



# WORD SENSE for READERS

TOPIC-BASED

Level  
1



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PUBLISHING

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UNIT 1

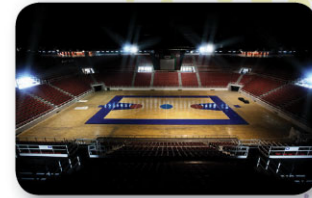
# BASKETBALL



# PART 1

## A. BEFORE YOU READ

What do you see in the pictures? Speak about them.



## B. WARM-UP WORDS

Match the words with the pictures (1-6).

*coach*

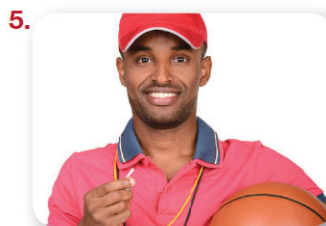
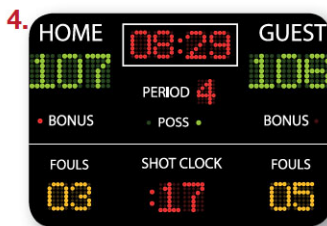
*court*

*pass*

*playground*

*scoreboard*

*team*



## C. GUESS & CHECK

Guess if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- In a basketball game, each team has five players on the court. ....
- Basketball started in Canada. ....
- People first played basketball with a soccer ball. ....



## D. READING PASSAGE

### Basketball - An Exciting Sport!

Basketball is a very popular sport around the world. Millions of people play it, and millions watch basketball games on TV. Basketball is a very fast game and it is fun to play. It is fun for the **spectators**, too because it has a lot of **excitement** in it. Many schools and colleges have basketball **courts** and **teams**. Children can learn the game at a very early age. They can become great players when they **grow up**.

Basketball is mainly an **indoor** sport. You play it on a court. There are two 'baskets' on a basketball court. A basket is a **hoop** with a net hanging from it and a backboard. You can also play basketball outdoors; in parks or in **playgrounds**.

In a basketball game, there are two teams. Each team has five players on the court. Five other players wait on a **bench** by the court. Players **score** a point or points when they **shoot** a basket. They can move

the ball by **dribbling** or **passing** it with their hands.

Interestingly, there were no hoops or basketballs **at first**; players used peach baskets and **soccer** balls. A sports teacher in America, James Naismith, invented the game in 1891. He was **looking for** an indoor winter activity for his students because during the long winters, they couldn't play any sports outside. So, he put two peach baskets on the opposite walls of the **gymnasium**. They were ten feet high from the floor. Players tried to throw a soccer ball into the baskets. Naismith also wrote 13 rules for the game.

In those days, the game was different from today's game. Each team had nine players on the court. The number **went down** to five in 1898. Players didn't have any basketballs until 1894, and they continued using peach baskets until 1906.

## E. VOCABULARY

### I. Match the pictures (1-6) with the words (a-f).

a) bench

b) gymnasium

c) hoop

d) soccer

e) dribbling

f) spectators



### II. Match the words/phrases (1-5) with their definitions (a-e).

..... 1. excitement

..... 2. go down

..... 3. grow up

..... 4. score

..... 5. at first

a) to become older

b) in the beginning

c) great fun and pleasure

d) to become less

e) to get points in a game

III. What do they mean? Choose the correct answer.

1. "indoor" in line 11:

- a) near the door                      b) outside                      c) inside the building

2. "shoot" in line 21:

- a) put                                      b) throw                      c) take

3. "looking for" in line 28:

- a) learning                              b) watching carefully                      c) trying to find

IV. Complete the sentences (1-6) with the correct form of the words.

**excitement** (noun)                      **exciting** (adjective)                      **excited** (adjective)

1. I was very ..... before my first trip to Europe.  
2. I didn't like the film very much; it was not .....  
3. I love this game. It gives me a lot of fun and .....

**invent** (verb)                      **inventor** (noun)                      **invention** (noun)

4. The wheel is probably the biggest ..... in history.  
5. Thomas Edison is the ..... of the electric light bulb and the phonograph.  
6. Galileo didn't ..... the telescope, but he made important discoveries with it.

