

Did you know?

DYK? The Championships, Wimbledon



Game, set and match! Settle down on Monday 27 June for more thrills and spills from the world-famous Centre Court at *The All England Tennis and Croquet Club* in Wimbledon.

Who doesn't love the sound of tennis on a grass court: the thwack, thud and ping of the ball? A particularly English

sound? In fact, tennis has French roots, its name comes from the French term *tenez*, which can be translated as "hold!"; lawn tennis, however, does have its roots in England and developed in some small part due to the invention of the lawn mower. Being able to create lawned spaces led to the introduction of many sports: croquet, football, lawn bowls and of course, tennis. The world's first tennis club was founded in 1872 in Leamington Spa in Warwickshire, England and in 1874 they held the world's first tennis tournament. And three years later, *The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club* held their first championships in Wimbledon.

When the club was founded, croquet was the dominant sport and tennis was secondary. After the first gentlemen's tennis championships, the winner, Spencer Gore, claimed "Lawn tennis will never rank among our great games." How could he have known that 150 years later 87 million people would play tennis worldwide?

Wimbledon is different from the other Grand Slams not just because it is the only one held on grass, but it is also a requirement that players wear white. Not just white shorts, skirts, dresses, tee shirts and socks, but also shoes, sweatbands, caps and underwear. And these rules are very strictly imposed: in 2017 three junior boys were told to change their pants as they were not regulation white. Wimbledon has also had a long royal connection: for over three decades trophies were presented by the Duke and Duchess of Kent; since 2017 the Duchess of Cambridge the new Patron of the Club, and herself a keen tennis player, has done the honours.

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The club has not been without controversies: Black players were only allowed to play at the Club in 1951, and Jews were not admitted until a year later. Equal prize money for men and women players was finally introduced in 2007. And one hundred years ago, suffragettes, as part of their bombing and arson campaign, attempted to burn down the grounds. The unnamed woman who was arrested was sentenced to two months imprisonment.

The famous Centre Court, which since 2009 has had a retractable roof in order to address the vagaries of the British weather, can seat 15,000 spectators. And many of those people will have enjoyed one of the other well-known Wimbledon treats: the renowned strawberries and cream. During the fortnight of the tournament, nearly 150,000 servings of strawberries (around 25 tons) will be consumed, accompanied by 10,000 litres of cream.

If you are unable to attend in person, it's possible to watch on the television or listen on the radio; there have been many ex-players who have added spice to the commentary, including John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King. Alas, one of the favourite pundits, Boris Becker will be absent this year, spending time at Her Majesty's pleasure rather than commentating for our pleasure.

Although Andy Murray has won the men's Championship twice this century, it was during the Queen's Silver jubilee in 1977 that a British woman, Virginia Wade, last won the Championship. In this Platinum Jubilee year, maybe there will be another British winner. So wherever you are at the end of June, enjoy some time watching the greats of the tennis world battling it out on Centre Court, come rain or shine.

Did you know?

If you would like to use **The Championships, Wimbledon** as a topic in your class, then we have provided you with an activity: ***Game, set and match!***

Teacher's notes

Game, set and match!

- Make a copy of **Game, set and match!**, one for each student.
- On the board write: Game, set and match! (*Spiel, Satz und Sieg*) and elicit *tennis*.
- Remind students of the 'rules' of tennis. One person serves the ball and the other player returns the ball. If a player cannot return the ball or hits the ball out of court, then the other player wins the point.
- Explain that students are going to play tennis with words instead of a ball. Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a tennis court, and the list of categories.
- To win a game, a player has to win two points = categories in each row.
- Ask students to keep a note of points won.
- Choose a stronger student and demonstrate the game.
- Player A 'serves'. Starting with category 1, they choose and announce the category, for example *countries* and then immediately give an example: *Germany*. Player B must return immediately with an example, *England* and Player A returns, *France*. The player who cannot think of a new word within 5 seconds loses and the other player gets the point.
- Then Player A serves again, this time from column 2, same row: *words beginning with A: apple*. Player B says *audio* and then Player A says *adventure*. The first player who cannot think of a word loses and the other player gets the point. Player A serves again from Column 3, same row: *two-letter words: in* and Player B says *on*. The rally continues until one player cannot think of a two-letter word.
- Once a player has won 2 points, they have won a game. Two games make one set.
- Player B now serves, choosing a new row = game, announcing the category in Column 1 and saying a word ...
- The first player to win 2 sets (6 games) wins the match.

Did you know?



Worksheet

Game, set and match!

Play *word tennis* with your partner.

Player A starts with any game (=row) from column 1 and 'serves' a word. Player B must immediately return with another word from the same category. The player who says the last correct word wins the point for this category.

Then Player A 'serves' a word from column 2 in the same row ... and then from column 3 in the same row

The first person to win two points in the same row, wins the game. Two games make one set.

Now Player B 'serves' a word for another game in column 1 ...

The first person to win 2 sets (6 games) wins the match and is the champion!



Winner	Game	1	2	3
	1	countries	words beginning with A	two-letter words
	2	weather	words beginning with B	three-letter words
	3	rivers	words beginning with C	four-letter words
	4	food	words beginning with D	five-letter words
	5	drink	words beginning with E	six-letter words
	6	pets	words beginning with F	nouns
	7	animals	words beginning with G	verbs
	8	capital cities	words beginning with H	things that are green
	9	birds	words beginning with M	things that are blue
	10	colours	words beginning with P	things that are white
	11	clothes	words beginning with S	things that are red
	12	transport	words beginning with T	things that are yellow

Scoreboard

Player A

Player B
