

# Unit 1: A popular sport

Grade 8

## Objective

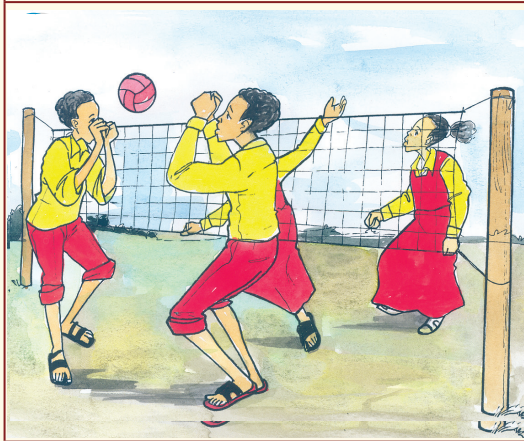
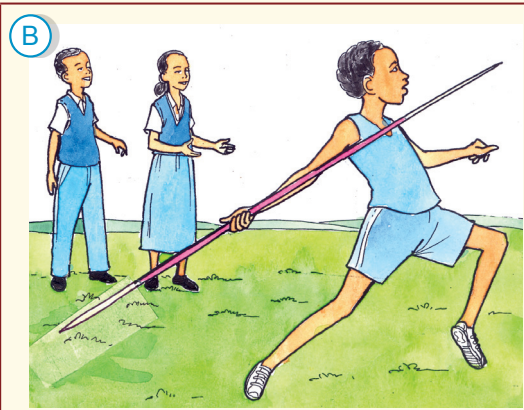
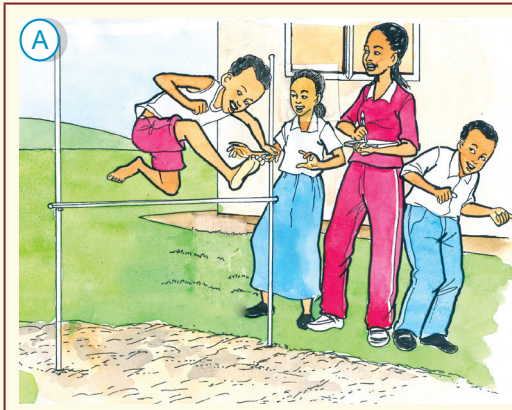
In this unit, you will talk about different sports.

## A Listening and speaking

### LESSON ONE

#### Activity 1

Work in pairs. Talk about the different sports you have ever participated in. Which other sports do you know of?



**Exercise 1:** Answer the questions about the above pictures.

1. Name the different sport shown in each picture.
2. Which of them is your favourite sport?
3. Why is it important to participate in sports?

## Listening practice

## Activity 2

Your teacher will read to you a short passage about Ethiopia's super athletes. Listen carefully, then in groups of three, complete the table below.

## Ethiopia's super athletes

Athlete	Age	Height (metres)	Track	Country where sport was held	World record	Year
Tirunesh	25	1.65m	10,000m	Netherlands	46:28	
Kenenisa	26	1.65m	5,000m		26:46:31	
Haile	34	1.65m	Marathon		2:04:53	
Meseret	26	1.65m	5,000m		14:24:37	
Gete	29	1.67m	5,000m		2:23:17	

**Exercise 2:** Using the information in the table, answer the following questions.

1. Mention Tirunesh's trademark names.
2. In which races is she the reigning champion?
3. "If Ethiopia long distance running was an empire, Kenenisa would be the heir apparent to the \_\_\_\_\_" (complete the statement). Who made this comment?
4. Why is Kenenisa considered to be the greatest long-distance runner of all time?
5. By which other names is Kenenisa referred to?
6. In which year did Haile win the Dubai Marathon?
7. Why did he set up the **Vicky's Water Project**?
8. In which race did Meseret Defar win two gold medals?
9. In which country did Gete set a world record of 2:23:17 for the 5,000m race?

