



Sports and Leisure

Multiple choice: trying a new activity | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Would you rather play in a match or help organise it?
2. Why do players sometimes disagree with referees?
3. Can sport teach responsibility as well as fitness?
4. What makes a competition fair?

Exercise 4 at a glance

Read one longer text and answer six multiple-choice questions. Choose A, B or C. The correct answer may depend on attitude, purpose or a detail across a whole paragraph, not just one matching word.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the article. What did Max learn from refereeing the tournament?

Refereeing a school tournament

by Max Bennett

When our PE department needed students to help run a lunchtime football tournament, I volunteered because I was injured and could not play. I expected to collect scores or carry cones, but the teacher asked whether I would referee some of the younger students' matches. I nearly refused. It is one thing to know the rules when you are playing; it is another thing to blow a whistle while twenty people are certain you are wrong. I was also worried that older students would argue with me, even though the tournament was supposed to be friendly.

Before the tournament, we had a short training session. The teacher told us not to copy professional referees on television, who sometimes look dramatic and distant. In school sport, he said, the aim was to keep the game safe and fair while helping players understand decisions. That sounded simple until the first match began. Within two minutes, two players were arguing about whether the ball had crossed the line, and both sounded completely confident. The teacher also reminded us that a referee's confidence should come from preparation, not from pretending to be important.

My first mistake was explaining too much. I stopped the game and gave a long reason, which only gave players more time to complain. After the match, the teacher advised me to be brief, clear and consistent. If I gave one team a warning for pushing, I had to do the same for the other team later. Players might disagree with a decision, but they became angrier when they felt the rules were changing during the game. That advice helped because it gave me something practical to improve before the next game.

The hardest moment came in the semi-final. A good player slipped in the penalty area and shouted that he had been fouled. From my position, I saw that he had lost his balance without contact. His teammates groaned when I waved play on. For a second, I wanted to change my decision just to stop the noise. Instead, I stayed calm and restarted quickly. Later, the player admitted he had slipped, which was a relief, although he did not say it very loudly. I also realised that players often react to emotion first and fairness second, especially when a match is close.

By the final match, I was still nervous but more confident. I had started noticing the whole game, not only the ball. I watched for tired players, late tackles and small arguments before they became serious. Refereeing did not make me a better footballer immediately, but it changed how I behave when I play. I complain less now, because I understand how difficult quick decisions can be. Sport needs skill, but it also needs people willing to protect fairness. That has made me more respectful towards officials in other sports, even when I still disagree with a decision.

3. Strategy focus

Underline the key words

Before reading the options, underline the key words in the question. Watch for small traps such as time, reason, attitude or change.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Question 1

Why did Max agree to help with the tournament?

- A He wanted to become a professional referee.
- B He had organised football competitions before.
- C He was injured and could not play.

Question 2

What advice did the teacher give before the tournament?

- A School referees should focus on safety, fairness and explanation.
- B Student referees should behave like television referees.
- C Players should solve most disagreements themselves.

Question 3

What did Max learn after his first match?

- A Players accepted decisions if he explained every detail.
- B Short, consistent decisions worked better than long explanations.
- C Warnings should only be used for the strongest team.

Question 4

Why was the semi-final difficult for Max?

- A He had to trust his own view despite pressure from players.
- B He missed an obvious foul in the penalty area.
- C He changed his decision after players complained.

Question 5

How did refereeing affect Max as a player?

- A He now prefers refereeing to playing football.
- B He believes referees should ignore players completely.
- C He complains less because he understands quick decisions are hard.

Question 6

What is Max's main point about sport?

- A Winning depends mainly on knowing every rule.
- B Fairness needs people who manage rules calmly.
- C Young players should referee more than adults.

5. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Would you find refereeing easier or harder than playing? Why?
2. Strategy: Check two answers by underlining the sentence or short section that proves each one.
3. Writing: Write advice for a student referee who wants to stay calm and fair.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to sport, rules and fair play.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: He learned that sport depends on calm decisions, fair rules and respect, not only skill as a player.

4. Exam-style multiple-choice questions

1. C; 2. A; 3. B; 4. A; 5. C; 6. B

1. C - He volunteered because he was injured and could not play.
2. A - The teacher says the aim is to keep games safe and fair while helping players understand.
3. B - The teacher advises him to be brief, clear and consistent.
4. A - He saw no contact but felt pressure to change the decision.
5. C - He says he complains less because he understands how difficult decisions are.
6. B - He concludes sport needs people willing to protect fairness.