

# Sportsmanship

**SPORTSMANSHIP** means to play fair, show respect for opponents, and behave courteously whether winning or losing.

## LESSON 1

Read the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Explain that sportsmanship applies to all contests and games, whether on a sporting field, in class, or at home. Ask students to identify how to show good sportsmanship in class competitions and discuss their ideas. As time allows, divide the class into two teams and play a game such as Hangman (using vocabulary words) or Pictionary (using verbs or nouns) to allow students to practice being good sports. Look for opportunities to reinforce good behavior, by praising students for taking turns, playing fairly, not arguing, etc.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to play a game together with a family member and practice being good sports.*

## LESSON 2

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Draw a T-chart on the board by drawing a lowercase “t” and writing **Poor Sportsmanship** on the left side and **Good Sportsmanship** on the right. Ask students if they have ever experienced or been around people who showed poor sportsmanship. Have students describe what poor sportsmanship “looked like” and how it made them feel. List their ideas under the Poor Sportsmanship heading. Examples include: bragging after a good play, cheating, making excuses, blaming others, criticizing, arguing, etc. Then ask students to give suggestions of how to show good sportsmanship and list those ideas under the heading Good Sportsmanship. Examples include: congratulating opponents for a good play, not bragging or gloating, encouraging each other, etc. Compare and contrast the two sides.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to talk with a family member about how to avoid acting like a poor sport.*

## LESSON 3

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Explain that encouraging others is an important part of sportsmanship. Read: **No one should ever feel belittled during a game of any kind. Games and sports are about having fun. You can’t win every game, but you can have fun trying every time. So let’s have fun!** Divide the class into two groups and have them line up in the back of the classroom. Explain that when you say a word from their spelling list, the first student in each group is to “race” (fast walking, no running) to the chalkboard and write the word. The first person to correctly spell the word gets a point for their team. Reinforce good sportsmanship by awarding additional points for students who show good behavior. Points could be added for any good conduct, including taking turns, cheering on teammates, patting a teammate on the back, saying “nice try,” consoling a teammate who did not win, and just having fun playing the game.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to talk with a family member about how to be a good sport whether winning or losing.*

## LESSON 4

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Tell students to take out a blank sheet of paper for a “Sportsmanship Test”. Tell students not to write their names on the paper. Instruct students to listen as you read eight sentences. If the sentence describes their behavior, they are to write a plus (+) on their paper. If not, they are to write a minus (-). Read: **1) I listen to the rules of the game. 2) I do not get involved in arguments. 3) I do not pout when I make a mistake. 4) I do not brag when I win. 5) I play fair. 6) I share responsibilities with my team members. 7) I show respect to the other team. 8) I do not make excuses if I lose.** Have students add their “+” signs. Explain that a perfect “good sport” score is eight out of eight. Encourage students to keep improving in the areas where they recorded a minus sign. As time allows, invite students to share a time when they witnessed good sportsmanship.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to share their “Sportsmanship Test” with a family member.*

## LESSON 5

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Write on the board: **Good sports are winners, even before the game begins. Ask: Do you think this statement is true? Why or why not.** (Allow time for discussion) Ask students to identify characteristics of good sportsmanship. Examples include: encourage others regardless of their skill level, have fun, follow the rules, be considerate, respect coaches and teammates, exercise self-control, etc. As time allows, have students draw a sportsmanship trophy on a sheet of paper and write a complete sentence stating one characteristic of good sportsmanship on their picture.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to make a sportsmanship trophy at home with a family member.*