## Activity 3

In groups of three, discuss any other sports which are not popular in your community. Why do you think they are not popular?

## LESSON TWO

## Dialogue

## Activity 1

## Read and act the dialogue.

Abenet : Our **hero**, Kenenisa Bekele, received a hero's welcome when he came back from the Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

Motuma: What happened **exactly**?

Abenet : The Ugandan athlete, Moses Kipsiro and Kenyan athlete, Kiplagat were **warming up** in a bid to win the gold and silver medals.

Motuma: Then what!

Abenet : When the race started Kipsiro and Kiplagat were in the lead while Kenenisa followed closely. Mid-way the race, Kenenisa's shoe lace became loose and he was forced to stop. This kept him behind while the rest kept on running.

Motuma: Oh dear! What happened then?

Abenet : As the race intensified, Kenenisa who had been lagging behind started overtaking one athlete after another. The crowd went wild with **excitement**. We were shouting Kenenisa! Kenenisa! Kenenisa!

Motuma: Oh, my God! What happened next?

Abenet : The bell signalled the last lap. Kenenisa struggled to overtake the four resilient athletes.

Motuma: What happened?

Abenet : With such **blistering** speed, Kenenisa sped off and overtook the fourth, third and second athletes.

Motuma: Oh! So did he become second?

Abenet : No way! When the Kenyan who was leading in the race turned to look behind Kenenisa **overtook** him in a flash of a second and beat him to the finishing line.

Motuma: Wow! That must have been an amazing race!

**Exercise 1:** Write your own dialogue by replacing the bold words with the ones below.

line 1, star

line 3, precisely

line 5, preparing

line 18, quick

line 22, outran

**Exercise 2:** Answer these questions about the dialogue. Share your work with a partner.

1. Why did Kenenisa receive a hero's welcome?
2. Which other athletes competed with Kenenisa?
3. What made Kenenisa stop running mid-way?
4. Describe what happened in the final lap of the race.
5. Do you think the Kenyan athlete would have won the race? Give reasons.
6. In your opinion, what enabled Kenenisa to win the race?

### Activity 2

Write your own dialogue. Think of any race you have witnessed. Who participated and who did you want to win? Describe the event and how the winner came through.

## LESSON THREE

### Vocabulary practice

**Exercise 1:** Complete the sentences below using the words in the box.

Ethiopia's, a lot of money, vigorous, men's, team, cheer, competitions, winning, participate

1. I like both the \_\_\_\_\_ and women's athletics competitions.
2. Ethiopia ranks highest in the world's athletics \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Tirunesh is one of the greatest sports heroines in the \_\_\_\_\_ women's athletics.
4. Athletes who get medals earn \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Most Ethiopian athletes do \_\_\_\_\_ training before participating in any competitions.
6. If you want to \_\_\_\_\_ at the national and international levels, you should start training early.
7. All Ethiopian athletes work as a \_\_\_\_\_ in any competition.
8. Ethiopians show support for their athletes by \_\_\_\_\_ them loudly.
9. After \_\_\_\_\_ the race, Ethiopian athletes carry the Ethiopian flag high and run round the stadium.

**Exercise 2:** Match the words in column **A** with their meaning in column **B**.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
game	supporter
prizes	award
train	competition
fan	star
hero	practice

**Activity**

Work in groups. Select one sportsman or woman and discuss his/her achievements. Report your findings to your classmates.

**LESSON FOUR**  
**Games information chart**

**Activity 1**

Study the table carefully.

