



## Episode 48: Sports & Games

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper-level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss experiences with and interest in various sports and games. **Here are some of the different sports and games that are mentioned:**

### Sports

**Badminton:** similar to tennis, but with a light, cone-shaped object ("birdie") instead of a ball

**Soccer:** in U.S. what the rest of the world refers to as football

**Baseball:** nicknamed "America's pastime" because of its cultural legacy. Players hit a ball with a bat and run based to score points by making runs (*Cubs team was mentioned*)

**Football (or American football):** players carry throw or catch an oval shaped ball to score points by making touchdowns (*Bears team was mentioned*)

**Softball:** a game similar to baseball but with a larger ball on a smaller field

**Volleyball:** players hit a ball over a net without letting it touch the ground on their side

**Basketball:** players shoot a ball through a raised hoop and score points by making baskets

**Dodgeball:** game where players try to hit opponents with soft balls and try to avoid being hit themselves. (dodge=avoid someone or something by making a sudden quick movement)

**Track:** a sport that includes running races and other athletic events

**Boxing:** combat sport where 2 opponents wear gloves & score points by punching each other

**Figure skating:** skaters perform jumps, spins, and other routines on ice

**Hockey:** fast-paced sport where players use sticks to hit a puck (small flat object) into the opposing team's goal while skating on ice. It is known for the unwritten part of the game's culture for players to fight during the game

**Bowling:** a game in which players roll a heavy ball down a lane to knock over pins

### Games

**Scrabble:** players use letter tiles to make words on a game board

**Uno:** players try to get rid of all their cards first, calling "Uno" when only one card is left

**Go Fish:** popular card game for kids where players ask each other for matching cards

**Hungry Hungry Hippo:** players control plastic hippos that "eat" as many marbles as possible

**Poetry for Neanderthals:** word-guessing game where players can only give one-syllable clues

**Taboo:** word-guessing game; players describe a word without using certain forbidden words

**Herd Mentality:** A party game in which players try to give the same answer as everyone else

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.\*

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>segue</b>	smooth change from one topic to another <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about badminton was a perfect <u>segue</u> into our sports conversation.</li> </ul>
<b>Get on board</b> [with something]	to support or become interested in an idea or activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soccer is popular around the world, but many Americans have not <u>gotten on board with it</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>bet (verb)</b> <b>betting (adj.)</b>	bet = to gamble/risk money on the outcome of a future event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you were the <u>betting</u> type, you would put your money on it.</li> </ul>
<b>extracurricular</b>	happening outside of regular school classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She played sports as an <u>extracurricular</u> activity after school.</li> </ul>
<b>be out for blood</b>	be determined to defeat or hurt someone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During dodgeball, some students looked like they <u>were out for blood</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>whip</b>	throw something very quickly and forcefully <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some players <u>whipped</u> the dodgeball as hard as they could.</li> </ul>
<b>duck</b>	quickly lower your head or body to avoid being hit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In dodgeball, you're supposed to <u>duck</u> when the ball comes toward you.</li> </ul>
<b>stunk</b>	Informal: past tense of stink: to be very bad at something. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When I was a kid, I <u>stunk</u> at most sports.</li> </ul>
<b>sprints</b>	short races with the goal to run as fast as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When I was in track, the <u>sprints</u> were ok, but I didn't like the long-distance races.</li> </ul>
<b>kick us out</b>	make someone leave a place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coach <u>kicked them out</u> of the cabins to make them go dancing.</li> </ul>
<b>spectator sports</b>	sports that people watch rather than play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football and hockey are popular <u>spectator sports</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>minor league</b>	a lower professional level where players develop before reaching the top league
<b>the stands</b>	the tiered seating areas where spectators watch a sporting event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fans cheered loudly from <u>the stands</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>kiddos</b>	informal word for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's fun watching the <u>kiddos</u> play soccer.</li> </ul>
<b>outing</b>	a trip or activity done for fun, usually lasting a single day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At one place I worked, we always had a summer office <u>outing</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>That's where I really shine.</b>	That's where I do especially well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about games, <u>that's where I really shine</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>board game</b>	a game played on a board, usually with pieces, cards, or dice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrabble is my favorite <u>board game</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>beginner's luck</b>	unexpected success the first time someone tries something <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can't believe my high score for the first time bowling; it must be <u>beginner's luck</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>go downhill</b>	become worse after starting well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the first game, her bowling scores <u>went downhill</u>.</li> </ul>

## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation - Cont'd

<b>gutter</b>	the channel along the side of a bowling lane where the ball scores no points – when the ball lands in this area, it's called a gutter ball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her ball rolled into the <u>gutter</u> three times in a row.</li> </ul>
<b>sore loser</b>	someone who gets upset or angry after losing (we also say they are a bad or poor sport) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nobody wants to play with him because he's a <u>sore loser</u>. (He's a bad/poor sport.)</li> </ul>
<b>bust out</b>	Informal: take something out and begin using it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We <u>busted out</u> our deck of cards at the airport and started playing.</li> </ul>
<b>layover</b>	the time spent waiting between connecting flights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a long <u>layover</u>, so we played cards while waiting for our flight.</li> </ul>
<b>hand (in cards)</b>	one round of a card game OR the cards a player is holding in that round <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have a terrible <u>hand</u>; I know I'm going to lose this <u>hand</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>flip the table (over)</b>	turn a table upside down, usually because of anger or frustration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sore loser <u>flipped the table over</u> after losing the card game.</li> </ul>
<b>storm off/out</b>	leave angrily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He <u>stormed off</u> after losing the game.</li> </ul>
<b>smack talk</b>	playful or competitive comments meant to tease an opponent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her son loves to <u>smack talk</u> during Uno games.</li> </ul>
<b>gravitate toward [something]</b>	naturally choose or be attracted to something <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even with many games to choose from, we always <u>gravitate toward</u> the same ones.</li> </ul>
<b>syllable</b>	a unit of sound that makes up part of a word <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this game, you can only use <u>one-syllable</u> words like hot, cat, dog, go, now, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>bat</b>	a long object used to hit something
<b>caveman</b>	a person who lived in prehistoric times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The game is based on the idea of talking like a <u>caveman</u> using simple words.</li> </ul>
<b>whack</b>	a quick, strong hit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you accidentally say a 2-syllable word, your opponent can <u>whack</u> you with the bat.</li> </ul>
<b>thoroughbred</b>	a breed of horse known for racing
<b>herd mentality</b>	the tendency for people to think or act the same way as the group instead of making their own decisions
<b>learning curve</b>	the time and effort needed to learn a new skill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This game has a bit of a <u>learning curve</u>, but it gets easier after a few rounds.</li> </ul>

## Game Vocabulary

<b>deck</b> (of cards)	a complete set of playing cards
<b>shuffle</b>	mix up the cards before a game (shuffle the deck)
<b>deal</b>	give cards to each player at the beginning of a game
<b>hand</b>	the cards a player is dealt or is holding
<b>draw</b>	take a card from the deck
<b>discard</b>	place a card in a separate pile because you no longer need it
<b>turn</b>	the time when a player is allowed to make a move
<b>token</b>	a small piece that represents a player on a game board
<b>roll the dice</b>	throw the dice ( <u>dice</u> is plural; when there's only one, it's a <u>die</u> )
<b>tie</b>	when two or more players finish with the same score
<b>coin toss</b>	determine who goes first by flipping a coin and having one player guess if it will land <i>heads</i> (front side) or <i>tails</i> (back side)

## Join the Conversation

- Did you play any sports as a child? Which ones, and did you enjoy them?
- Is there a sport that almost everyone learns to play where you grew up?
- What sport would you like to learn, even if you've never tried it?
- Have you ever watched a professional sporting event in person? What was it like?
- Should schools require students to participate in physical education? Why or why not?
- Do people in your family enjoy playing games together? If so, which ones?
- Have you ever played a game that caused a real argument because someone was a sore loser (or bad sport)? What happened?
- Do you prefer playing games in person or online? Why?

# Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



Get tips for ways to use this podcast as a [learner](#) or [teacher](#) of English.



We would love to hear from you with any [comments or suggestions](#) for future episodes.



If you are listening on a podcast platform, we would be super grateful for your review.



And if you're enjoying these conversations and want to [support the podcast](#), you know we'd never turn down a cup of coffee!



Buy me a coffee

## Are you a teacher using this podcast with your students?

Here are more resources that we think you and your students will love!

Conversation cards based on the discussions in this podcast

Subscribe for a FREE sample!

Get ALL the writing prompts, conversation cards and MUCH more!

### CONVERSATION CARDS For Adult ESL BUNDLE!



CLICK HERE  
to buy now or  
add to wish list

### PICTURE PROMPTS for Discussion & Writing



CLICK HERE  
to get your  
FREE Sample!

### ADULT ESL MEGA BUNDLE Lessons, Activities, & Conversation Cards



CLICK HERE  
to buy now or  
add to wish list