Vocabulary 2: **SPORTS**

**Values**

loyalty, honesty, friendship, team spirit, fair play, respect, cooperation, self-control, equality, perseverance

**Problems**

injuries, doping (usually illegal substances for improving performance), cheating, violence (hooliganism)

**Qualities**

physically fit, competitive, co-operative, determined, dedicated, courageous, brave, careful, accurate, graceful, talented, good stamina, disciplined

**Results** **and scores**

winner, runner-up, champion, to win a medal/a trophy/the cup/a race, to beat your opponent, to come first, to finish in the second place, to break the record, to take the lead

**Equipment**

ball, puck, racquet, stick, bat, club, paddle, gloves, board, saddle, pads, (knee-pad, wetsuit, shoulder-pad), jersey, strip, oar

**Sports locations**

court, rink, table, course, pitch, track, ring, field, pool, stadium, gym

**Phrasal verbs**

to work out, to work off, to kick off, to knock out, to go for, to take up, to give in, to pull ahead, to join in, to warm up, to carry on, to pull out, to try out for, to pass out, to give up

PLAY + team sports/ball sports

GO + -ing sports

DO + other sports

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” (Tim Notke)

* There are plenty of talented people in the world. As you already know, talent is not enough. Some of the athletes with the most potential never pan out. What separates the good from the great is determination and work ethic.

Writing a ‘for and against’ essay

* *Write a ‘for and against’ essay of about 300-350 words on the following topic: The importance of sport is overrated.*

TIPS

* Pay attention to the format:
* The introduction should introduce the topic to be discussed clearly, in your own words, in such a way to emphasize both the pluses and the minuses.
* The main body deals with arguments in favor and against the topic issue, organized in logical paragraphing.
* The conclusion should come as a personal opinion after writing the whole essay in an objective manner, so that it offers a balanced view of the topic.
* Formal register.
* Use connectors to link both sentences and paragraphs in a coherent way, such as: *on the one hand, on the other hand, first of all, secondly, in conclusion, therefore, this is why, on the contrary, consequently,* etc.
* Every paragraph should deal with one idea only that is to be presented in a topic sentence at the beginning of the paragraph. + relevant explanations and examples!
* The tense most often used is present simple, but if there is a transforming process, you should use present continuous, and if you want to give an example from your personal history, use past simple and mention the time when the event took place.
* Identify the key words and what you are expected to write:

*importance of sport* = vocabulary related to different sports, health, reasons why sport is important

*is overrated* = reasons why the issue of sport may be controversial

* Before you start writing your essay, make a two-column list of the ‘for and against’ issues you have in mind.
* If you are more ‘for’ or more ‘against’, you should include these ideas in the leading paragraphs as well as restate them in the conclusion, for a stronger effect upon the reader.

Suggested answer

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| *Introducing the topic and the balance of viewpoints*  *Advantages (1)*  *Advantages (2)*  *Disadvantages (1)*  *Disadvantages (2)*  *Disadvantages (3)*  *Conclusion and your personal point of view* | More and more importance is given to sport nowadays, either as a career, a show or the personal deal to stay fit. But I think that too much focus can become negative, this is why people should be aware of both its advantages and disadvantages.  On the one hand, sport is definitely important for our general health and well-being. Nothing can make one feel more relaxed and fit for both work and living a happy life than a daily sport break.  Secondly, sport is a way for people to socialize and learn what team spirit and fair play are. Not only are these essential in everyday life, but at the workplace and in shaping one’s character as well. Not to mention the supportive effect it has on lonely, shy and isolated people.  On the other hand, all the advantages of sport can be shadowed by a strong use or an overuse of these activities. Firstly, there are many people who cannot sustain a routine of doing sport if they start under the pressure of losing weight, as the moment they stop it the effect on their health and look is much worse than before. It is not the sport that is responsible for the negative effect, but the exaggerated focus on it.  Another problem is the ever increasing importance given to attending sport events and games, which transformed many of them into a business. It is not the performance that matters any longer, but the show for the fans and the betting industry created around them.  In the end, it is worth mentioning that lonely, isolated people who could benefit from being part of a group sharing the same passion for sport tend to become addicted to it. Not only are they in danger of perceiving themselves solely to their belonging to this group, but also of losing their freedom and fortune as a result of continual betting.  In conclusion, I personally think that all things should be dealt with patience, moderation and a sense of balance, even more so when sport is involved. | *Modal verbs*  *Various connectors*  *A wide range of adjectival constructions*  *Passive voice*  *Gerundial constructions* |

* Write a ‘for and against’ essay of about 200 words on the following topic:

*Competitive games are good for children.*

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| *Introducing the topic and balance of viewpoints*  *Advantages (1)*  *Disadvantages (1)*  *Disadvantages (2)*  *Conclusion and the personal point of view* | It is already common knowledge that playing is the most important way for children to learn about life and themselves. It is not true only for human beings, but for all animals’ babies that learn in the same manner. What is a matter of controversy is whether competition is as important for people as it is for animals.  An argument in favor of competition is that people get into a competitive life as soon as their career becomes an issue. Consequently, children should get accustomed to fighting for the first place since they are young.  On the other hand, while in the animal world being competitive is a matter of surviving – as the weak get annihilated by the strong, in what people are concerned, the moral side of our human essence teaches us the contrary. We learn to protect the weak ones and show care, empathy, even sacrifice, and these are traits that require an extremely long and difficult process to form and develop.  Another argument against competitive games is children’s sensitivity and the way it affects them for their entire life. Competition implies a winner and a loser, so either way this will affect the future adult in a negative way.  In conclusion, children should get involved in competitive games at ages when they can handle their emotions. | *Various ways to connect ideas and sentences*  *Modal verbs*  *Gerundial constructions* |