Type of sport	Basketball	Volleyball	Boxing	Football
Number of players	10	12	2	22
Substitutes	10	8	0	6
Equipment	basketball, jerseys, boots, two nets, whistle	volleyball net, two poles, ball, uniform, demarcated pitch, whistle	gloves, boxing shoes, boxers' helmet, gum-shields	football boots, jersey, shin guards, whistle, gloves for goalie
Place where game is played	basketball court	volleyball pitch	boxing ring	football pitch
Sporting vocabulary	win, beat, lose, substitute, dribble	win, love, beat, substitute, spike, smash	beat, knock down/out, punch, smash	win, draw, beat, foul, lose, substitute, score, kick, dribble, pass

Game officials	referee/coach/ manager	umpire, coach	coach	manager, coach/referee, linesmen
Expected qualities	preferably tall, strong, team spirit, stout, focused, energetic, swift, disciplined	active, smasher, tall, energetic, quick, disciplined	strong, brave, fierce, bold, tough, quick, muscular, disciplined, energetic	athletic, creative, disciplined, defensive, courageous, strong, swift, smart

**Exercise 1:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences based on the table above.

1. Which game has the biggest number of players?
2. What **equipment** is used in basketball?
3. Why should sportsmen be disciplined?
4. Of the four games listed, which one do you like most and why?
5. What is the importance of a **helmet** in boxing?
6. What are the **qualities** of a good volleyball pitch?
7. When is a **substitute** brought onto the football pitch?
8. Why does boxing have no substitute players?
9. What is a **knock-out** in boxing and how can it happen?

**Exercise 2:** Form one sentence of your own for each word in bold in the exercise above.

### Activity 2

In groups of four, choose one sport that you all like. Discuss the qualities and equipment the sport requires. Talk about where it is played and the number of players involved. Present your findings in a table like the one above.

## LESSON FIVE

Using: Yes, it is. / No, it isn't.

## Activity 1

Discuss with a partner. Which popular games are played in your community? How are the games played? How many players make up each team?

**Exercise 1:** Answer the following questions orally. Use **Yes, it is** or **No, it isn't** to answer the questions.

A: Which games are popular in your school?

1. Is football popular? **Yes, it is.**
2. Is netball popular? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is running popular? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is skiing popular? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is horse riding popular? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is yachting popular? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is volleyball popular? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is basketball popular? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is boxing popular? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Is car racing popular? \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2

Ask your partner if he or she plays the games in the table below. He or she should respond to questions with **Yes, I do.** or **No, I don't.**

**Example:** Rugby: (a) Do you play rugby? No, I don't.

Football: (a) Do you play football? Yes, I do.

hockey	table tennis	lawn tennis	badminton
wrestling	snooker	basketball	netball

**Exercise 2:** Write a paragraph explaining why certain games are popular in your community. Compare your work with your partner's.

## Grammar practice: Relative clauses

### Using: where / which

**Example:** (a) A football pitch is **where** football is played.

(b) A net is the equipment **which is needed to play volleyball and lawn tennis**.

1. The clauses in bold in sentences (a) and (b) give us more information about the subject football and net respectively.
2. They are introduced by the words **where** in sentence (a) and **which** in sentence (b).
3. We call these words **relative pronouns** and the sentences in which they are used are called **relative clauses**.

**Exercise 3:** Join the sentences below using the relative pronoun **which**.

Teacher : These are boxers' gloves. Boxers wear them before a match.

Pupil : These are gloves which boxers wear before a match.

Teacher : That is a football boot. It is worn by football players.

Pupil : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : This is the Ethiopian national football team, *Walia*. Abdu was talking about it.

Pupil : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : That is the helmet. A boxer wears it before starting the game.

Pupil : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : Those are the whistles. They are blown by umpires in a volleyball game.

Pupil : \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : That is the tennis racket. I told you about it yesterday.

Pupil : \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 4:** Join the sentences below using the relative pronoun **where**.  
Do the work in your exercise book.

**Example:** That is the stadium. We go there to watch football.

That is the stadium where we go to watch football.

1. This is the sports hotel. Ethiopian athletics national team stays there during the training session.



2. This is the venue. We come here to celebrate regularly.
3. Those are the fields. Our athletes used to train for the national competitions.
4. That is the stadium. Obang lifted the trophy.
5. Those are the hills. We found there a deer.

