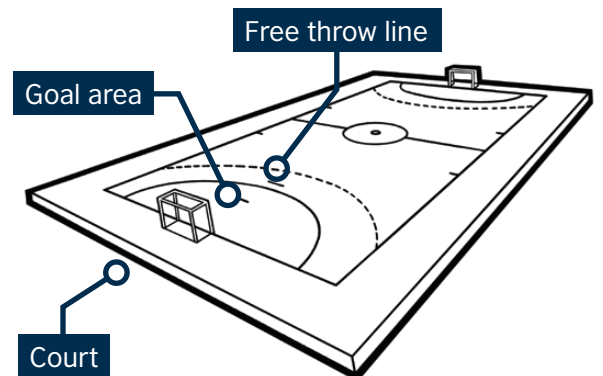
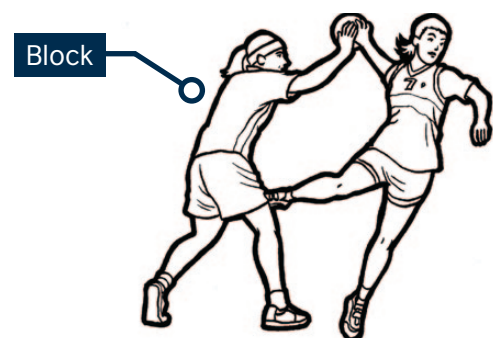
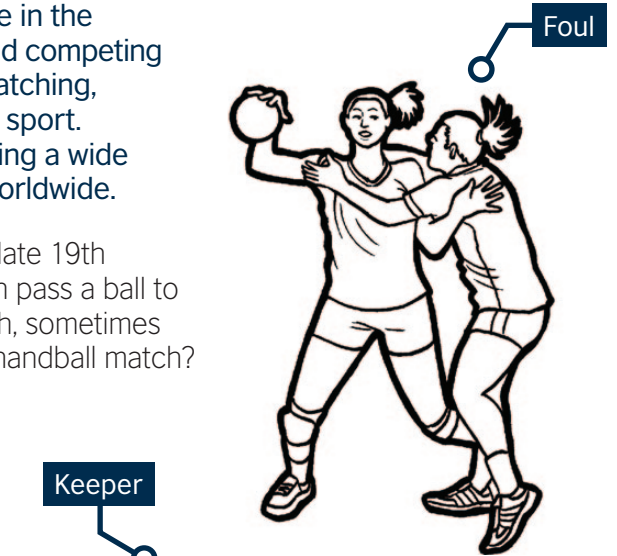
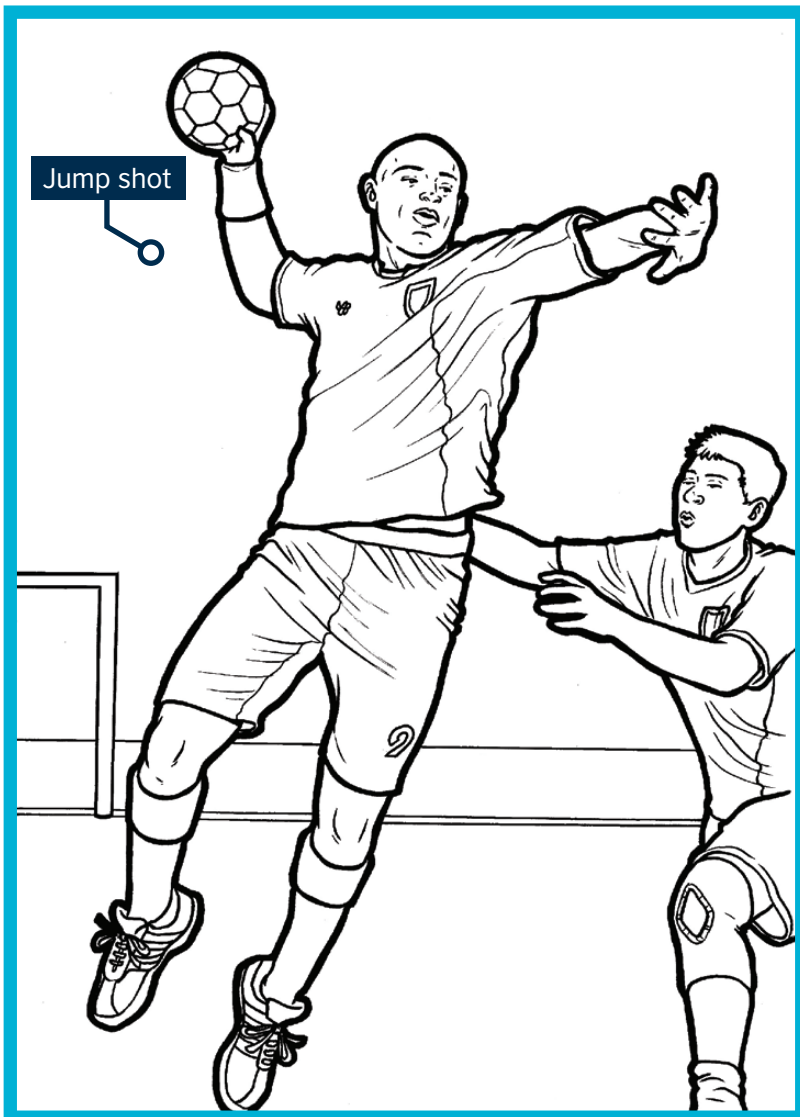


