

Golf

“The golf swing is like a suitcase into which we are trying to pack one too many things.”

—John Updike



Quick Facts

Game: Golf

Playing surface: _____

Equipment: _____

Objective: _____

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever played golf?
2. Is golf a popular game in your country?
3. Do you know when and where golf was first played?
4. Do you know what a golf course looks like?
5. Do you know what materials were used to make the first golf balls and clubs?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. circular | a) a method |
| _____ 2. embed | b) a hill of sand |
| _____ 3. rough | c) to prepare a plan or drawing |
| _____ 4. brush | d) round |
| _____ 5. stroke | e) shaped |
| _____ 6. dune | f) to place firmly in the surrounding area |
| _____ 7. set out | g) to put down in writing |
| _____ 8. molded | h) low-growing bushes |
| _____ 9. found | i) to establish |
| _____ 10. record | j) a hit |
| _____ 11. technique | k) not smooth |
| _____ 12. design | l) to start an organization |

Reading

1. Golf is a game in which players must hit a small, white ball into a small, **circular** cup **embedded** in a circle of mown grass. To get to this cup, players must hit their ball over or through a landscape that includes **rough** grass, trees, and **brush**, as well as small lakes or streams and areas of sand.
2. There are 18 cups, or holes, on a golf course, and players must complete each hole (numbered 1 to 18) before they can move on to the next one. Players use different wood- and metal-faced clubs to do this. The player who completes the game with the least number of hits, or **strokes**, wins.
3. The modern game of golf was first played near St. Andrews, Scotland, in the 1400s. Players used a stick or club to hit pebbles around the area's sand **dunes**. At some point, hand-sewn leather balls filled with feathers replaced pebbles. Wooden clubs continued to be used because they did not rip the leather balls. The first rules of golf were **set out** by the Honorable Company of Edinburgh golfers in 1744.
4. Around 1850, a solid, **molded** rubber ball was created. In 1905, a new **technique** improved the balls so that they were sturdier and could be hit farther with heavier clubs. Iron clubs were introduced in the early 1900s. Steel clubs were developed in 1925 and used until the 1980s. Today, clubs are **designed** by computers and use space-age materials such as titanium and zirconia.
5. During the 1800s, the British built golf courses in India, South Africa, Egypt, Hong Kong, and Australia. In North America, the first **recorded** game of golf was played near Montreal, Quebec, in 1826. The Royal Montreal Golf Club was **founded** in 1873, the first in North America. In 1888, Yonkers, New York, became home to the first golf course in the United States.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. The game of golf originated in North America.
- _____ 2. The first golf course in North America was in Yonkers, New York.
- _____ 3. The first golfers used to hit small stones with a stick.
- _____ 4. Golf was first played over 600 years ago.
- _____ 5. The materials used to make golf clubs have stayed the same throughout history.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. What is the objective in a game of golf?
- 2. Describe a golf "hole."
- 3. What does a golf course or landscape look like?
- 4. Who is the winner in a golf game?
- 5. How has the golf "ball" changed throughout history?
- 6. When and by whom were the first rules of golf developed?
- 7. What materials have been used over the years to make golf clubs?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from the list to the right.

1. If you practice playing tennis every day, you will _____ quickly.
2. Her children like to go to the beach to collect pretty shells and _____ .
3. The grass has grown quickly with all this rain. You should _____ it today.
4. This chair is not very _____. A heavy person could not sit in it.
5. The _____ here is so beautiful.
I wish I had my camera with me to take a picture of it.
6. Her boyfriend left her, so now she is going to _____ up all his old letters and throw them away.
7. He likes to go fishing at the nearby _____ on warm summer days.

Word List:

- mow
- landscape
- stream
- pebbles
- rip
- improve
- sturdy

Discussion

1. Have you ever watched a golf tournament on TV? If so, did you enjoy it?
2. Have you ever heard of Tiger Woods?
Have you heard of any other famous golfers?
3. Why do you think golf is such an expensive game to play?
4. What is the most popular game or sport played in your country? Do you play this game?
5. Golf is a popular sport among people of all ages.
Why do you think that is?