

## Year 5

# Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 3

## Vocabulary 2a

Other women's sports have also grown to become major spectator sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964. Women's basketball followed in 1976. In 1996, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) was set up. Other professional women's sports leagues had existed in the past, but none lasted. The WNBA survived early struggles to break that trend. In 2013, the league had 12 teams spread across the United States. The WNBA relied heavily on the NBA for support in its early years, but in 2013, six of the 12 WNBA teams were independently owned.

Individual women's sports have seen progress as well. Women have long competed in four Grand Slam events in tennis: the Australian Open, French Open, US Open and Wimbledon. The US Open began offering equal prize money to the men's and women's singles champion in 1973. When Wimbledon did the same in 2007, all four Grand Slams had equal prize money.

The efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have had setbacks, though. Many women's professional leagues have tried and failed – usually because they ran out of money. The National Women's Football League debuted in the United States in 2013. It was the third attempt at a professional women's football league in the country in 12 years.

In addition, women shone at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, which were the first in which each country sent at least one female athlete. In fact, women made up 44 per cent of all Olympians in 2012. By comparison, women made up just 24 per cent of Olympians in 1984.

However, more work needs to be done according to women's sports advocates. In some countries, women are still banned or shunned from playing sports. In addition, male athletes around the world are often treated better than female athletes. For example, Japan's men's football team flew in business class to England for the 2012 Olympics. But that country's female team, which ended up winning a silver medal at the Games, had to sit in economy class on the same flight.

Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s. World championship and professional opportunities exist in many women's sports. Groups such as The Women's Sports Foundation in the UK are working to ensure the push towards equality continues. This includes getting more women into coaching, refereeing, administration and other roles within sports.

## Questions

- 1 *'Other women's sports have also grown to become major **spectator** sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**spectator**'?

Tick **one**.

special

loud

audience

- 2 Look at the quotation from the second paragraph:

*'Individual women's sports have seen progress as well.'*

**Find and copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'improvement'.

---

- 3 Look at the quotation from the second paragraph:

*'Women have long competed in four Grand Slam events in tennis: the Australian Open, French Open, US Open and Wimbledon.'*

**Find and copy one word** which means 'took part in'.

---

- 4 Look at the extract from paragraph three:

*'The efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have had setbacks, though. Many women's professional leagues have tried and failed – usually because they ran out of money.'*

Efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have been...

Tick **two**.

too expensive

easy

hard

5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that shows women cannot play sports in some countries.

*'However, more work needs to be done according to women's sports advocates. In some countries, women are still banned or shunned from playing sports.'*

6 Look at the extract from the last paragraph:

*'Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s. World championship and professional opportunities exist in many women's sports.'*

**Find** and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to the word 'chances'.

---

7 *'Groups such as The Women's Sports Foundation in the UK are working to ensure the push towards equality continues.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**equality**'?

Tick **one**.

fairness

sharing

progress

## Answers

- 1 'Other women's sports have also grown to become major **spectator** sports, including women's volleyball, which debuted in the Olympic Games in 1964.'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**spectator**'?

Tick **one**.

special

loud

audience

- 2 Look at the quotation from the second paragraph:

*'Individual women's sports have seen progress as well.'*

**Find** and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'improvement'.

**Progress.**

- 3 Look at the quotation from the second paragraph:

*'Women have long competed in four Grand Slam events in tennis: the Australian Open, French Open, US Open and Wimbledon.'*

**Find** and **copy one word** which means 'took part in'.

**Competed.**

- 4 Look at the extract from paragraph three:

*'The efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have had setbacks, though. Many women's professional leagues have tried and failed – usually because they ran out of money.'*

Efforts to create stable women's sports leagues have been...

Tick **two**.

too expensive

easy

hard

5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that shows women cannot play sports in some countries.

*'However, more work needs to be done according to women's sports advocates. In some countries, women are still banned or shunned from playing sports.'*

6 Look at the extract from the last paragraph:

*'Women have made great advances in sports since the 1970s. World championship and professional opportunities exist in many women's sports.'*

**Find** and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to the word 'chances'.

**Opportunities.**

7 *'Groups such as The Women's Sports Foundation in the UK are working to ensure the push towards equality continues.'*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**equality**'?

Tick **one**.



fairness



sharing



progress