

## Darts

WORKSHEET A

The player, a 49-year-old Englishman nicknamed 'The Power', walks forward to the line on the floor and looks at the target. He will win £200,000 in prize money if he can guide the object between his fingers to a small area on the edge of the circular board in front of him. The crowd in the indoor arena in London has spent most of the game shouting and cheering, but now falls silent. A much bigger audience is watching live on TV, this being one of the most popular televised sports in Britain. He throws, and the crowd erupts – he's world champion again!

Most people who have lived in Britain will know that the sport described above is darts. The modern form of darts developed in Britain as a game people played in pubs while having a drink and chatting to friends, and the local pub is still the place where most of Britain's darts players practise their skills. At least 6 million people – ten per cent of the total population – play the game at least occasionally.

Since the 1970s darts has also been a serious professional sport, with world championships in which players from more than 30 countries now compete. The most important championships are usually dominated by British players, the most successful of whom is the aforementioned Phil 'The Power' Taylor, but Dutch and Australian players have also done well in recent years.

The sport involves throwing pointed metal darts, from a distance of around 2.5 metres, at a circular board (dartboard) with a diameter of about 45 centimetres. Games are usually contested by two players, who take it in turns to throw three darts at the board. The darts are usually around 15 centimetres in length and have very thin pieces of plastic (flights) attached to their tails that allow them to fly well, while most dartboards are made of a special fibre that allows the darts to penetrate and yet doesn't get damaged by them.

The board is divided into sections, numbered 1 to 20, for which the players score a corresponding number of points when they hit them with their darts. Low numbers are usually next to high numbers so as to punish players who are inaccurate when aiming for a high number. Within each of the 20 sections there is also a small 'double' and an even smaller 'treble' (or 'triple') area: a player scores 20 points for hitting the double area of the 10 section, for example, and 30 points for hitting the treble.

The maximum score with one dart is 60, achieved by hitting the treble 20. Good players often achieve this, even though each treble section is less than one centimetre wide, and professional players sometimes manage it with three consecutive darts, which always brings a roar from the crowd and an excited shout of 'one hundred and eighty!' from the referee.

## Darts

WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Professional darts games are televised in lots of countries.
2. British players usually do well in the most important international darts championships.
3. Phil Taylor is English.
4. Few people in Britain play darts in pubs any more.
5. It is possible to score over 100 points with one dart.
6. Dartboards are usually made of wood.
7. The highest numbers are grouped together on one side of the dartboard.
8. Players from more than 30 countries try to earn money from playing darts.
9. Darts are made of plastic.
10. Every number on the dartboard has a 'double' and a 'treble' area.
11. A game of darts finishes when each player has thrown fifteen darts.
12. The treble 20 section is less than one centimetre wide.

### Exercise 2

Answer the questions below.

1. How many darts does a player throw at the board before it is the other player's turn?
2. What are flights, and why are they important?
3. How far away from the board are the players when they throw their darts?
4. When would a darts referee shout 'one hundred and eighty!'?
5. What is special about the material dartboards are made from?
6. Apart from Britain, which two other darts-playing countries are mentioned in the text?

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## Exercise 3

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

The player, a 49-year-old Englishman (1) **nicknamed** 'The Power', walks forward to the line on the floor and looks at the target. He will win £200,000 in (2) **size** money if he can guide the object between his fingers to a small area on the edge of the circular board in front of him. The crowd in the indoor arena in London has spent most of the game shouting and (3) **sheering**, but now falls silent. A much bigger audience is watching (4) **alive** on TV, this being one of the most popular televised sports in Britain. He throws, and the crowd (5) **rupts** – he's world champion again!

Most people who have lived in Britain will know that the sport described above is darts. The modern form of darts developed in Britain as a game people played in pubs while having a drink and (6) **chapping** to friends, and the local pub is still the place where most of Britain's darts players practise their (7) **sills**. At least 6 million people – ten per cent of the total population – play the game at least occasionally.

Since the 1970s darts has also been a serious professional sport, with world championships in which players from more than 30 countries now (8) **competition**. The most important championships are usually (9) **dominated** by British players, the most successful of whom is the (10) **formentioned** Phil 'The Power' Taylor, but Dutch and Australian players have also done well in recent years.

The sport involves throwing pointed metal darts, from a distance of around 2.5 metres, at a (11) **circle** board (dartboard) with a (12) **diameter** of about 45 centimetres. Games are usually (13) **conested** by two players, who take it (14) **by** turns to throw three darts at the board. The darts are usually around 15 centimetres in length and have very thin pieces of plastic (flights) attached to their (15) **sails** that allow them to fly well, while most dartboards are made of a special fibre that allows the darts to (16) **penetrate** and yet doesn't get damaged by them.

The board is divided into sections, numbered 1 to 20, for which the players score a (17) **corresponding** number of points when they hit them with their darts. Low numbers are usually next to high numbers so as to (18) **punesh** players who are (19) **accurate** when aiming (20) **to** a high number. Within each of the 20 sections there is also a small 'double' and an even smaller 'treble' (or 'triple') area: a player scores 20 points for hitting the double area of the 10 section, for example, and 30 points for hitting the treble.

The maximum (21) **sore** with one dart is 60, achieved by (22) **hit** the treble 20. Good players often achieve this, even though each treble section is less than one centimetre wide, and professional players sometimes manage it with three (23) **executive** darts, which always brings a (24) **raw** from the crowd and an excited shout of 'one hundred and eighty!' from the (25) **refee**.