

**1. Wimbledon**

This week's lesson focuses on one of the four most important tennis tournaments in the world, which takes place every June/July. The other three are the US Open in August/September, the Australian Open in January, and the French Open in May/June.

**Level**

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

**How to use the lesson**

1. Ask your students what they know about the sport of tennis. Do any of them play it? Have they ever watched a tennis match, in person or on TV? What famous tennis players and events can they name?
2. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheets A and B and ask them to fold Worksheet B so that just Exercise 1 (the crossword) is visible. Ask them to look at the crossword clues to see if they can fill in any of the answers before finding them on Worksheet A.
3. Check answers in open class.
4. Put the students in pairs. Tell them that you are going to give them a time limit of two minutes to take turns asking and answering the questions. Get ready with a clock or stopwatch and tell them to unfold the bottom of Worksheet B when you say "Go." When the two minutes is up, shout "Stop!".
5. Check answers in open class.
6. If there is time, play a game of categories tennis with your students. Divide the class into two teams and choose a category (food, transportation, sports, etc.). A student from Team A calls out one word from the category, and then a student from Team B calls out another word from the same category. Students from each team take turns calling out a word until someone repeats a word or they hesitate. When this happens, the other team is awarded the point (scoring, as in tennis: *15, 30, 40, game*), and you choose a new category. The first team to win a game is the winner.

**Answers:**

**Exercise 1**

1. strawberries
2. Rosol
3. advertising
4. clock
5. Sampras
6. Navratilova
7. white
8. grass

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Rod Laver* will read from top to bottom.

(Laver was an Australian left-handed player. He won Wimbledon in 1961, 1962, 1968, and 1969. In 1963, Rod turned professional and so wasn't allowed to play at Wimbledon until it changed to Open Tennis in 1968. When he returned, he won the title for the next two years. If he had been able to play for the years in between, he probably would have won the title nine times – more than any other men's champion in the history of the sport.)

**Exercise 2**

1. nearly 1,000 years ago
2. 1968
3. SW19
4. l'oeuf (egg)
5. deux (two)
6. walls
7. Serena Williams
8. Roger Federer

**2. Related websites**

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.wimbledon.com>

The official website for the Wimbledon Championships. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.usopen.org>

The official website of the US Open, the next big Grand Slam tennis tournament to take place, which this year will be between August 27 and September 9. Accessible to Intermediate level.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/sportacademy/hi/sa/tennis/rules/history/newsid\\_3575000/3575083.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sportacademy/hi/sa/tennis/rules/history/newsid_3575000/3575083.stm)

A five-page BBC Sport article on the history of tennis and Wimbledon. Accessible to Intermediate level.