## F. COMPREHENSION

### I. Answer the questions.

1. What are the three parts of a “basket”?

.....

2. When did Naismith invent the basketball game?

.....

3. What equipment did Naismith’s students have to play basketball?

.....

### II. Write what the following words refer to in the passage.

1. it (line 2) : .....

2. it (line 22) : .....

3. They (line 33) : .....

### III. Mark the sentences with T (true) or F (false).

1. Basketball became a popular sport in 1891. ....

2. There weren’t hoops on the basketball courts until 1906. ....

3. The first basketball teams had more players on the court than today’s teams. ....

### IV. Choose the correct answer.

1. In the 1890s, basketball .....

a) was an outdoor game only

b) was a very new sport

c) didn’t have any rules

**2. Naismith invented basketball because his students ..... .**

- a) wanted to learn a new ball game
- b) needed an indoor sport to play in wintertime
- c) didn't like other sports

**3. Naismith's students played basketball ..... .**

- a) on the school football field
- b) in the school playground
- c) in the school gymnasium

**4. The baskets in the old basketball courts ..... .**

- a) had no nets hanging from them
- b) had peaches inside
- c) were hanging from the ceiling

**5. Basketball teams had nine players on the court ..... .**

- a) until 1891
- b) after 1906
- c) before 1898

## **G. SPEAKING**

**Answer the questions and discuss.**

- 1.** Is basketball a popular sport in your country? Do many people play the game?  
Which is more popular in your country, basketball or football? Why? Which has more fans?  
Which do you/people prefer, watching basketball on television or at the court?
- 2.** Do/Can you play basketball? If so, when/where do you play it?  
Is there a basketball court in your school / near your home? Do many people play there?  
Does your school have a basketball team? Would you like to be in the team?





# PART 2

## A. BEFORE YOU READ





What do you see in the pictures? Speak about them.



## B. WARM-UP WORDS

Match the words with the pictures (1-6).

*athlete*    *champion*    *cheer*    *fan*    *league*    *trophy*

1.		2.		3.	
.....					
4.		5.		6.	
.....					

## C. GUESS & CHECK

Guess if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. The famous NBA player Kobe Bryant is from Italy. ....
2. Kobe Bryant first played for his college team. ....
3. Kobe Bryant can play soccer, too. ....

## D. READING PASSAGE

### Kobe Bryant - NBA Superstar

Kobe Bryant was a star player in the NBA **league**. He is one of the best players in basketball history. He played for the Los Angeles Lakers for 20 years.

- 5 Kobe was born in 1978. His father was a professional basketball player, too. When Kobe was six years old, the family moved to Italy. They stayed there for seven years. Kobe started playing basketball at age
- 10 four. He loved basketball and he watched the videos of all NBA games. His favourite team was the Lakers, and Magic Johnson was his favourite player. He also learnt to play soccer in Italy and **picked up** Italian.
- 15 He speaks it very well now.

The Bryants moved back to the USA when Kobe was 13. Kobe played in his high school team and made the team the state **champion**. He was the top school player

20 in the US. Kobe's school **grades** were

very good, but he didn't want to **attend college**. He wanted to be an NBA player.

- 25 He finished high school in 1996. He joined the LA Lakers **immediately**. The next year, he won the NBA Slam Dunk **Contest**. He was **looking forward to** playing in the All-Star game. So, he got very happy when it happened in 1998. He won four NBA All-Star **awards** in later years. With the Lakers, he
- 30 won three NBA championships between 2000 and 2002 and two more in 2009 and 2010. He has two Olympic gold **medals**. He won them in 2008 and 2012.

35 From 2013 to 2015, Kobe Bryant couldn't play in some of the games because he had many **injuries**. So, he **retired** from his **career** as a basketball player at the end of the 2015-2016 season. This **disappointed his fans**. He said goodbye to basketball lovers after

40 his last game on April 13, 2016.

## E. VOCABULARY

### I. Match the pictures (1-5) with the words (a-e).

a) award

b) contest

c) college

d) injury

e) medal

1.



2.



