

1

Sport with a difference

- * Relative clauses: review
- * Relative clauses with *which*
- * Vocabulary: sports

1 Read and listen

a Which of these words refer to boxing? Which of them refer to chess? Which of them refer to both? Write each word in the correct column.

queen gloves ring board round referee checkmate

boxing	chess	both
.....
.....
.....

b Read the text quickly to find answers to these questions.

- 1 What is chessboxing?
- 2 What nationality is the first chessboxing world champion?



Is it chess? Or is it boxing?

It's fight night in a Berlin club. The lights go down, the door opens and out walks a salesman from San Francisco. David 'Double D' Depto has travelled 8,000 kilometres in search of glory. As he first walks, then jogs, towards the boxing ring, the muscular, bare-chested American looks cool and confident. But so does his opponent. Waiting for him in the blue corner is Frank Stoldt, a tall, strong German policeman, who calls himself 'Anti-Terror Frank'. For obvious reasons, the crowd is on his side.

The bell rings. Round one! The fighters come out. But then, something rather strange happens. The two players sit down at a table which has a chessboard on it and start playing chess – in the middle of the boxing ring.

'Why?' you may ask yourself. Well, this is chessboxing, and tonight is the final of the first chessboxing World Championship.

The rules of a chessboxing match are simple. There is one round of chess and then one round of boxing. Punching power alternates with brain power. (And if you're wondering how they can move the pieces with their boxing gloves on, well, they take them off before the rounds of chess.) All in all, you have 11 rounds in which to checkmate your opponent – or knock him out.

Two sports in one means double the pain, and double the pressure. Before this big fight, Frank spent hours doing exercises that prepared his mind as well as his muscles. Winners in chessboxing are people whose

mental strength equals their physical strength.

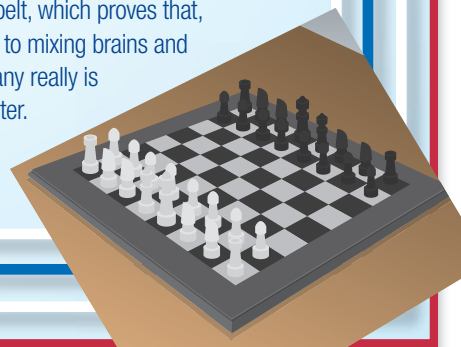
But why do it in the first place? Why put yourself through this physical and mental torture? For David Depto, it's all about proving that you can be a boxer and still have a brain.

'Everybody thinks that boxers aren't very clever, which isn't necessarily true,' says David. 'When you combine chess and boxing, it shows that fighters can be smart people, and that smart people can be tough.'

The sport has taken off in Germany, where they are preparing the next generation of chessboxing champions. It's even being taught in a Berlin school. 'My mum said I should learn boxing for self-defence,' a ten-year-old pupil says. 'I just love the way you can combine it with chess.'

Back in the ring, it is round seven and the players are locked in battle around the chessboard, sweat pouring from their foreheads. Suddenly, Frank Stoldt sees an opening and moves in to finish the match. Queen to G7... checkmate!

The referee stops the match, the crowd erupts – the local hero has won and is given the world title belt, which proves that, when it comes to mixing brains and muscle, Germany really is the Grand Master.



c ▶ **CD1 T06** Read the text again and listen. Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is it 'obvious' that the crowd wants Frank Stoldt to win?
- 2 What are the two ways in which a match can finish?
- 3 How can chessboxing change some people's opinions, according to David Depto?
- 4 How did Stoldt win the match to become champion?

2 Grammar

* Relative clauses: review

a Use the text in Exercise 1 to complete these sentences.

- 1 He is a tall, strong German policeman, who calls himself 'Anti-Terror Frank'.
- 2 They sit down at a table has a chessboard on it.
- 3 Frank spent hours doing exercises prepare his mind as well as his muscles.
- 4 Winners in chessboxing are people mental strength equals their physical strength.
- 5 The sport has taken off in Germany, they are preparing the next generation of champions.

b Complete the rule.

