

INSTRUCTIONS

This Learning Packet has two parts: (1) text to read and (2) questions to answer.

The text describes a particular sport or physical activity, and relates its history, rules, playing techniques, scoring, notes and news.

The Response Forms (questions and puzzles) check your understanding and appreciation of the sport or physical activity.

INTRODUCTION

Table tennis, or ping-pong, is an enjoyable sport but it can be highly competitive. Each player tries to outscore his opponent through the use of skill, strength, speed, stamina and strategy. The game is somewhat similar to tennis, where players hit the ball back and forth over a net.

The game is played on a table surface with the use of paddles and a ping-pong ball. The objective in the game is to be the first to score 11 points.



Table tennis is a game played by many people around the world. Games of table tennis are played in schools as well as homes. People young and old alike enjoy this fast-paced and action-packed game. For the serious player, there are many associations and organizations that sponsor competition. In addition, table tennis is an Olympic sport.

HISTORY

The origin of table tennis has never been exactly pinpointed, even though it's a relatively young sport. The sport is younger than lawn tennis and not much older than basketball. The earliest known form of the sport, called indoor tennis, was played in the early 1880s by British army officers in India and South Africa. They played the game by using lids from cigar boxes as paddles and rounded corks from wine bottles as balls. They set up a row of books across the middle of a table to establish the net.

James Gibb, an Englishman who visited the United States in 1900, brought some hollow celluloid balls home and began playing indoor tennis with friends using the new balls. Gibb apparently came up with the name “ping pong,” representing the sounds of the ball hitting the paddle and then the table.

In 1902 an Englishman, E. C. Goode, covered his wooden ping pong paddle with pebbled rubber. This allowed him to put spin on the ball. A Ping Pong Association was founded in England that same year.

The first world table tennis championship tournament was held in London in 1927. From then until World War II, Hungary dominated the sport. The American Ping Pong Association was formed in 1930.



Central European dominance continued for a time after World War II, but Asian players took over the sport beginning in 1953. One factor in the sudden emergence of Asian stars was the introduction of the foam rubber paddle by Japan’s Horoi Satoh in 1952. The new coating made the game faster and also allowed players to put even more spin in the ball.

The first national table tennis championship was staged in 1931 by the American Ping Pong Association (APPA). Only the men’s singles was contested. The APPA was controlled by Parker Brothers, which held the trademark on the word “ping pong.”

In the meantime, several other table tennis associations sprang up around the country. In October of 1933, the U. S. Table Tennis Association (USTTA), was organized.

The USTTA tournament was open to all comers. In 1936, though, there was a special closed division for U. S. citizens only. This was used to select U. S. representatives at the world championships that year. This tournament is considered the first U. S. national championship. There wasn’t another until 1976, when the U. S. national tournament was inaugurated.

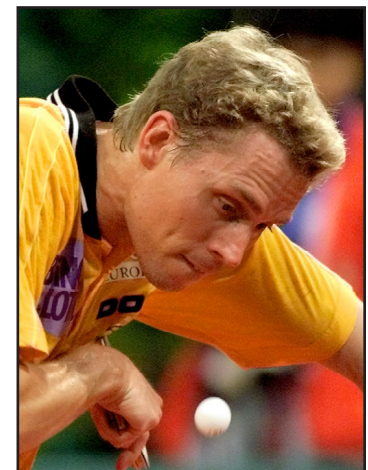


Table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988, with singles and doubles competition for both men and women.

HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

The game is won when one person scores 11 or more points and is two points ahead of his or her opponent. In other words, you can win with a score of 11-9 but not 11-10. If

there is less than a two point difference, the game continues until one player is ahead by two points. At 10-10 (or deuce) the players alternate with every serve; the winner is then the first person to gain a clear two points advantage over his opponent. The 11 point game is an International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) change which occurred in 2001. Previously, the first player to gain 21 points won the game. Games played at national and international tournaments are now played to 11 points in either a best of five games or best of seven games.

Scoring points

The server must successfully serve the ball to the other side of the table or lose a point to the opponent. Once the ball is in play, either player can score a point, if the other is unable to return the ball successfully to the other side of the table.

Serving the ball

The server must throw the ball up at least at least 16 centimeters (about six inches) without spin before hitting the ball. Flicking the ball to the paddle with the thumb or holding the ball and hitting it are illegal services. The served ball must hit the table on the server's side before bouncing over the net. It must then hit the table on the other side. If it hits the net or misses the table on the other side, it is a lost point.



If the ball hits the net and lands on the other side of the table, it is a *let* serve. The ball can be served again.

Doubles game

In a doubles game, the ball must be served across the table to the opposite court. If it does not hit the table on the opposite court, the opponent gets the point.

Serve five times

In common play, each player serves the ball--resulting in a score--five times. Then the other player serves. There are various methods to determine who serves first.

