

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# READING: The Invention of Basketball

## Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

- |                 |          |  |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| 1. education    | <u>E</u> | A. to grow older and become an adult           |
| 2. excited      | _____    | B. to make something new                       |
| 3. few          | _____    | C. a group of people who play a sport together |
| 4. grow up (v.) | _____    | D. happy about something happening             |
| 5. indoor       | _____    | E. information you learn from going to school  |
| 6. invent (v.)  | _____    | F. to give advice about how to do something    |
| 7. team         | _____    | G. not many                                    |
| 8. suggest (v.) | _____    | H. inside a building; not outside              |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense if necessary.

1. Few of my friends like baseball. Most of them like basketball.
2. Which sports are \_\_\_\_\_ sports? Which sports can you play inside?
3. My grandfather was born in Scotland, but he \_\_\_\_\_ in Canada.
4. A good \_\_\_\_\_ is very important, so I plan to go to college.
5. Wilbur and Orville Wright \_\_\_\_\_ the first airplane in 1903.
6. I feel very \_\_\_\_\_ about our trip to Hawaii next week!
7. There are eleven players on a soccer \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My teacher \_\_\_\_\_ that I study harder for next week's exam.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

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## READING

Topic: Exercise and Sports

# The Invention of Basketball



Millions of people love the sport of basketball in the United States and around the world, but few people stop to think about who invented it, why, where and when. James Naismith invented the game. He was born in 1861 in Ontario, Canada and he loved to play sports in school. After he grew up, he became a sports education teacher before he moved to the state of Massachusetts in the U.S. He invented basketball for two reasons. First, he wanted his students to have an indoor activity they could play during the winter months when it was too cold to play outside. Second, he believed that basketball was safer than football. The very first game of basketball was played on December 21, 1891 when James asked his college class to play a new kind of game that he invented. Some of his students weren't very excited about this strange new sport, but they played anyway. After the game, someone suggested that the new game should be called the "Naismith Game", but James Naismith decided to call it "Basket Ball" (which later became "basketball"). There were some differences between the first games and the games we watch today. For example, there are now fewer players on a team (five instead of nine). Also, the first games were played with soccer balls – the first real "basketball" was only invented several years later. Basketball later became an international sport as it became popular in Europe after the First World War, and then in China, India, Japan and many other countries.

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## READING

### Grammar Practice

# The Invention of Basketball



- **Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.**

Millions of people love the sport of basketball in the United States and around the world, but few people stop to (1)\_\_\_\_\_ about who invented it, why, where and when. James Naismith (2)\_\_\_\_\_ the game. He was born in 1861 in Ontario, Canada and he loved to (3)\_\_\_\_\_ sports in school. After he grew up, he (4)\_\_\_\_\_ a sports education teacher before he moved to the state of Massachusetts in the U.S. He invented basketball for (5)\_\_\_\_\_ reasons. First, he wanted his students to have (6)\_\_\_\_\_ activity they could play during the winter months when it was (7)\_\_\_\_\_ cold to play outside. Second, he believed that basketball was (8)\_\_\_\_\_ than football. The very first game of basketball was played on December 21, 1891 when James asked his college class to play a new kind of game that he invented. Some of his students (9)\_\_\_\_\_ very excited about this strange new sport, but they played anyway. After the game, someone suggested that the new game should be called the “Naismith Game”, but James Naismith decided to call it “Basket Ball” (which later became “basketball”). There were some differences between the first games and the games we (10)\_\_\_\_\_ today. For example, (11)\_\_\_\_\_ are now fewer players on a team (five instead of nine). Also, the first games were played with soccer balls – the first real “basketball” was only invented several years later. Basketball later became an international sport as it became popular (12)\_\_\_\_\_ Europe after the First World War, and then in China, India, Japan and many other countries.

1.

- (A) thinks
- (B) think
- (C) thinking

2.

- (A) invention
- (B) invent
- (C) invented

3.

- (A) plays
- (B) playing
- (C) play

4.

- (A) became
- (B) become
- (C) becomes

5.

- (A) two
- (B) to
- (C) too

6.

- (A) a indoor
- (B) indoor
- (C) an indoor

7.

- (A) too
- (B) two
- (C) to

8.

- (A) safest
- (B) safer
- (C) safely

9.

- (A) didn't
- (B) weren't
- (C) aren't

10.

- (A) watch
- (B) watches
- (C) watching

11.

- (A) their
- (B) there
- (C) they're

12.

- (A) at
- (B) on
- (C) in

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# READING: The Invention of Basketball

## How Much Do You Understand?

● *According to the article, write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The article is about the life of the inventor of basketball, James Naismith.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ James Naismith was born in Massachusetts, in the United States.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The very first game of basketball was played in the winter.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ James Naismith's students asked to play the first basketball game.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Some people wanted to call basketball the "Naismith Game".
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The first basketball teams each had nine players.

## Discuss

● *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. Do you like to watch basketball? Do you like to play it? Why? / Why not?
2. Why do you think basketball became so popular around the world?
3. Work with some classmates. Try to invent a new sport! Describe it.

## Write

● *Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.*

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## Lesson "The Invention of Basketball"

**Grammar Focus** Mixed (includes past tense, comparatives, passives)

**Vocabulary** 269 words  
**A1** words-73% / **A2** words-12% / **B1** words-3% / **B2** words-2%  
**AWL** Words in this text: *physical, team*  
 Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

**Level** Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

### ANSWER KEY Page 1

### My Notes



#### ● Vocabulary Preview

- |      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 1. E | 1. Few                         |
| 2. D | 2. indoor                      |
| 3. G | 3. <b>grew</b> up              |
| 4. A | 4. education                   |
| 5. H | 5. <b>invented</b>             |
| 6. B | 6. excited                     |
| 7. C | 7. team                        |
| 8. F | 8. <b>suggested</b> / suggests |

### ANSWER KEY Page 3

### ANSWER KEY Page 4

#### ● Grammar

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 7. A  |
| 2. C | 8. B  |
| 3. C | 9. B  |
| 4. A | 10. A |
| 5. A | 11. B |
| 6. C | 12. C |

#### ● How Much Do You Understand?

1. F (*The article is about the invention of basketball.*)
2. F (*James Naismith was born in Canada.*)
3. T
4. F (*James Naismith asked his students to play the first game.*)
5. T
6. T

#### Sources:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_basketball#The\\_first\\_basketball\\_game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_basketball#The_first_basketball_game)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_basketball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_basketball)
- <https://sports.ha.com/itm/basketball-collectibles/others/james-naismith-handwritten-manuscript-detailing-first-basketball-game-basketball-s-equivalent-of-the-book-of-genesis-is/a/706-19007.s>
- <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/james-naismith-4853.php>