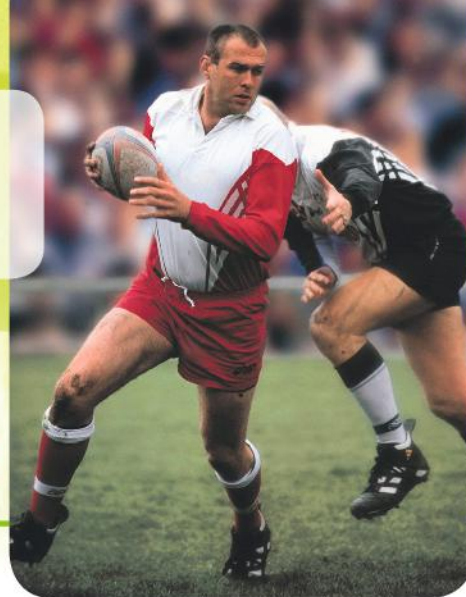


Sports in the United Kingdom

27 MP3

The British love sport and sport plays an important part in the education of British children. Many of these sports have their origins in Britain.



England's national summer sport is **1** and people play on village greens from April to September. Cricket is a very old English game and it can look slow and boring when you don't know the rules. The players wear whites¹ and there are two teams of 11 players. The man with the bat² hits³ a very hard ball and scores runs (points) by running. Cricket is very popular in Australia, India, and South Africa.

In 1823 William Webb Ellis, a pupil at Rugby School, picks up⁴ a ball during⁵ a football game and runs with it. This is how the game of **2** begins. Players can kick⁶ or carry⁷ the oval ball forwards⁸ but they can only throw it backwards⁹. There are two different types of rugby – Rugby League, which has 13 players, and Rugby Union, which has 15 players. The Six Nations is an annual tournament¹⁰ between England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy. American football comes from rugby.

Scotland is the home of **3** An important golf course¹¹ is St Andrews and there are hundreds of golf courses in Scotland. Golf is very popular in England too.



4 is very popular. There are public tennis courts¹² in nearly every town and young people play at school. The Wimbledon Championships starts in June each year. Millions of people watch it live on TV. It is traditional for visitors to have strawberries and cream at Wimbledon!



1 Osserva le foto e completa i testi con i nomi degli sport.

- football/soccer • cricket • golf
- rugby • tennis • horse racing
- polo • rowing

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2 Ascolta e leggi i testi, poi controlla se le tue risposte dell'esercizio 1 sono esatte.

3 Rileggi i testi e poi rispondi alle domande.

- 1 When do people play cricket?
- 2 What is the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race?
- 3 What rugby tournament does Italy play in?
- 4 Where do football teams play the FA Cup final?
- 5 When is the tennis tournament at Wimbledon?

4 Prepara un breve paragrafo (45-60 parole) sul tuo sport preferito. Segui le seguenti tracce.

- What is it?
- Where do you play it?
- How do you play it?

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5 is like hockey because there are four men on horseback¹³ trying to hit a ball with a stick towards a goal. The polo ponies are very fast. This game comes from India. Prince William and Harry are very good polo players.



People call **6** the 'Sport of Kings' and the British Royal Family love horses. They attend¹⁴ Royal Ascot in June where people dress up¹⁵ and wear elaborate hats. There are many race courses¹⁶ and meetings during the year. A famous race with very big jumps is the 'Grand National'.



7 is popular at public schools and Universities. The boat race¹⁷ between Oxford and Cambridge Universities is an annual event. The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race takes place on the last weekend of March or the first weekend of April on the River Thames.



8 or is a very popular sport in Britain and many teams in the Premiere League are famous all over the world – Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Celtic and Rangers. The Football Association Challenge Cup (or FA Cup) final is a very important sporting event. The two teams play at Wembley Stadium in London.

A Popular New Sport

Flyboarding is a new sport. Shoes with powerful water jets lift you up and out of the water.



5 And in your country?

- What are the national sports in your country?
- Where do they play them?
- Do they wear special clothes?

WORDS YOU NEED

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. whites | divise bianche (nel cricket) |
| 2. bat | mazza |
| 3. hit | colpire |
| 4. pick up | tirare su, raccogliere |
| 5. during | durante |
| 6. kick | calciare |
| 7. carry | portare con sé |
| 8. forwards | in avanti |
| 9. backwards | indietro |
| 10. tournament | torneo |
| 11. golf course | campo da golf |
| 12. tennis court | campo da tennis |

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- 13. on horseback**
14. attend
15. dress up
16. race course
17. boat race

a cavallo
 frequentare
 vestirsi elegante
 gara di corsa a cavallo
 regata