

Lesson Plan: Sport and leisure vocabulary

Level	Beginner / Intermediate (A2–B1)
Time	50–60 minutes
Skills	Vocabulary, grammar, speaking
Focus	Sport vocabulary; play/go/do with sports; sport collocations; talking about hobbies

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use at least 20 sport and leisure vocabulary words correctly
- Use play, go, and do with the correct sports and activities
- Talk about sporting preferences, frequency, and ability
- Use collocations accurately: win a match, score a goal, train for a race

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Play / Go / Do — the three rules

- **PLAY:** team sports and games with a ball or opponent: play football, tennis, chess, basketball, golf
- **GO:** activities ending in -ing / solo physical activities: go swimming, cycling, hiking, skiing, running
- **DO:** martial arts, disciplines, exercise types: do yoga, karate, gymnastics, weightlifting

Sport collocations

- win/lose a match, game, race, competition
- score a goal, a point, a try (rugby)
- train for a marathon, a tournament, a race
- join a team, a club, a gym
- be fit / unfit / in shape / out of shape

Leisure activities

- go to the cinema/theatre/concerts, read books, hang out with friends
- play video games, go for a walk/run/drive, cook, paint, garden

Meaning & Nuance

Verb	Used with	Examples	Memory hook
play	sports with a ball, opponent, or team	play tennis, football, golf, chess	'play' a game with someone
go	activities ending in -ing / movement	go swimming, running, cycling, hiking	'go' somewhere to do it
do	disciplines, exercise, solo activities	do yoga, karate, aerobics, homework	'do' a skill or discipline

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Sports brainstorm race (5 min)

Task: How many sports can the class name in 2 minutes? Write on the board.

- Then: do they use play, go, or do?

→ *Fun, competitive, and immediately reveals gaps.*

2. Presentation (10 min)

Task: The play/go/do rules with examples and memory hooks.

- Common error: 'I do football.' / 'I go tennis.' — correct constantly until it sticks.
- Sport collocations: win/lose/score/train — drill these as set phrases.

3. Survey: Are you sporty? (15 min)

Task: Students survey 5 classmates about their sporting habits.

- 'How often do you play sport?' / 'What do you go in your free time?' (error — catch and correct)
- Report back: '3 people go running regularly. Only 1 does yoga.'

4. The big debate (15 min)

Task: Is it better to do a team sport or a solo activity? Why?

- Students argue their position using learned vocabulary.

→ *Productive speaking task that recycles all target language naturally.*

TEACHER NOTES

- The play/go/do distinction is a perennial error — revisit in future lessons.
- Collocations (win a match, score a goal) help learners move beyond generic 'do a sport' constructions.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write a paragraph about your sporting life — what you play, go, or do and how often.
2. Write about a famous athlete using at least 8 sport vocabulary words and collocations.
3. Plan a 'perfect sporty weekend' for a group of friends and describe it.