RULE: We use to refer to people.
 We use or to refer to things.
 We use to refer to places.
 We use to refer to possession.

c Mark the sentences *D* or *A*.

D = the underlined part gives defining, important information about the person or thing(s).

A = the underlined part gives additional information about the person or thing(s).

- 1 One of the best fighters is David Depto, who comes from San Francisco. ..*A*..
- 2 There are more and more people who are interested in watching chessboxing.
- 3 There are schools in Germany that prepare kids to become chessboxers.
- 4 Chessboxing, which is a mixture of chess and boxing, is growing in popularity.
- 5 Frank Stoldt, whose nickname is 'Anti-Terror Frank', comes from Germany.

Discussion box

Think of two other sports that could be combined to create a new sport, and explain how it would work.

3 Grammar

* Relative clauses with *which*

a Look at the examples. What does *which* refer to in these two sentences?

- 1 Everybody thinks that boxers aren't very clever, which isn't necessarily true.
- 2 He won the world championship, which proves that he's a great fighter.

b Complete the rule. Write *which* and *that*.

RULE: The pronoun normally refers to a noun, but it can sometimes refer to the whole of a previous clause.
What, and *who* cannot be used in this way.
Frank won the match, which made his fans very happy.
 NOT *Frank won the match, what made his fans very happy.*

c Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use *which*.

- 1 People sometimes get badly hurt in boxing. That makes it a controversial sport.
 People sometimes get badly hurt in boxing,... which makes it a controversial sport.
- 2 You need to be mentally and physically tough. This is why you need to prepare well.
 You need to be to prepare well.
- 3 It is terrible that some people have been killed in boxing matches.
 Some people terrible.
- 4 Chess is quite a complicated game. This means players have to concentrate a lot.
 Chess concentrate a lot.
- 5 It is quite strange that two men sit in a boxing ring and play chess.
 Two men sit quite strange.
- 6 The fact that chessboxing is becoming more popular means that we might start to see it on TV soon.
 Chessboxing is becoming to see it on TV soon.

4 Speak and listen

- a** Look at the pictures and say what the sports are. Then put them into three categories. Write the numbers in the boxes.

1 = have tried 2 = have never tried but would like to try 3 = have never tried and wouldn't like to try



- b** What other sports can you add to each category?

- c** Work in pairs. Discuss your categories and give reasons for your choices.

- d** You are going to hear about two sportswomen: Fabiola da Silva (inline skater) and Allison Fisher (snooker and pool player). Try to guess who says the sentences.

- 1 'Being a girl just didn't seem to matter.'
- 2 'Back in those days, there weren't so many girls skating, and the skaters I really admired were men.'
- 3 'There was talk about me competing against the men and that created a lot of attention.'
- 4 'I didn't know the game of pool, but I thought: how hard can it be?'
- 5 'I keep pushing the limits, you know.'
- 6 'I have my bad days, too.'

- e** ▶ **CD1 T07** Listen and check your answers.

- f** ▶ **CD1 T07** Listen to the first part (about Allison Fisher) again and answer the questions.

- 1 How old was she when she started playing snooker? And when she became the number one player?
- 2 Why did she move to the USA?
- 3 How successful was she as a pool player in the USA?



- g** ▶ **CD1 T07** Listen to the second part (about Fabiola da Silva) again and answer the questions.

- 1 How old was she when she started skating? And when she turned professional?
- 2 Why did she become famous?
- 3 Why does she think she does well in competitions?



Discussion box

- 1 Do you know of any women who made it or tried to make it in a male sport?
- 2 Do you think women and men should be allowed to compete in the same sports? Give your reasons.

5 Vocabulary and speaking
*** Sports**

a Read the texts. What sports are the people talking about? Choose from the sports in the table in Exercise 5c.

