

CAREER  
PATHS

# Sports

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Express Publishing

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# 1 Tennis: Rules



## Beginner's Guide to Tennis

Tennis is a popular game played around the world. However, it may be confusing to newcomers. Here are the basics of the game to help get you started.

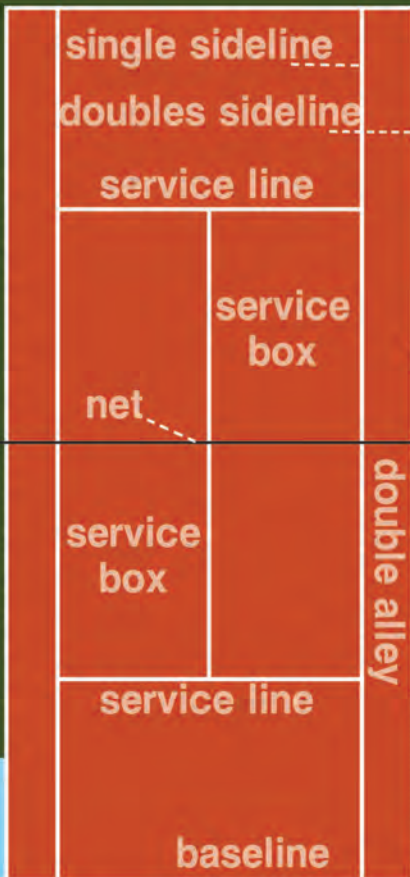
Tennis is played on a **tennis court**. It can be played on three kind of surfaces: clay, grass, and hard court. The court is divided by a **net** into two sections. Each section is further divided by the **service line**. Between this line and the net is the **service box**.

Tennis players require only a **tennis racket** and **tennis balls** to play. Players hit the ball back and forth across the court over the net. They score points when their opponents hit the ball out of bounds or against the net or when the ball bounces twice in the opponent's court.

Play begins with a **serve**. The serving player stands behind the **baseline**. The player must hit the ball diagonally to land it inside his opponent's service area. If the server makes two **faults** or a **net service**, their opponent scores a point.

Players begin at **love**, or zero points. The first point is counted as **fifteen**, the second **thirty**, and the third **forty**. At **deuce**, or tie, the server must score the last two points to win. A game ends when the server scores his final **game point** or their opponent the **break point**. A **set** is usually won by the first player to win six games.

tennis.court



## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some areas of a tennis court?
- 2 What equipment is used when playing tennis?

## Reading

2 Read the tennis guide. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

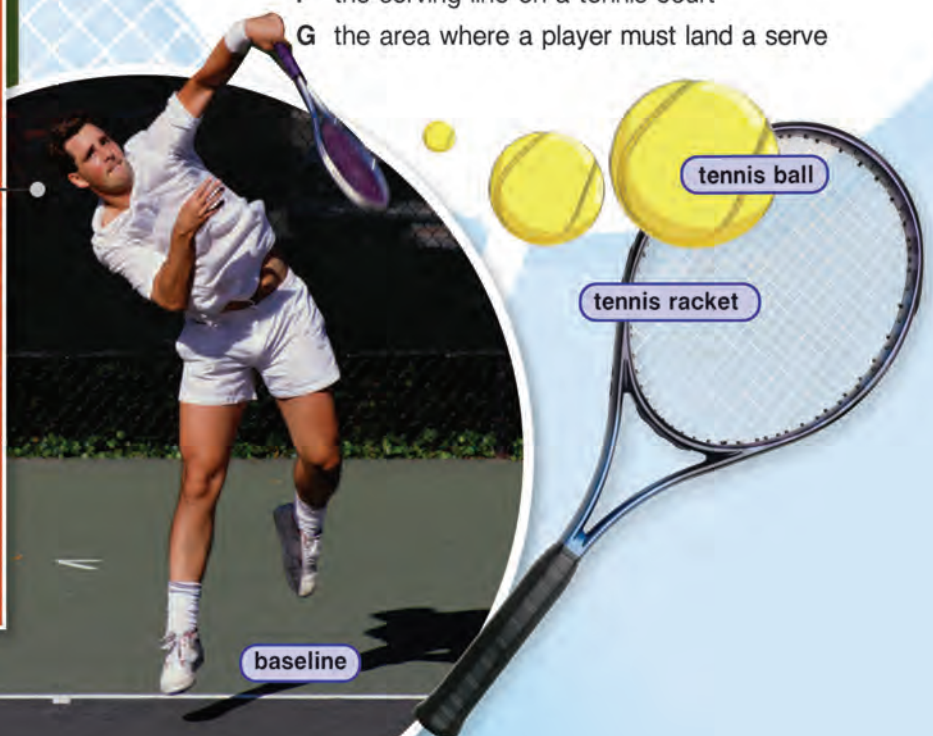
- 1  Players serve from behind the service line.
- 2  A serving player gets one chance to get the ball over the net.
- 3  "Love" indicates that a player has not scored any points.

## Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> tennis court | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> fault         |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> baseline     | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> tennis racket |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> service box  | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> service line  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> net service  |  |

- A the line dividing a player's side of the court
- B a serve that hits the net
- C an invalid serve in tennis
- D the playing field in tennis
- E a piece of equipment used to hit a tennis ball
- F the serving line on a tennis court
- G the area where a player must land a serve






- 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

### word BANK

set love game point deuce  
forty break point fifteen

- 1 When the player scored at \_\_\_\_\_ he won the game.
  - 2 With a score of \_\_\_\_\_, the player had not yet made a point.
  - 3 A daring play won the game for the server's opponent at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4 With scores of \_\_\_\_\_, both players had made one point.
  - 5 At \_\_\_\_\_, the server must score two points to win.
  - 6 Both players were very tired after playing a \_\_\_\_\_ of tennis.
  - 7 After scoring three points, the player's score was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5  Listen and read the tennis guide again. Why is deuce a special score in tennis?

## Listening

- 6  Listen to a conversation between two spectators. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 \_\_\_ The man doesn't understand how tennis scoring works.
- 2 \_\_\_ The player has only scored once.
- 3 \_\_\_ The woman compares the deuce score to a tie-breaker situation.

- 7  Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Spectator 1:** In tennis, points are worth 1 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Spectator 2:** So, one point is scored as 2 \_\_\_\_\_?

**Spectator 1:** That's right. Players start at zero, which is called 3 \_\_\_\_\_. The first point is still only one point, but it's scored as fifteen.

**Spectator 2:** What comes after that?

**Spectator 1:** The 4 \_\_\_\_\_ is scored thirty, and the third point is scored forty.

**Spectator 2:** That's the 5 \_\_\_\_\_?

**Spectator 1:** One more point is needed to win, unless the 6 \_\_\_\_\_ forty-four. They call that deuce.

## Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

### USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*I'm confused about ...*

*It's split ...*

*What don't you ...*

**Student A:** You are a tennis fan. Talk to Student B about:

- the tennis court
- how it's divided
- where to serve from

**Student B:** You are new to the game of tennis. Talk to Student A about how a tennis court is arranged.

## Writing

- 9 Use the tennis guide and the conversation from Task 8 to write an article on the structure of a tennis court and serving. Include: the net, the service box, and the baseline.