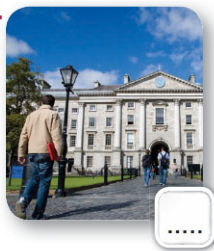
3.



4.



5.



### II. Match the words (1-5) with their definitions (a-e).

..... 1. attend

a) right away; without waiting

..... 2. career

b) mark (for tests, quizzes, homework)

..... 3. grade

c) to stop working when you get old or ill

..... 4. immediately

d) to go regularly to (school, class, courses)

..... 5. retire

e) job; profession



III. What do they mean? Choose the correct answer.

1. "picked up" in line 14:

a) chose

b) learnt

c) liked

2. "looking forward to" in line 26:

a) angry about

b) afraid of

c) waiting impatiently for

3. "disappointed his fans" in line 38:

a) made his fans afraid

b) pleased his fans

c) made his fans unhappy

IV. Complete the sentences (1-6) with the correct words.

**retire** (verb)

**retirement** (noun)

**retired** (adjective)

1. My mother was very bored at home after .....

2. George is 64 years old. He will ..... next year.

3. .... people like to travel and see different places.

**disappoint** (verb)

**disappointment** (noun)

**disappointed** (adjective)

4. I was very ..... when my team lost the match.

5. My school report will ..... my parents because it is very bad.

6. My parents didn't buy me a birthday present; it was a big ..... for me.



## F. COMPREHENSION

### I. Answer the questions.

1. When was Kobe Bryant born?

.....

2. How long did Kobe Bryant live in Italy?

.....

3. How many NBA championships did Kobe win with the Lakers?

.....

### II. Write what the following words/phrases refer to in the passage.

1. there (line 8) : .....

2. The next year (line 24) : .....

3. them (line 33) : .....

### III. Mark the sentences with T (true) or F (false).

1. Kobe wasn't a good student in high school. ....

2. Kobe learnt to play basketball in Italy. ....

3. Kobe became a professional basketball player at age 18. ....

### IV. Choose the correct answer.

1. Which statement is NOT true about Kobe Bryant?

- a) He was an NBA player from 1996 to 2016.
- b) He played his first All-Star game in 1998.
- c) He retired when he was 35 years old.

2. Kobe didn't go to college after high school because he .....

- a) wanted to work and earn money
- b) wanted to play in the NBA
- c) didn't like studying



**3. Kobe Bryant .....**

- a) played in the Olympic Games
- b) won his first NBA championship in 2002
- c) won the Slam Dunk Contest in 1996

**4. During his career, Kobe Bryant .....**

- a) often changed teams
- b) stayed with one team
- c) played for two NBA teams

**5. At the end of the 2015-2016 season, Kobe Bryant .....**

- a) ended his basketball career
- b) began to play in a new basketball league
- c) left LA Lakers for another NBA team

**G. WRITING**

Write a paragraph on Michael Jordan by answering the questions. Use the information in the box.

- When and where was he born?
- Where did he go to high school?
- Which college did he attend?
- When did he begin his basketball career?
- Which teams did he play for?
- How many NBA championships did he win?
- How many Olympic gold medals does he have? When did he win them?
- When did he retire?