- 'The sea was really rough and the waves were huge. I got knocked off my board a few times but it was great.' *surfing.*
- 'I took the ball past three of their defenders and then kicked it into the back of the net. All my team-mates ran across the pitch to celebrate with me. What a goal.'
- 'I love going down to the local rink to watch a game. The way those men move so quickly across the ice on their skates. And the control they have of the puck with their sticks. It's amazing.'
- 'His glove hit me really hard in the face. I'm glad I was wearing a helmet. They had to carry me out of the ring.'
- 'He hit the ball into the net. He was so angry that he threw his racket on the ground. All around the court the spectators started booing him.'
- 'It's my favourite sport. All you need is a cap, a costume and some goggles. There's a really good pool just down the road from my house. I go every day. It's great exercise.'

b ▶ **CD1 T08** Listen and check your answers.

c Read the texts again and complete the table.

	equipment needed	place where it is done
tennis	<i>ball.</i>
football
ice hockey
boxing
surfing
swimming

d Work in pairs. Take turns to choose a sport. Your partner has five *yes/no* questions to guess it.
Do you need a ball? Is it a team sport? Do you play it inside?

e Complete the questions with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

win score get sent off
 draw beat lose

- Do you think it's silly that people get upset when their team *loses* a match?
- Have you ever a medal or a cup in a sport?
- How would you feel if your best friend you in a race?
- What do you think of footballers' celebrations after they a goal?
- How do you think players feel when they by the referee?
- In some sports (like basketball and baseball), it is impossible to – one team must win. Do you think all sports should have this rule?

f Work in groups. Discuss the questions above.

Get it right! Turn to page 118.

6 Pronunciation
*** Intonation in questions**

▶ **CD1 T09** Turn to page 110.



Culture in mind

7 Read and listen

a Read the text quickly and find out:

- 1 where sand boarding is popular.
- 2 which sport you can do in lots of different settings.

Weird sports from around the world

You might be surprised at the number of rather unusual sports that exist around the world. Mostly, they are little known outside the areas where they were invented – though occasionally they have gained international recognition. Here are some examples – but, if you're interested, have a look on the web. You may find other, even crazier, ones!

Sandboarding

Of course there can't be many people who don't know what snowboarding is, but how about sandboarding? The basic principle behind the two sports is the same; start at the top of a slope and use a board to get you to the bottom. But whereas snowboarding is practised on freezing cold snowy mountain tops, sandboarding takes place on sand dunes by sunny beaches or in the desert. It's popular in many countries, including Australia, Namibia and South Africa.

The quickest way of getting to the bottom involves standing with both feet on a board and weaving from side to side while trying not to fall off. If this sounds a little bit adventurous you could always just get on your stomach and slide down. Either way, it's a lot of fun! However, don't forget to keep your mouth closed.

Extreme ironing

Extreme ironing is called an extreme sport by some and a performance art by others. It's all about taking an ironing board to a remote location, where you then proceed to iron your clothes! According to the official website, extreme ironing is 'the latest danger sport that combines the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt'.

Part of the attention this has attracted in the media is to do with the issue of whether it is really a sport or not, and it is often not taken so seriously. Some locations where such performances have taken place include on a mountainside, in a forest, in a canoe, on a ski slope (while skiing), underwater, in mid-air (while parachuting) and under the ice on a frozen lake!

Wife-carrying

This sport was inspired by an ancient Finnish tradition in which a man courted a woman by running to her village, picking her up and carrying her away. In the modern sporting version, the man has to carry the woman along an obstacle course without her feet touching the floor. There is a clear set of rules. The track has to be 253.5 metres long and have one water and two dry obstacles. There are several ways of carrying the woman, including piggyback, fireman's lift (over the shoulder) or Estonian-style (the wife hangs upside down with her legs around the husband's shoulders and holds onto his waist). Whoever completes the course in the fastest time wins the trophy (but not necessarily a wife these days!).

b ▶ **CD1 T10** Read the text again and listen. Answer the questions.

