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Sports Vocabulary

Professional /prə'feʃənl/ (Adj) - To earn a living through sports.

Example: She was an outstanding tennis player and became a professional at the age of 16.

Amateur /'æmətə(:)/ (Adj) - Playing sports for pleasure, not as a job.

Example: It used to be a rule that only amateur athletes could take part in the Olympic games but that has changed now.

Team spirit /ti:m 'spɪrɪt/ (N) - The feeling of belonging to a team or group.

Example: There's a real positive team spirit at our club. We all believe in each other.

Hooligan /'hu:lɪgən/ (N) - A violent person who causes trouble.

Example: The government passed travel restrictions against convicted football hooligans.

Personal best /'pɜ:snl bɛst/ (N) - To achieve your best performance in a sport.

Example: She broke her personal best time for the 100 meters but still only managed third place.

Sports center /spɔ:ts 'sɛntə/ (N) - A building where people can do many different sports.

Example: The new sports center offers a wide range of sports, including swimming and table tennis.

Season ticket /'si:zn 'tɪktɪ/ (N) - A ticket to a sports venue that can be used many times during the season.

Example: My season ticket allows entry for all this season's home games. It's cheaper than buying the ticket on the day.

Fitness /'fɪtnɪs/ (N) - Being fit and healthy.

Example: You can improve your level of fitness by walking and jogging every day.

Extreme sport /ɪks'tri:m spɔ:t/ (N) - A dangerous and exciting sport.

Example: I really want to try an extreme sport like bungee jumping.

Skillful /'skɪlf(ə)/ (Adj) - To have a high level of skill.

Example: He was the most skillful player on the team and scored the most goals.

Sports: Idioms

Workout - To take physical exercise.

Example: I workout twice a week at the gym with my personal trainer.



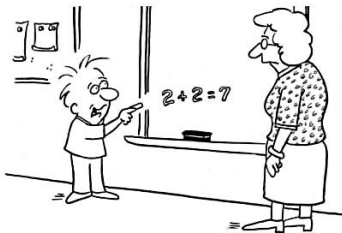
Slam dunk - Something which is very easy to achieve.

Example: Getting a 7.0 in IELTS should be a slam dunk for her. She's studied English for years and her level is almost native speaker.



The ball is in your court - To make a decision or do something to make progress.

Example: This is our contract extension offer. The ball is in your court now, so tell us before Friday if you accept it.



Drop the ball - To make a mistake or miss an opportunity.

Example: I dropped the ball when it came to investing in that company. Their shares have doubled in price.



Throw in the towel - To give up or surrender.

Example: After failing his driving test three times, he finally threw in the towel and bought a bicycle.



Ballpark figure - An estimate of how much something will cost.

Example: A ballpark figure for the renovation of the office is \$10,000.