# Handball

When athletes come together from around the world to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, they are fulfilling their dreams and competing at the highest level. Billions of people across the globe join in; watching, listening to and reading about the greatest global celebration of sport. To celebrate the London 2012 Games, the British Council is making a wide range of classroom resources available for learners of English worldwide.

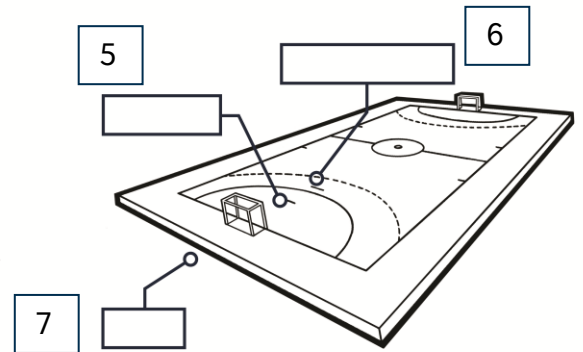
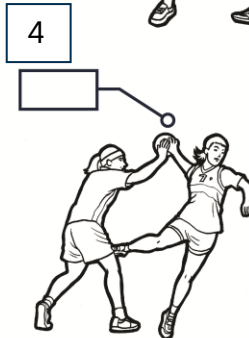
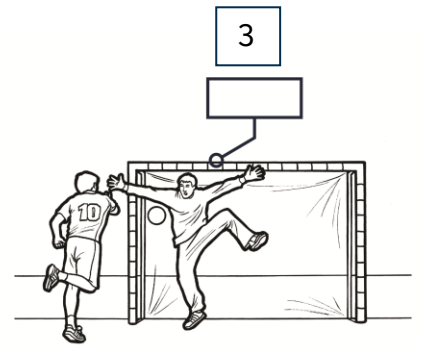
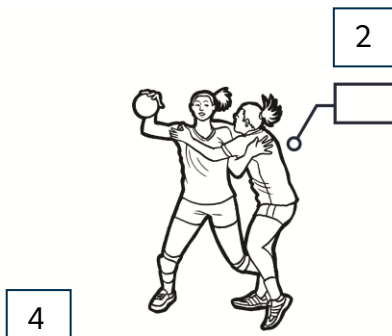
Handball was developed in Denmark, Sweden and Germany in the late 19th century. It is a team sport in which two teams of seven players each pass a ball to throw it into the goal of the other team. It is a thrilling sport to watch, sometimes with more than fifty goals in a single match. Have you ever seen a handball match? Have you ever played in one? Would you like to?



