

Word of the Month: PITCH

by *Sarah Gudgeon*

1. Read these sentences

a. The **pitch** was very wet. The boys cancelled their football game and decided to go to the cinema instead.

b. Justin hit the cricket ball very hard with his **bat** and did three runs before the other team caught it.

c. The basketball **court** in the town centre was new. All the kids played basketball there and it was always very busy.

d. John hit the golf ball with his **club** - hurray, a hole in one! John went to celebrate at the clubhouse with his friends.

e. Vicky decided to buy a new tennis **racket**. Her old racket was broken and she had to finally throw it away.

f. It took Philip three hours to complete the Spanish golf **course** and he was boiling hot at the end of it.

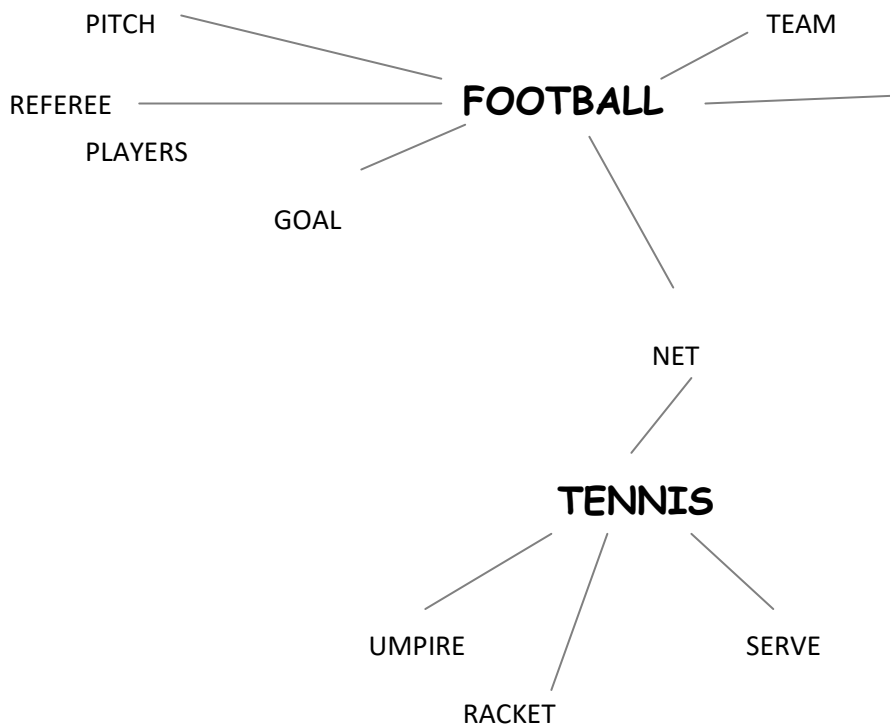
2. Match each sport to one word. One sport has two words!

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. tennis | 1. club / course |
| b. football | 2. court |
| c. basketball | 3. racket |
| d. golf | 4. pitch |
| e. cricket | 5. bat |

3. Complete the sentences with one of the words from exercise 1.

1. Josh received a new set of golf _____ for his birthday as well as membership to the local club.
2. Kerry and Joanne loved playing football on the new _____ near the park. It was much better than the old one.
3. Mark took the _____ from Patrick. It was his turn to hit the ball now that Patrick was out.
4. Nick bought his _____ and balls from a specialist tennis store. They were more expensive but the quality was great.
5. Margaret was very tired - the 18 hole _____ was difficult because she normally only played 9 holes.
6. The basketball tournament was at the _____ near the beach. Lots of people came to watch.

4. Make your own sports spider-grams. Use a dictionary to help you. For example:



5. Write six sentences using sports words from your spider-gram.

Teachers Notes

1. Ask the students to read the sentences and then work with a partner and write down the words in bold in Italian. Ask them to think about if you have different words in Italian for the places where different sports are played. (No, campo, is generally used).

2. a3 b4 c2 d1 e5

3.

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4.

Before asking the students to do their own spider-grams go through the example with them. Show them how easy it is to build vocabulary from such a simple exercise. Ask them to pick a new word (for example, team) and extend on that together before they create theirs. Students should do their spider-grams individually and then work in pairs to compare with a partner.

Extension idea: use this exercise to drill good pronunciation by dividing students into groups, getting them to produce one poster-sized spider-gram together, checking the pronunciation via the phonetic spelling given in the dictionary and then coming to the front to present their poster to the rest of the class. You will need to monitor this activity carefully to make sure that the pronunciation is indeed correct.

5.

Answers will vary.