- 1 What do the sports described here all have in common?
- 2 Which of the sports can't you do on your own?
- 3 There are two different techniques mentioned for one sport and three for another. What are they?
- 4 Which of the sports mentioned here is seen by some people as a type of theatre rather than a sport?

Discussion box

- 1 Which of these sports would you like to try most? Give your reasons.
- 2 What other unusual sports have you heard of? Have you tried any of them?
- 3 Invent a crazy sport for a competition organised by a big national newspaper. Discuss what the rules are and how to play it.

8 Write

a Read the composition quickly. Do you think the text was written by a girl or a boy? Give your reasons.

What I think of boxing as a sport

Boxing is a popular sport that many people seem to be fascinated by. Newspapers, magazines and sports programmes on TV frequently cover boxing matches. Professional boxers earn a lot of money, and successful boxers are treated as huge heroes.

It seems to me that some people, especially men, find it appealing because it is an aggressive sport. When they watch a boxing match, they can identify with the winning boxer, and this gives them the feeling of being a winner themselves. Sometimes fans are rooting for a particular boxer, ¹ because the boxer comes from their own country, and if 'their' boxer loses, they often feel as if they have lost a fight themselves. It is a fact that many people have feelings of aggression from time to time, but they cannot show their aggression in their everyday lives. Watching a boxing match gives them an outlet for this aggression.

², there is a negative side to boxing. It can be a very dangerous sport. Although boxers wear gloves during the fights, and amateur boxers even have to wear helmets, there have frequently been accidents in both professional and amateur boxing, sometimes with dramatic consequences. Boxers have suffered head injuries and, occasionally, fighters have even been killed as a result of being knocked out in the ring. ³, studies have shown that there are often long-term effects from boxing in the form of serious brain damage, even if a boxer has never been knocked out.

⁴, I am personally not at all in favour of aggressive sports like boxing. I think it would be better if less time was given to aggressive sports on TV, and we celebrated more men and women from non-aggressive sports as heroes and heroines in our society. I believe that the world is aggressive enough already! Of course, people like competitive sports, and so do I, but I think that hitting other people is not something that should be regarded as a sport.

b Read the composition again and complete it with the words in the box.

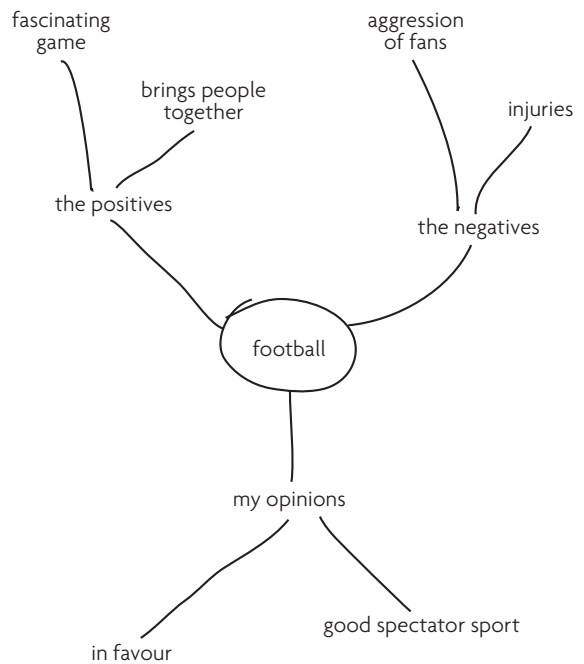
to conclude moreover however
 for example

c What is the purpose of each paragraph? Write A–D in the boxes.

- A the writer's conclusion
- B positive points
- C introducing the topic
- D negative points

d Write your own composition on a different sport. Use the steps below to help you.

- Think about the topic. Note down your ideas in a mind map.



- Organise your ideas to fit into four paragraphs:
 Paragraph 1: introduce the topic
 Paragraph 2: positive points
 Paragraph 3: negative points
 Paragraph 4: your conclusion
- Write your composition. Use your notes to help you.
- If possible, have a break. Then check your writing and try to improve it, if you can.

For your portfolio