**1. Vocabulary**

**A. Write the correct words in the spaces provided.**

A. jump shot	B. block	C. goal area	D. keeper
E. free throw line	F. court	G. foul	



## 2. The rules of Handball

### What is it?

- Handball is played on a court measuring 40 x 20 metres. There is a goal at each end, as in football, and a goalkeeper, but players have to throw, not kick, the ball into the net. The team with the most goals wins. In some games, a lot of goals are scored – sometimes as many as fifty!
- There are two teams of seven players.. and each match is divided into two halves of 30 minutes.
- Players have to pass the ball or dribble it. They dribble the ball by bouncing it on the floor.
- A player may shoot at the goal while standing still, running or jumping.
- Play starts or restarts with a throw-off from the centre line.
- If the ball goes over the sidelines, there is a throw-in.
- If a player commits a serious offence the opposing team gets a penalty throw. If a player commits a foul he may be shown a yellow card by the referee.
- For a second foul, he may be suspended for two minutes.
- For a third offence, he may be sent off.

### A. Match the words in the table with their definitions below.

a. jump shot	b. dribbling	c. throw in	d. goalkeeper
e. penalty throw	f. centre line	g. goal	h. running shot

1. Play starts with a throw from here.
2. One of these is awarded for a serious offence.
3. Moving the ball while bouncing it.
4. If an athlete throws the ball in here, he/she scores.
5. When an athlete shoots while jumping.
6. This player tries to stop the ball going into the goal.
7. This happens when the ball goes over the sidelines.
8. Shooting while running.

### 3. Questions and Answers

**Handball! But handling the ball is a foul, isn't it? In football, anyway.**

In football, yes. Not in rugby, of course. Or American football. But in handball you have to use your hands – you aren't allowed to use your feet!

**So there's no kicking, then? Or kick-off?**

No, the game starts with a throw-off, instead.

**So it's a bit like football then – only with your hands...**

A bit, yes!

**I've heard of something called American handball. Is that the same thing?**

No, that's more like squash, but using your hand instead of a racket. It's sometimes called wall handball. The Olympic sport is called team handball to distinguish it from wall handball..

**So how old is handball?**

It's one of the oldest sports – in Europe it goes back about 5,000 years! There are pictures of it on ancient Egyptian tombs. The Romans and Greeks played it, or something like it. It was played in the Middle Ages, too. And in ancient American cultures.

**Really?**

Yes – it was played in Mexico over three thousand years ago! There are pictures of handball games on pottery, paintings and sculptures. They've found remains of handball courts in archaeological sites in Central America.

**Fascinating. Has it always been in the Olympics, then?**

Well, no. There was an outdoor version called field handball in the 1936 Olympics. Then people started playing it indoors. But team handball wasn't included until the 1972 Games.

**As they've been playing it longest, do Egypt and Mexico win most of the Olympic medals?**

Surprisingly no! Apart from the Soviet Union, South Korea and Serbia have won most medals.

**Its popularity has spread far and wide, then?**

Yes - you can go a long way in a few thousand years!...

**A. Decide if the following sentences about the text are true or false.**

1. In handball you're allowed to kick the ball as well as throw it..
2. Wall handball and team handball are played in the same way.
3. Handball is relatively recent.
4. Handball was played long ago in different cultures.
5. Handball was first included in the Olympics in a form different from its present one.
6. The countries where handball began win the sport most often in the Olympics.

**B. Using the verb in brackets, complete the sentences using the passive voice.**

e.g. To start a game of handball the ball ..... (throw) from the centre line. (is thrown) (N.B. there may be more than one correct answer.)

1. The Olympic version of handball ..... (call) team handball to distinguish it from wall handball.
2. Handball is an ancient sport and ..... (play) by the Greeks and Romans.
3. Pictures of the sport ..... (find) on old pots from sites in central America.
4. Team handball ..... (include) in the Olympics since 1972.
5. It's not true that most Olympic medals for handball ..... (win) by Egypt and Mexico.
6. Nowadays the sport of handball ..... (play) all over the world.

## 4. Solution

### Exercise 1a

1. a; 2. g; 3. d; 4. b; 5. c; 6. e; 7. f

### Exercise 2a

1. f; 2. e; 3. b; 4. g; 5. a; 6. d; 7. c; 8. h

### Exercise 3a

1. F; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F

### Exercise 3b

1. is called; 2. was played; 3. are found/have been found;  
4. has been included; 5. are won/have been won; 6. is played