

# Federer makes tennis history

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Roger Federer, the Swiss tennis champion, has won his sixth title at Wimbledon in England, defeating Andy Roddick from the USA by three sets to two. The win also makes Federer the number one player in the world rankings, ahead of Rafael Nadal from Spain.

However, this win was more special for another reason. It is Federer's fifteenth Grand Slam tennis title. This is a new world record in the sport, as Federer moves ahead of the previous record holder Pete Sampras from the USA. Sampras won fourteen titles in his career.

Although there are hundreds of different tennis tournaments all around the world each year, only four of them are considered "Grand Slams". These are Wimbledon, the US Open, the French Open, and the Australian Open. When a player wins at one of these events, they are said to have won a Grand Slam title.

Federer has won Wimbledon six times, the US Open five times, the Australian Open three times, and the French Open once.

This Wimbledon title did not come easily, as Andy Roddick played some fantastic tennis. The fifth and final set of the game went for more than 95 minutes!

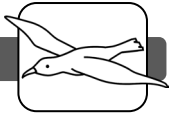
Sampras, the previous record holder, came to Wimbledon to watch the game, and sat in the royal box to see Federer break the record he set in 2002. He congratulated Federer warmly after his victory, in a spirit of true sportsmanship.



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# A. Reading Skills

**Word Power** – Choose 12 words you don't know (or don't know well) from the article. Write them in the list below. Then use a dictionary and write down what the words mean.

1.  ⇒
2.  ⇒
3.  ⇒
4.  ⇒
5.  ⇒
6.  ⇒

7.  ⇒
8.  ⇒
9.  ⇒
10.  ⇒
11.  ⇒
12.  ⇒

## Reading Questions

❶ This article is mainly about...

- A. Federer's Grand Slam victories
- B. The history of tennis
- C. The Wimbledon tennis courts
- D. Federer's future tennis career

❷ Is the Austrian Open a Grand Slam tennis tournament?

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❸ What new record has Federer set?

\_\_\_\_\_

❹ Who did Federer defeat in the latest Wimbledon tennis final?

- A. Pete Sampras
- B. Rafael Nadal
- C. Andy Roddick
- D. Nobody

❺ Why is Pete Sampras described as acting "in a spirit of true sportsmanship"?

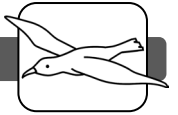
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## B. News Extra: All about tennis!



Listen to this News Extra! [www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090709.html](http://www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090709.html)



### Listen and take notes:

*Tennis and people today...*

*Where and how tennis is played...*

*History of modern tennis...*

*"Real tennis"...*

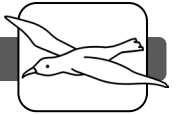
### Word help for note-taking

individual | singles | team  
 wheelchairs | court | lawn | clay  
 concrete | surface | racquet | bounce  
 century | squash | racquetball

### True or False?

- ① Tennis is only played between two people. **T / F**
- ② Tennis courts are made of different kinds of materials. **T / F**
- ③ The ball can only bounce once before it must be hit. **T / F**
- ④ The British (from the United Kingdom) first invented tennis. **T / F**
- ⑤ Real tennis was an indoor sport only. **T / F**





## C. Talk Time!

### Person A

- ⇒ **Hello?**
- B. Hi, it's me!
- ⇒ **Oh hi! What's happening?**
- B. Not much at the moment. But have you seen the weather outside?
- ⇒ **Um – no, actually... Been kinda busy.**
- B. It's glorious! Sunny and warm – perfect for getting out and doing something! Are you up for a game of tennis?
- ⇒ **Well, not really. I suck at tennis.**
- B. Okay... Well, how about soccer then?
- ⇒ **Got a sore foot, so that's no good. But I do have this new computer game...**

### Person B

- A. Hello?
- ⇒ **Hi, it's me!**
- A. Oh hi! What's happening?
- ⇒ **Not much at the moment. But have you seen the weather outside?**
- A. Um – no, actually... Been kinda busy.
- ⇒ **It's glorious! Sunny and warm – perfect for getting out and doing something! Are you up for a game of tennis?**
- A. Well, not really. I suck at tennis.
- ⇒ **Okay... Well, how about soccer then?**
- A. Got a sore foot, so that's no good. But I do have this new computer game...

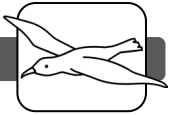
### Ask the class!

- ❶ Are we talking face-to-face?  
⇒ *No – on the telephone.*
- ❸ Why haven't I seen the weather outside?  
⇒ *I've been busy (with computer game).*
- ❺ Am I good at playing tennis?  
⇒ *No, I suck at tennis.*
- ❷ Why do I say I can't play soccer?  
⇒ *Because I have a sore foot.*

### Ask the class!

- ❷ Why did I call this person?  
⇒ *To invite him/her outside (to play s.t)*
- ❹ How is the weather outside today?  
⇒ *Glorious, warm and sunny.*
- ❻ What other game do I suggest?  
⇒ *Soccer.*
- ❸ What is he/she hinting at?  
⇒ *Wants to stay inside with computer.*

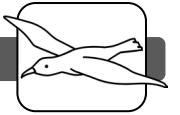




## D. Class Discussion

| Questions | <b>1</b> What are your favourite sports to play or watch others playing? | <b>2</b> Have you ever played or watched tennis before? What did you think of it? | <b>3</b> Why do you think tennis is such a popular sport with so many people? |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| Friend 1  |  |   |   |
| Friend 2  |  |   |   |
| Friend 3  |  |   |   |
| Friend 4  |  |   |   |





## E. Write an email

- 1 Read the following post on a sports website:

### Congratulations Roger!

As you all probably know, Roger Federer has created tennis history by winning his 15<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam title at Wimbledon.

This is an amazing achievement and a new sporting record! And now, we're giving **YOU** the chance to write to Roger himself and congratulate him personally! Send your email in to us and we'll make sure Roger gets it!

- 2 Write an email to Roger Federer to congratulate him for his great win and new record!

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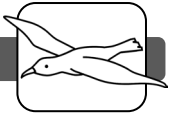
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## Teacher's Notes

For ideas on how to apply various activities with the different lesson stages, please visit:

[http://www.englishraven.com/wnk\\_teachers.html](http://www.englishraven.com/wnk_teachers.html)



Link to archive version of news page:

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## Answer Keys:

### A. Reading Skills

- ① A   ② C   ③ No   ④ Most Grand Slam wins (15)  
 ⑤ Because he watched the game and congratulated Federer warmly even though his own record was broken.

### B. News Extra: All about tennis!

#### Listening script:

*Tennis is a major international sport, played in many countries around the world by both males and females of all ages. It can be played as an individual game – called “singles”, with two people playing against each other – or as a team game, with two teams of two players each competing. Tennis can also be played by people in wheelchairs.*

*Tennis is played both inside and outside on something called a court. The court can be made of grass – called a lawn court – or of clay or concrete with a special surface – called a hardcourt. There is a short net in the middle of the court. Players have to hit the ball with a special racquet over this net and into the other person’s side of the court. That other player has to then hit the ball back over the net*

*without letting the ball bounce more than once on their side.*

*Tennis is a very old sport. The modern form of the game started in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in the United Kingdom, though it was only played by rich people from the upper classes. This form of tennis – played outside – was in turn based on an older game called “real tennis.”*

*Real tennis is much older, and is believed to have started in France almost a thousand years ago. It was played inside with very different rules. Real tennis inspired not only modern tennis, but also other popular sports like squash and racquetball.*

#### True or False?

- ① F   ② T   ③ T   ④ F   ⑤ T