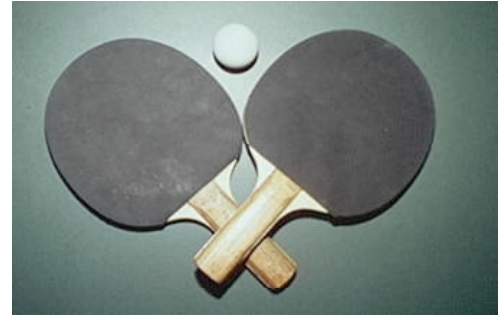
Returning the ball

A player tries to return the served ball to the opponent's side. He or she must not let the ball hit his side of the table before going over the net. It must strike the table on the other

side of the net. If it does not, the opponent scores a point.

The players hit the ball back and forth until one misses a shot, giving the other player the point.

There are a number of strategies used to win a game of table tennis. Some of these include hitting to the weak side, slamming the ball and putting spin on the ball.



EQUIPMENT

The equipment required to play table tennis are a ping-pong table, a net, paddles and ping-pong balls. Following is a summary of official table tennis rules on the equipment used.



Table

The table should be 274 cm. x 152.5 cm. (9 ft x 5 ft) in size and 76 cm. (2 ft. 6 in.) above the floor. It is usually painted with a dark green or blue matte finish and has a white 2 cm. (3/4 inch) line along each edge. There is also a white 3 mm. (1/8 in.) line down the center of the table for use in doubles games.

Net

The net divides the playing surface into two courts of equal size. The net should be 15.25 cm. (6 in.) high, with the post being at most 15.25 cm. (6 in.) outside the side lines. The bottom of the net should be as close as possible to the playing surface.

Ball

The ball should have a diameter of 40 mm., weigh 2.7 gm. and be made of celluloid or similar plastic material. It can be white or orange.

Paddle

The paddle or racquet may be of any size, shape or weight but the blade shall be flat and rigid. A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either pimples rubber or sandwich rubber having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4 mm. The surface should be flat and pimples distributed evenly to avoid unusual returns.

NEWS & NOTES

USA Table Tennis is the national governing body for the Olympic sport of table tennis in the United States. The USA Table Tennis web site contains information about the sport in the United States. This site even includes a listing of champions in the following categories: Olympic, Pan Am, World, Paralympic, U.S. Open and World Cup. Hall of fame profiles are also provided at this site.

The USA Table Tennis web site is:

<http://www.usatt.org/index.shtml>

Table tennis competition in the United States includes both men and women play.

There is also an active web site for Canadian table tennis news. This site includes team ratings, Canadian national team information, the results of recent competitive events and links. You can view this site at:

<http://www.ctta.ca/>

Olympic Competition:

Table tennis has a short Olympic history, although worldwide it has been one of the most popular forms of family fun.

Making its debut at Olympic level in Seoul in 1988, table tennis has earned the reputation of being the fastest ball sport on earth. While there are more than 150 member countries at international level, the sport is dominated by Asian nations.

In 1988 scandal surrounded the women's events, with both the Chinese and Korean teams rumored to have asked their players to "throw" some games. In the end, South Korea took the gold medal in the men's singles and women's doubles, while China won the other two gold medals.

On the next page are gold winners for Olympic competition in table tennis.



MEN

2008-BEIJING	Singles:	Ma Lin, China
	Doubles:	Ma Lin/Ho Wang, China
2004-ATHENS	Singles:	Seung Min Ryu, Korea
	Doubles:	Ma Lin/Chen Qi, China
2000-SYDNEY	Singles:	Kong Linghui, China
	Doubles:	Wang Liqin/Yang Sen, China
1996-ATLANTA	Singles:	Liu Guoliang, China
	Doubles:	Kong Linghui/Liu Guoliang, China
1992-BARCELONA	Singles:	Jan-Ove Waldner, Sweden
	Doubles:	Lu Lin/Wang Tao, China
1988-SEOUL	Singles:	Yoo Nam-kyu, South Korea
	Doubles:	Chen Longcan/Wei Qingguang, China

WOMEN

2008-BEIJING	Singles:	Zhang Yining, China
	Doubles:	Wang Nan/Zhang Yining, China
2004-ATHENS	Singles:	Zhang Yining, China
	Doubles:	Wang Nan/Zhang Yining, China
2000-SYDNEY	Singles:	Wang Nan, China
	Doubles:	Wang Nan/Li Ju, China
1996-ATLANTA	Singles:	Deng Yaping, China
	Doubles:	Deng Yaping/Qiao Hong, China
1992-BARCELONA	Singles:	Deng Yaping, China
	Doubles:	Deng Yaping/Qiao Hong, China
1988-SEOUL	Singles:	Chen Jing, China
	Doubles:	Hyun Jung-Hwa/Yang Young-Ja, South Korea

5. What invention is E. C. Goode credited with for the game of “ping pong?”
What change did his invention bring to the game?

