Unit 6: Competitive sport

**A ‣ Winning and losing**

In football, you can talk about the **score**[the number of goals a team has] like this:  
Spain played Poland and they **won**the game. = Poland **lost**the game.  
Spain **won**2–0 (spoken as *two****nil***). = Poland **lost**2–0.  
Spain **beat**Poland (2–0). (NOT Spain ~~won~~ Poland.) = Poland **lost**(2–0) **to**Spain.  
Spain **defeated**Poland (2–0). = Poland **were defeated**(2–0) **by**Spain.  
Spain and Italy **drew**1–1 (spoken as ***one all***) OR It was **a**1–1 **draw between** Spain and Italy.

Language help

The **score**at the end of a game is also the **result**.

*The final score/result was 2–0.*  
*The score at half-time was 1–0.* (NOT The ~~result~~ at half-time was 1–0.)

**B ‣ Competitions**

A **competition**is an organised event in which people try to win something by being the best, the fastest, etc. **Individuals**, such as tennis players Serena Williams or Rafael Nadal, and **teams**such as Manchester United, **take part in** [join with others in] different types of competition. Tennis players and golfers enter **tournaments**such as the French Open; football and ice hockey teams play in **league**competitions, where they **play against** different teams. Many teams also play in **cup**competitions (similar to tournaments), e.g. the FA Cup or the World Cup, which ends with two teams playing against each other in a **final**. The **winners**(*opp*the **losers**) are the **champions**, e.g. Germany became World Cup champions in 2014, and Philipp Lahm received the cup as **captain** of the winning team.

**C ‣ Reporting sports events**



**ONE INCREDIBLE RACE**

In one of the most **incredible races** of all time, Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt won the 100 metres final at the 2016 Olympics. Although Bolt did not **break**his own world **record**1 of 9.69 seconds, he achieved a great **victory**2 running an **outstanding**time of 9.81 seconds. Usain Bolt has now won three gold medals in three consecutive Olympic Games, also known as the ‘triple triple’.

**Another win for Kim Clijsters**  
Kim Clijsters won the women’s US Open last night for the second time. She first won the **championship**3 in 2005, but **gave up**4 tennis in 2007 to have a baby. She returned in 2009, and is the first mother to win a grand slam for 29 years.

**Canadian Grand Prix**  
There was a **superb**race for the Canadian Grand Prix. The **winner**5, Lewis Hamilton, passed Sebastian Vettel and won by five seconds. But Nico Rosberg now **leads**6 the drivers championship with 107 points.

1run faster than anyone in the world before  
2the time when you win a game or a competition  
3an important competition to decide who is the best  
4stopped playing  
5the person who wins  
6is in front of others during a competition, e.g. At half-time, Milan are leading 1–0.

Language help

**Superb, incredible** and **out standing** can describe something or someone that is very good and of a very high quality, e.g. *Pelé was a****superb****footballer.*

**VOCABULARY**

* + **against [compete]**
  + **beat**
  + **break a record**
  + **captain**
  + **century**
  + **champion**
  + **championship**
  + **competition**
  + **defeat n, v**
  + **draw (a game) n, v**
  + **final n**
  + **for fun**
  + **give up (sth) [stop doing an activity]**
  + **incredible**
  + **individual**
  + **lead [be in front]**
  + **league**
  + **lose (a game)**
  + **loser**
  + **nil**
  + **outstanding**
  + **play against sb**
  + **race n**
  + **record n**
  + **result [in a competition]**
  + **superb**
  + **take part**
  + **team**
  + **tournament**
  + **victory**
  + **win**
  + **winner**

**Exercises**

**42.1 ‣ Complete the verb forms with the correct past tense and past participle.**

* + win /  / 
  + lose /  / 
  + beat /  / 
  + draw /  / 
  + break /  / 
  + give up /  / 

**42.2 ‣ Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Sometimes both are correct.**

* + It was a fantastic *victory / defeat* for the team. 
  + Lionel Messi was *outstanding / incredible* for Barcelona. 
  + At half-time in the game, the *score / result* is 1–0 to Arsenal. 
  + The French Open is a famous tennis *cup / tournament*. 
  + Croatia *beat / defeated* Germany 3–2. 
  + We *won / beat* the other team 4–1. 
  + The UEFA Cup is a great *competition / league*. 

**42.3 ‣ Complete the sentences.**

* + It was a good game but unfortunately we  3–2.
  + The  at half-time was 2–1, but the final  was a draw.
  + Holland  England 2–1, so they are in the semi-final.
  + Brazil  1–1 with Argentina last night.
  + Serena Williams has won the Wimbledon  at least six times.
  + Carolina Kluft broke the heptathlon world  again last night.
  + There are 20 teams in the , and each team plays the other teams twice.
  + Bradley Wiggins  part in the Tour de France in 2009 and finished fourth.
  + I think Novak Djokovic is going to win. He’s  5–2 in the final set.
  + Argentina are playing  Brazil next week.

**42.4 ‣**

Over to you

**Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.**

* + Have you ever taken part in a sports competition?
  + Have you ever won anything?
  + Have you ever been captain of a team?
  + Have you ever come first, second or third in a race?
  + Have you ever watched an individual or team in a final, at the game or on television?