**Grammar highlight**

1. ... **where** ... refers to places.  
... **which** ... refers to items.
2. ... **where** ... and ... **which** ... replace nouns.

**LESSON SIX**

Using: ... better than ... because ...

**Activity**

Work in groups of four. Find out more about the games in the table below and how they are played.

Swimming	Hide and seek
Baseball	Skiing
Snooker	Pool
Lawn tennis	Badminton
Handball	Boxing
Basketball	Hockey
Volleyball	Motor sport
Bicycle racing	Motorcycle racing
Chess	Scrabble
Cricket	Squash

**Exercise :** In your exercise book, list down your favourite games. Construct 10 sentences related to the games you prefer; giving reasons why you like them more than others.

**Example:** If you prefer scrabble to chess, you could say; Scrabble is better than Chess because it helps me to learn and spell English words.

## LESSON SEVEN

### Qualities of a sportsman/woman

#### Activity 1

In groups of three, discuss the qualities a good sportsman/woman of the sports below should have. Each student should speak at a time to discuss the quality he/she considers to be important. Write the qualities in your exercise book.

#### Examples

A footballer : He/she should be physically fit.

A weight-lifter : He/she should be energetic.

A runner : He/she should be fast.

A netballer : She should be tall.

A long jumper : He/she should be thin.

#### Activity 2

In groups of four, discuss your school sports facilities such as the field and the balls and sports that take place there. Based on your discussion, complete the table below.

Sport	Available facility	Facility conditions
Swimming	No pool	—
Handball	Ball, field	New balls and the field should be levelled flat.

**Exercise :** Using the information in the table above, write a paragraph about sports at your school.

**B** Reading**LESSON EIGHT**

## Comprehension

**Activity 1**

Look at the photograph and answer the questions.



1. Name the sports personality in the picture.
2. What do you admire about her?
3. When and where do you think the picture was taken?
4. What have her achievements been in recent times?
5. Would you like to be a professional athlete like her? Why?
6. List the benefits Ethiopia has gained from her athletic achievements?

## Read the passage

### The flying princess

While many countries may **boast** of having **famous** athletes, Ethiopia has particularly dominated in the field of professional and competitive running. Ethiopia has produced **popular** winners like Haile Gebreselassie, Kenenisa Bekele, Abebe Bikila, Derartu Tulu and Mohammed Kedir. Among these talented runners is a young woman, Tirunesh Dibaba, who has gained international **fame** for her extraordinary talent and unique upbringing. Tirunesh was born on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1985 in Chefa, a small Woreda town in Arsi Zone of the Oromiya Regional State, 260 *kms* southwest of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Tirunesh is the fourth child in a family of five. Her father's name is Dibaba Keneni and her mother is Gutu Tola. Her eldest sibling, Bekelu lives in Belgium and the second Chala, lives with his parents.

While the majority of the famous Ethiopian runners humbly developed the skill from childhood as they ran long distances to and from school, Tirunesh's experience was different because her school, Bekoji Elementary School, was only fifteen minutes walk home. She therefore did not have to run to school like other athletes. She however developed her skill because she was born into a family of runners.

Her cousin, Derartu Tulu was the first Sub-Saharan woman to win a gold medal in the 10,000*m* at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and again in Sydney Games in 2000. Tirunesh's elder sister, Ejegayehu is also an established athlete in her own right, having won bronze medals in the 5,000*m* and 10,000*m* at the 2005 World Championships in Helsinki. Another sister of hers, Bekelu Dibaba, was also an **inspiring** runner when Tirunesh was growing up in Bekoji.

Tirunesh is by far the most famous family member on the international scene. Since her **prominence** in 2005, she won a double in the long and short course races at the 33<sup>rd</sup> IAAF World Cross Country Championships in St Etienne/ St Galmier in France. She completed another double over the 5,000*m* and 10,000*m* at the World Championships in Helsinki. In 2005, Tirunesh broke the world indoor 5,000*m* record in Boston. She grabbed another world best over five kilometres in Carlbad in USA.