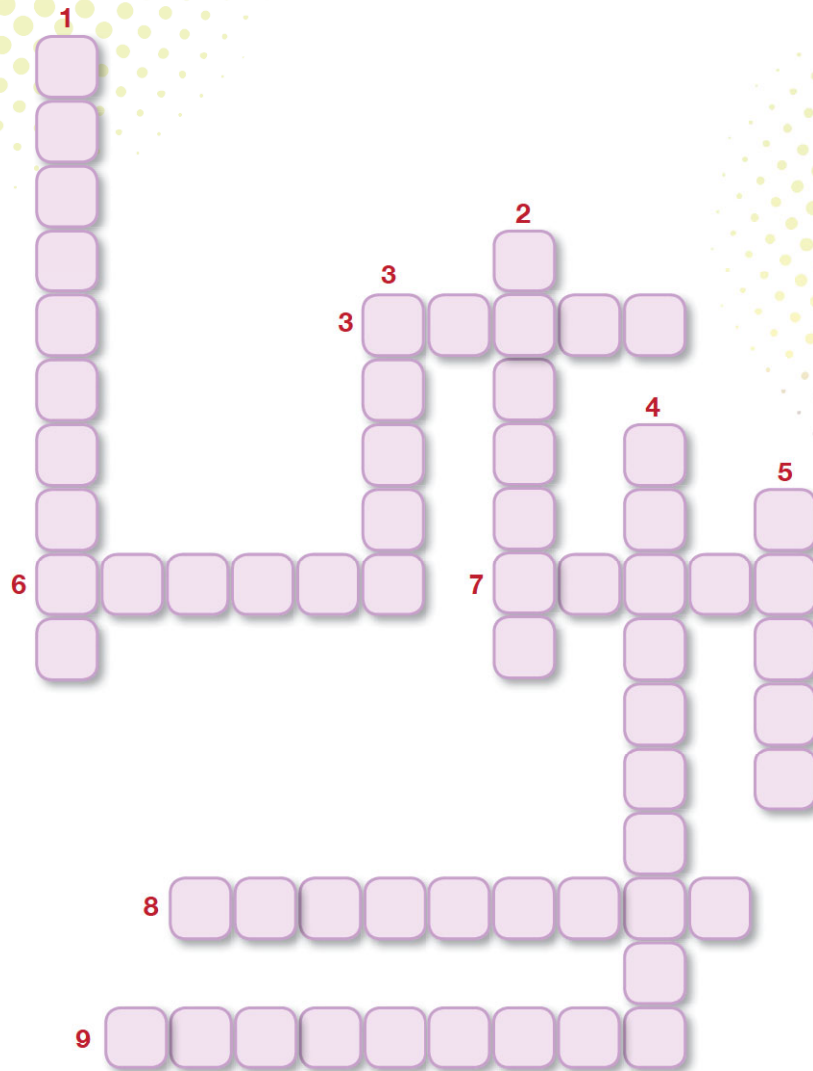
<b>Born</b>	: 17 <sup>th</sup> February 1963, New York
<b>High school</b>	: in North Carolina
<b>College</b>	: the University of North Carolina
<b>Basketball career</b>	: 1984-2003
<b>Teams</b>	: Chicago Bulls - Washington Wizards
<b>Awards</b>	: 6 NBA championships with Chicago Bulls - 2 Olympic gold medals (1984 and 1992)

Michael Jordan is one of the best NBA players of all time. ....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## REVIEW THE NEW WORDS

### A. Crossword

Do the crossword.



#### Across

3. to throw the ball in a game towards the place where you can get a point
6. to stop working because you're at a certain age
7. school mark
8. an indoor place for sports and exercise
9. the board behind the hoop and the net

#### Down

1. people watching a sports event at a stadium or an arena
2. university
3. the number of points or goals in a match or a game
4. an area for children to play games
5. a coin-shaped metal award for the winner



## B. Gap filling

a) Complete the sentences (1-6) with the correct words.

*attend*   *contest*   *disappointed*   *excitement*   *indoor*   *retire*

1. In winter, children usually play ..... games because the weather is very cold.
2. She sings very well. I think she will win the song .....
3. I want to ..... evening classes at a dance school near my home.
4. The fans' ..... grew towards the end of the match.
5. My uncle wants to ..... from his job next year.
6. I couldn't take the children to the cinema yesterday, so they got really .....

b) Complete the sentences (1-5) with the correct phrasal verbs.

*look for*   *go down*   *grow up*   *look forward to*   *pick up*

1. Students always ..... the school holidays.
2. I don't like my job. I must ..... a new one.
3. It usually rains in autumn and the temperatures begin to .....
4. I have a German friend. I ..... many German words and phrases from him.
5. Sally will go back to work when her children .....

## C. Odd one out

Find the word that **does not** fit.

- |              |        |            |              |
|--------------|--------|------------|--------------|
| 1. gymnasium | grade  | playground | court        |
| 2. shoot     | pass   | retire     | dribble      |
| 3. award     | medal  | hoop       | trophy       |
| 4. team      | career | league     | championship |
| 5. invention | coach  | fan        | spectator    |