6. When did table tennis become an Olympic sport? What type of competition was offered?

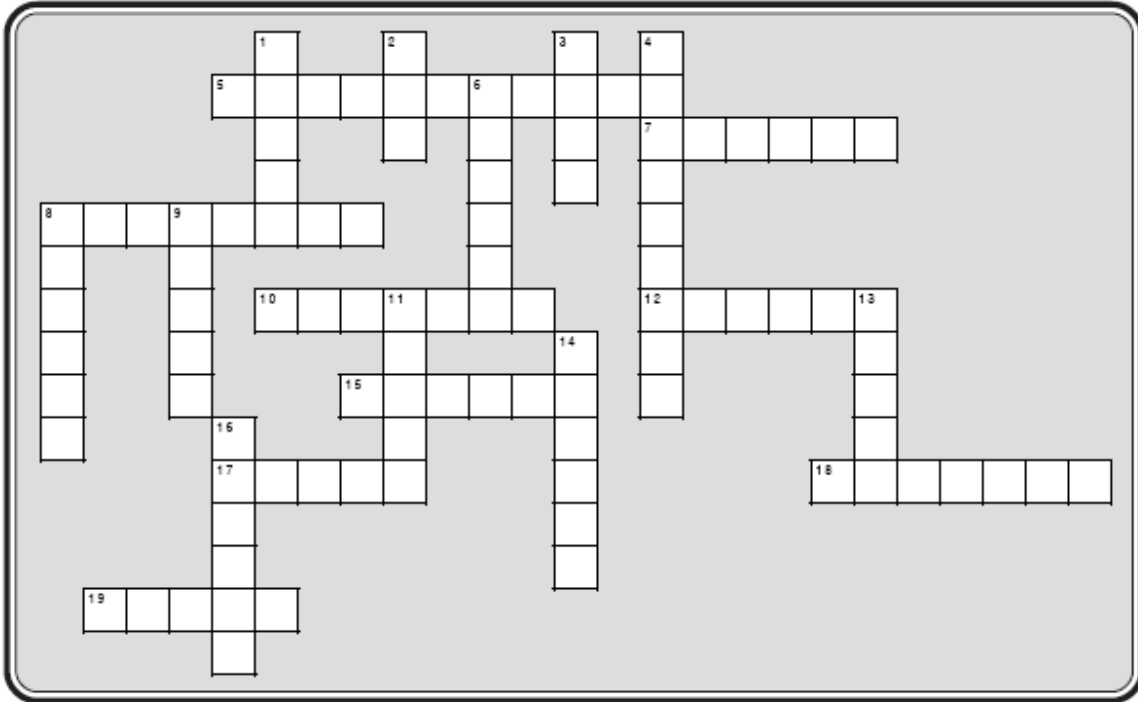
7. How are points scored in table tennis?

8. How is the ball served in a doubles game?

9. How many serves does each player get?

10. What are some of the strategies used to win a game of table tennis?

Name: _____ Date: _____



Across

- 5 Table tennis can be a highly _____ sport
- 7 The first world table tennis championship tournament was held here
- 8 Parker _____ held the trademark on the word “ping pong”
- 10 From 1927 until World War II this country dominated the sport of table tennis
- 12 Table tennis balls can be either white or _____
- 15 This player must throw the ball up at least six inches without spin before hitting it
- 17 These players took over the sport beginning in 1953
- 18 Table tennis is an _____ sport
- 19 Table tennis is a game played by many people around the _____

Down

- 1 He covered his wooden ping pong paddle with pebbled rubber
- 2 The type of serve when the ball hits the net and lands on the other side
- 3 He began playing indoor tennis using hollow celluloid balls
- 4 The ball is often made of this material
- 6 The earliest form of table tennis was called “_____ tennis”
- 8 The _____ of the net should be as close as possible to the playing surface
- 9 The game of table tennis is played on one _____
- 11 The table is usually printed this color
- 13 The net divides the playing surface into two courts of _____ size
- 14 The _____ of table tennis has never been exactly pinpointed
- 16 The blade of this must be flat and rigid

Name: _____ Date: _____



Circle the words in the above puzzle.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. ASIAN | 11. OLYMPIC |
| 2. CELLULOID | 12. ORANGE |
| 3. COMPETITIVE | 13. ORIGIN |
| 4. EQUAL | 14. PADDLE |
| 5. GIBB | 15. PARKER |
| 6. GOODE | 16. PING |
| 7. GREEN | 17. SERVER |
| 8. HUNGARY | 18. TABLE |
| 9. INDOOR | 19. TENNIS |
| 10. LONDON | 20. WORLD |