

Wimbledon 2012

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. It is considered by many to be the most prestigious. It is one of the four Grand Slam Tennis Championships. The other three Majors are the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only Major still played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game of lawn tennis its name.

Wimbledon is also where you might eat strawberries and cream – but why? According to Wimbledon's Lawn Tennis Museum's commercial manager Ashley Jones: "It's just a coincidence of dates as that's when strawberries are in season here." Other requests he receives from the world press include why do they wear white? His response: "Men traditionally wore the same clothes for cricket." He added, "And the story they never ask but are always fascinated to discover is that the world's greatest tournament exists because of a broken pony roller in 1877. Basically, they needed to raise money to fix the roller used on the courts so they held a tennis tournament, which proved more successful than they had anticipated."

The Gentlemen's Singles Trophy was first presented by the All England Club in 1887, superseding previous winner's cups. It never actually becomes the property of the winner. The Cup, which is made of silver gilt, stands 18 inches high with a diameter of 7.5 inches. The champions receive a three quarters replica of the cup. The Ladies' Singles Trophy is a silver salver, sometimes referred to as the Rosewater Dish or Venus Rosewater Dish, which was first presented to the Champion when the challenge round was introduced in 1886. The salver, which is made of sterling silver, partly gilded, is 18.75 inches in diameter. Other cups include the Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy, the Ladies Doubles Trophy and the Mixed Doubles Trophy.

The Championship is broadcast to 189 countries and territories with 3,472 media accredited last year, including 622 press, 2,650 broadcast personnel and 200 photographers and photographic support staff. The total area of the All England Club covers 42 acres with capacity for 38,500 spectators.

Wimbledon runs from 25th June to the 8th July 2012. It will *also* host the London Olympics from Saturday 28th July to Sunday 5th August 2012 inclusive. The question is who will make the finals? Who will win?

Category: Sport / Tennis / Wimbledon

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. **Wimbledon:** Think of three things you know about Wimbledon. Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. **Geography: Wimbledon:** Where is Wimbledon? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. **Wimbledon:** In pairs find five things from the article about Wimbledon. Then add five other things you know about it. Write them below. Discuss together.

From the article	What <u>you</u> know about it
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's roleplay 1:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Wimbledon 2012*.

1 A tennis fan	3 A London taxi driver
2 A foreign TV sports reporter	4 A famous tennis player

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

Wimbledon 2012 – 25th June 2012

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Wimbledon**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are at Wimbledon. You are in a tent drinking Champaign and eating strawberries and cream. Start a conversation about: *Wimbledon 2012. 5-minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the other Grand Slams?
- 2) How did Wimbledon get its name?
- 3) Describe the men's winning trophy.
- 4) Describe the women's trophy.
- 5) How many countries and territories is Wimbledon broadcast to?

Student B

- 1) When is Wimbledon?
- 2) What other event is Wimbledon hosting this year?
- 3) What is the capacity of Wimbledon?
- 4) Who is Ashley Jones?
- 5) How did Wimbledon start?

12. **A day on a tennis court:** With your partner describe a day you play a game of tennis at Wimbledon. Include what you do, what you wear, what you play with, when do you play, who do you play, and the challenges you face.

The teacher can choose some pairs to put their findings on the board.

13. **Previous winners!** In pairs, think of five previous men's winners of Wimbledon. Then add five previous women's winners. What year did they win? Write them below. Discuss together. Who is the best overall?

Men	Women
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

14. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **Wimbledon**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Wimbledon**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Wimbledon _____
- b) Tennis _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will you be watching Wimbledon this year?
- 3) Who do you want to win Wimbledon?
- 4) Who is your Wimbledon hero?
- 5) Why do men get more prize money? Is this fair?
- 6) Is there too much prize money in tennis these days?
- 7) Who is the best tennis player of all time?
- 8) Why is Wimbledon so important?
- 9) Have you ever been to Wimbledon?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

Student B questions

- 1) What is a pony roller?
- 2) Do you play tennis?
- 3) What else is Wimbledon famous for?
- 4) Do you watch tennis on TV? Explain.
- 5) Which is your favourite tennis championship? Why?
- 6) Do you watch live tennis in your country?
- 7) Would you consider a career playing tennis? Why? Why not?
- 8) Is tennis too commercial these days? Explain?
- 9) Will you be going to Wimbledon this year?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Wimbledon

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

20 things about: Wimbledon

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Wimbledon 2012

Wimbledon is the oldest (1)_____ tournament in the world. It is considered by many to be the most prestigious. It is one of the four Grand Slam Tennis Championships. The other three Majors are the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only (2)_____ still played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game of (3)_____ tennis its name. Wimbledon is also where you might eat strawberries and (4)_____ – but why? According to Wimbledon's Lawn Tennis Museum's commercial manager Ashley Jones: "It's just a coincidence of dates as that's when (5)_____ are in season here." Other requests he receives from the world press include why do they wear white? His response: "Men traditionally wore the same clothes for (6)_____." He added, "And the story they never ask but are always fascinated to discover is that the world's greatest tournament exists because of a broken pony (7)_____ in 1877. Basically, they needed to raise money to fix the roller used on the courts so they held a tennis (8)_____, which proved more successful than they had anticipated."

