

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 25. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2014/15, kategória 2A
riešenia a úlohy

L I S T E N I N G T A P E S C R I P T

ON SPORTS AND GAMES

“Being a good sportsman always helps you to get in society.” This is I am afraid, one of those popular fallacies which die hard. It all depends. What sports? How good are you? I am not adding the question: in what sort of society? Because we have cleared that point up when we discussed our terminology.

To be a good football player will, of course, help you to get along in the society of local football fans and may indeed secure invitations to the parties of thee chairman of the local club. But we are not speaking of chairmen of local football clubs. Society for us – as we have already made clear – means the Highest Snobocracy of the land and there it would be wiser for you to admit to a passion for beating of ladies with rhinoceros whips rather than admit to a keen interest in football. Indeed, your amatory peculiarities may lend you a faint aura of interest: your devotion to football will destroy you forever.

To start at the bottom of the sports there are certain games, interests in which is positively harmful, there are others which will get you nowhere. Everybody knows that bowls, football or darts will not help you much if you want to get into that circle of Titles, Money and Rank. It may be a surprise for the uninitiated that ice hockey and cricket will not be regarded as much good either.

Buying race-horses, owning a stable – as I cannot repeat too often – is the best possible wicket (if I may in spite of my stern warning, use a cricketing metaphor).

But what about riding yourself? Being an adept horseman (or horsewoman) is very good indeed; it is definitely an asset. Horses have always stood high on the social ladder and they have triumphantly risen much higher still during the present reign. Almost everything in connection with horses is good.

The true sports of the Snobocracy are, however, shooting and hunting; yachting – with some reservations; racing and polo.

The queen of all sports is hunting. Today, this means, to all intents and purposes, fox hunting. Pursuit of one of the most helpless creatures is regarded as the noblest of all pastimes by the noblest in our land.

When young, I used to hunt myself. It always bored me but, in the old days, it did not revolt me. Nowadays in the club, I might get involved in conversation at the bar. I have a rather nondescript face and people, more often than not, fail to recognize me. Someone might ask me: “With which pack do you hunt?”

I answer: “I do not hunt.”

Embarrassed silence for a few seconds.

“Well...,” comes back the still helpful and friendly suggestion, “well, you don’t mean of course that you don’t hunt at all.”

I say as politely as I can: “Indeed, I don’t hunt at all.”

After some brief reflection: “But why?”

I reply, still trying to keep up a conversational tone, and not to sound didactic, aggressive or smug: “Because I do not enjoy killing.”

I do not go further. I do not add: Particularly the killing of innocent and defenceless creatures. I do not add that I would admire people who hunt much more if, for instance, foxes were armed too and could shoot back. I have said enough as it is. My interlocutor will stop the conversation, fall silent and move away in horror and disgust.

I am not setting myself up as an example to follow. On the contrary.

R O L E P L A Y

TEACHER

You feel depressed. You don't think your English is getting any better and you don't know what to do. A friend is trying to cheer you up. Maybe they have some ideas about what you could do ...



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R O L E P L A Y

STUDENT

A friend of yours is feeling depressed, because s/he does not think his/her English is getting any better and s/he does not know what to do. Try to cheer him/her up and suggest some ways to improve his/her English.

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PICTURE STORY

Come up with a story entitled “*A Day in the Life of a Capital City*” and that ends with this sentence: ... *and we all look forward to the next one.*



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A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR – 15 pts

- A: 1. have been living/have lived; 2. came; 3. was offered; 4. was working;
5. had known; 6. have been married; 7. Living/Living 8. knew; 9. I am reading;
10. will help/helps
- B: 1. must have; 2. should have; 3. must have/shouldn't have 4. can't have;
5. shouldn't have

VOCABULARY – 10pts

1. C; 2. A; 3. C; 4. B; 5. A; 6. B; 7. C; 8. A; 9. B; 10. C;

READING COMPREHENSION – 10 pts

- A: 1d; 2.c; 3.a; (4. e) 5. f; 6. b. 5 pts
- B: 1. D; 2. D; 3. C; 4. B; 4 pts
- C: optimistic (They are optimistic/optimists) 1 pt

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5pts

1. F; 2. F; 3. NS;
4. c. hunting; 5. (because) he does not enjoy killing/he does not like the killing of innocent and defenceless creatures

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