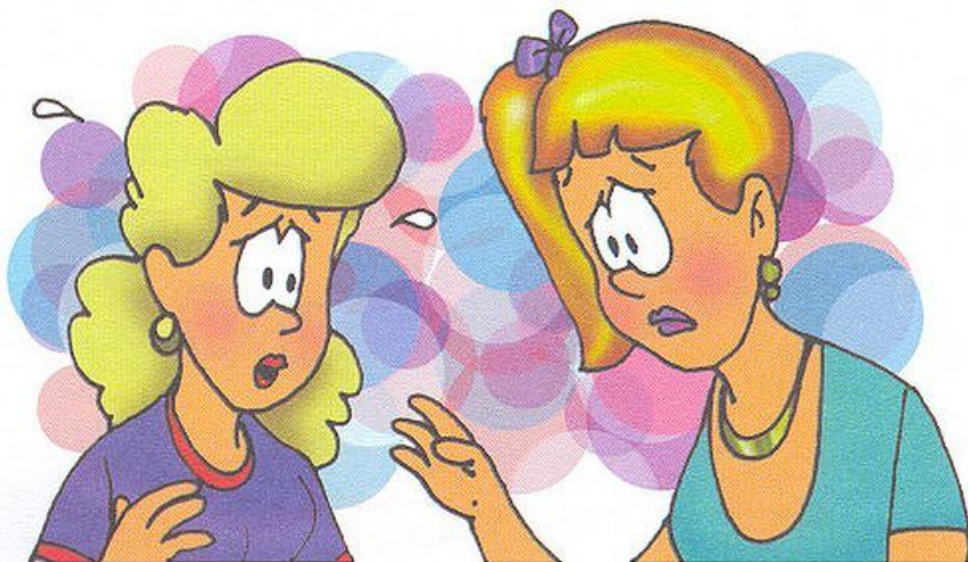


■ WRITE A DIALOGUE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING SITUATION



■ LISTEN AND READ.

You have been sick lately, you dislike your job, and the person you are in love with is dating someone else. Write a dialogue in which you talk to your best friend about your problems. You can use the expressions given above or any other ones you wish.





vocabulary

■ WRITE A SHORT ESSAY USING THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

**ALLEY, FANS, SHOUT, BLEACHERS, CROWDS,
HUGE, SCORE, COMPLEXION,
GRANDSTAND, TIED**

