

Select Readings, Second Edition
Elementary, Chapter 1 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Strange Sports

Sports are important to people all over the world. Billions of people around the world watch soccer, the world's most popular sport. American football, on the other hand, is one of the most popular sports in the United States, even though not many people watch it in other parts of the world.

Some other sports are so strange that almost no one knows them. They are only popular among the people who play or watch them. Here are some of the world's strangest sports.

#1: Fistball

Not many people know this sport, but fistball is a very old sport that many people play all over the world. A fistball game has two teams of five players each. They play it indoors and outdoors. It's similar to tennis—players have to hit the ball with their fist¹ or arm over a net, to the other team's side. Even though many people don't know fistball, it was once a main event at the World Games.

#2: Octopush

In octopush, or underwater hockey, one team tries to push a puck² across the bottom of a swimming pool into the goal of the other team. Popular in the UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, octopush is a difficult but exciting sport.

#3: Kickball

It was originally only a children's game, but kickball is now a popular sport for adults, too. Similar to baseball, the rules for kickball are easy to understand. Maybe this is why the World Adult Kickball Association now has approximately 20,000 spectators around the world.

#4: Man versus Horse Marathon

This event started in 1980 as a game between two men. Now the *Man versus Horse Marathon* happens each year in the small town of Llanwrtyd Wells in the UK. In this game, humans³ run in a race against horses with riders.

1. _____ is the most popular sport in the world.
 - A. American football
 - B. Soccer
 - C. Billions
 - D. Strange sports

¹ **fist** holding all fingers and thumb of one hand together tightly

² **puck** small, round object that hockey players hit

³ **humans** people

2. The passage talks about all of these 'strange' sports EXCEPT _____.
 - A. Kickball
 - B. Octopush
 - C. Fistball
 - D. Ice hockey

3. Fistball is most similar to _____.
 - A. tennis
 - B. soccer
 - C. football
 - D. hockey

4. Octopush is popular in all of these countries EXCEPT _____.
 - A. the United States
 - B. Canada
 - C. Australia
 - D. New Zealand

5. People can only play octopush _____.
 - A. under water
 - B. into the other team's goal
 - C. near a swimming pool
 - D. in a swimming pool with no water

6. Which of these sentences is true about kickball?
 - A. It is now popular for adults to watch children play kickball.
 - B. Children cannot play kickball now.
 - C. Kickball is popular with both adults and children.
 - D. Adults usually play kickball with children.

7. The rules of kickball are _____ to the rules of baseball.
 - A. difficult
 - B. similar
 - C. different
 - D. popular

8. The World Adult Kickball Association has _____ 20,000 spectators around the world.
 - A. percent
 - B. mainly
 - C. especially
 - D. about

9. In the *Man versus Horse Marathon*, _____.
 - A. everyone rides on a horse
 - B. people run against horses
 - C. horses ride on people
 - D. only men can race

10. All of these are true about the *Man versus Horse Marathon* EXCEPT: It started _____.
 - A. with two horses
 - B. in 1980
 - C. between two men
 - D. in the UK