Tirunesh was encouraged by her parents when she **expressed** interest in professional running. Her parents had seen the success of Tirunesh's other siblings. She has **reaped** a **fortune** from her talent as a result.

**Exercise 1:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Do the work in your exercise book.

1. Where was Tirunesh born and who are her parents?
2. Why did Tirunesh's athletic background differ from that of her relatives?
3. When did Tirunesh start her athletic career?
4. List all the Ethiopian professional athletes mentioned in the story.
5. Name the first woman athlete from sub Saharan Africa to win a 10,000m gold medal.
6. What makes Tirunesh the most famous member in her family?
7. Give an account of Tirunesh's achievements.
8. In which international Olympics has Bekelu so far participated?

**Exercise 2:** Choose the best answer for each question below. Compare your answers in groups.

1. Tirunesh was born in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Addis Ababa.
  - B. Arsi zone of the Oromiya Regional Province.
  - C. 260 kilometres South West of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.
  - D. Chefa.
2. Bekelu, Tirunesh's sister who lives in Belgium, is the \_\_\_\_\_ born of the family.
  - A. third
  - B. fifth
  - C. fourth
  - D. first
3. Which of the following statements is true about Tirunesh's cousin, Derartu Tulu's Olympic achievements?
  - A. She was a one-time Olympic and one-time world 10,000m champion and double world cross country gold medalist.
  - B. She was a two-time Olympic and two-time world 10,000m champion and one-time world cross country gold medalist.



## C Writing

### LESSON NINE

#### Gaps fill in exercise

**Exercise 1:** Use the words in the box below to complete the paragraph.

burst won broke reaped celebrated championships grabbing talent

Tirunesh is a \_\_\_\_\_ athlete in Ethiopia and the world over. She \_\_\_\_\_ into prominence in the year 2005. It was in this year that she \_\_\_\_\_ a double in the long and short course races at the 33<sup>rd</sup> IAAF World Cross Country \_\_\_\_\_ in St. Etienne. Tirunesh \_\_\_\_\_ the world indoor 5,000m record in Boston before \_\_\_\_\_ another world best over five kilometres in Carlbad in USA. From her racing \_\_\_\_\_ she has \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune.

**Exercise 2:** Write sentences of your own using each of the words in the box above.

### LESSON TEN

#### Summary

**Exercise 1:** Complete the following table based on the story about Tirunesh on page 12.

Name	Tirunesh Dibaba
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Achievements in 2000	

**Exercise 2:** In about 50 words, write a paragraph about Tirunesh. Use the information in the above table and your answers for the questions on pages 13 - 15.

Begin: Tirunesh was born .....

**LESSON ELEVEN****Composition****Activity**

Work in groups of three. Study the table below about the former professional Ghanaian footballer, Abedi Pele and write a paragraph about him. You may share your information with another group.

<b>ABEDI PELE</b>			
	Profession	:	Footballer
	Date of birth	:	5 <sup>th</sup> November, 1964
	Place of birth	:	Oko near Dome
	Country	:	Ghana
<b>Major honours</b>	<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Date</b>
Europe	UEFA champions winner	Olympique de Marseille	1993
	European Cup winner	Olympique de Marseille	1991
	French Ligue 1 winner	Olympique de Marseille	1988-1992
Africa	Africa Cup of Nations winner	Ghana	1982
	West African Nations Cup winner	SCSA Zone Club	1982-1984
<b>Individual</b>	<b>Award</b>		<b>Date</b>
	Order of the Volta (Ghana's Highest National Award)		
	African footballer of the year winner		1991-1993

**Exercise:** Think about your favourite sports hero/heroine. Write a composition of about 120 words about him or her.