roller

cream

lawn

cricket

tournament

Major

strawberries

tennis

The Gentlemen's Singles Trophy was first presented by the All England Club in 1887, superseding (1)_____ winner's cups. It never actually becomes the property of the winner. The Cup, which is made of silver gilt, stands 18 inches high with a diameter of 7.5 inches. The (2)_____ receive a three quarters (3)_____ of the cup. The Ladies' Singles Trophy is a silver salver, sometimes referred to as the Rosewater Dish or Venus Rosewater Dish, which was first presented to the Champion when the challenge round was introduced in 1886. The (4)_____, which is made of sterling silver, partly gilded, is 18.75 inches in (5)_____. Other cups include the Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy, the Ladies (6)_____ Trophy and the Mixed Doubles Trophy. The Championship is (7)_____ to 189 countries and territories with 3,472 media accredited last year, including 622 press, 2,650 broadcast personnel and 200 photographers and photographic support staff. The total area of the All England Club covers 42 acres with (8)_____ for 38,500 spectators.

salver

previous

diameter

capacity

replica

broadcast

doubles

champions

GAP FILL: LISTENING:

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Wimbledon 2012

Wimbledon is the oldest _____ the world. It is considered by many to be the most prestigious. It is one of the four Grand Slam Tennis Championships. The other three Majors are the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only Major still played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game of _____.

Wimbledon is also where you might eat _____ – but why? According to Wimbledon's Lawn Tennis Museum's commercial manager Ashley Jones: "It's just a coincidence of dates as that's when strawberries are in season here." Other requests he receives from the world press include why do they wear white? His response: "Men traditionally wore _____ cricket." He added, "And the story they never ask but are always fascinated to discover is that the world's greatest tournament exists because of a _____ in 1877. Basically, they needed to raise money to fix the roller used on the courts so they held a tennis tournament, which proved more successful than _____."

The Gentlemen's Singles Trophy was _____ the All England Club in 1887, superseding previous winner's cups. It never actually becomes the property of the winner. The Cup, _____ silver gilt, stands 18 inches high with a diameter of 7.5 inches. The champions receive a three quarters replica of the cup. The Ladies' Singles Trophy is a silver salver, sometimes referred to as the Rosewater Dish or Venus Rosewater Dish, which was first presented _____ the challenge round was introduced in 1886. The salver, which is made of sterling silver, partly gilded, is 18.75 inches in diameter. Other cups include the Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy, the Ladies Doubles Trophy and the _____.

The Championship is broadcast to 189 _____ with 3,472 media _____, including 622 press, 2,650 broadcast personnel and 200 photographers and photographic support staff. The total area of the _____ covers 42 acres with capacity for 38,500 spectators.

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Wimbledon 2012

Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. It is considered by (1)___ to be the (2)___ prestigious. It is one of the four Grand Slam Tennis Championships. The other three Majors are the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only Major (3)___ played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game of lawn tennis its name. Wimbledon is also where you (4)___ eat strawberries and cream – but why? According to Wimbledon's Lawn Tennis Museum's commercial manager Ashley Jones: "It's (5)___ a coincidence of dates as that's when strawberries are in season here." Other requests he receives from the world press include why do they wear white? His response: "Men traditionally wore the same clothes for cricket." He added, "And the story they never ask but are always fascinated to discover is (6)___ the world's greatest tournament exists because of a broken pony roller in 1877. Basically, they needed to raise money to fix the roller used on the courts so they held a tennis tournament, (7)___ proved more successful (8)___ they had anticipated."

The Gentlemen's Singles Trophy was first presented (1)___ the All England Club in 1887, superseding previous winner's cups. (2)___ never actually becomes the property of the winner. The Cup, which is made (3)___ silver gilt, stands 18 inches high with a diameter of 7.5 inches. The champions receive a three quarters replica of the cup. The Ladies' Singles Trophy is a silver salver, sometimes referred to (4)___ the Rosewater Dish (5)___ Venus Rosewater Dish, which was first presented to the Champion when the challenge round was introduced in 1886. The salver, which is made of sterling silver, partly gilded, is 18.75 inches (6)___ diameter. Other cups include the Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy, the Ladies Doubles Trophy and the Mixed Doubles Trophy. The Championship is broadcast (7)___ 189 countries and territories with 3,472 media accredited last year, including 622 press, 2,650 broadcast personnel and 200 photographers and photographic support staff. The total area of the All England Club covers 42 acres with capacity (8)___ 38,500 spectators.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	tournament	11	previous
2	Wimbledon	12	actually
3	tennis	13	commercial
4	traditionally	14	strawberries
5	cricket	15	prestigious
6	pony roller	16	championships
7	superseding	17	grass
8	successful	18	cream
9	anticipated	19	replica
10	surface	20	photographic

LINKS

http://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/index.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Championships,_Wimbledon

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/Tennis/Tournaments/Wimbledon.aspx>

<http://www.wtatennis.com/page/Tournaments/Info/0,,12781~839,00.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/tennis/>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Wimbledon 2012: Wimbledon is the oldest **tennis** tournament in the world. It is considered by many to be the most prestigious. It is one of the four Grand Slam Tennis Championships. The other three Majors are the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only **Major** still played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game of **lawn** tennis its name. Wimbledon is also where you might eat strawberries and **cream** – but why? According to Wimbledon's Lawn Tennis Museum's commercial manager Ashley Jones: "It's just a coincidence of dates as that's when **strawberries** are in season here." Other requests he receives from the world press include why do they wear white? His response: "Men traditionally wore the same clothes for **cricket**." He added, "And the story they never ask but are always fascinated to discover is that the world's greatest tournament exists because of a broken pony **roller** in 1877. Basically, they needed to raise money to fix the roller used on the courts so they held a tennis **tournament**, which proved more successful than they had anticipated."

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