



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 kinds 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.

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 or phrases (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

tennis court

single sideline
doubles sideline
service line

service box

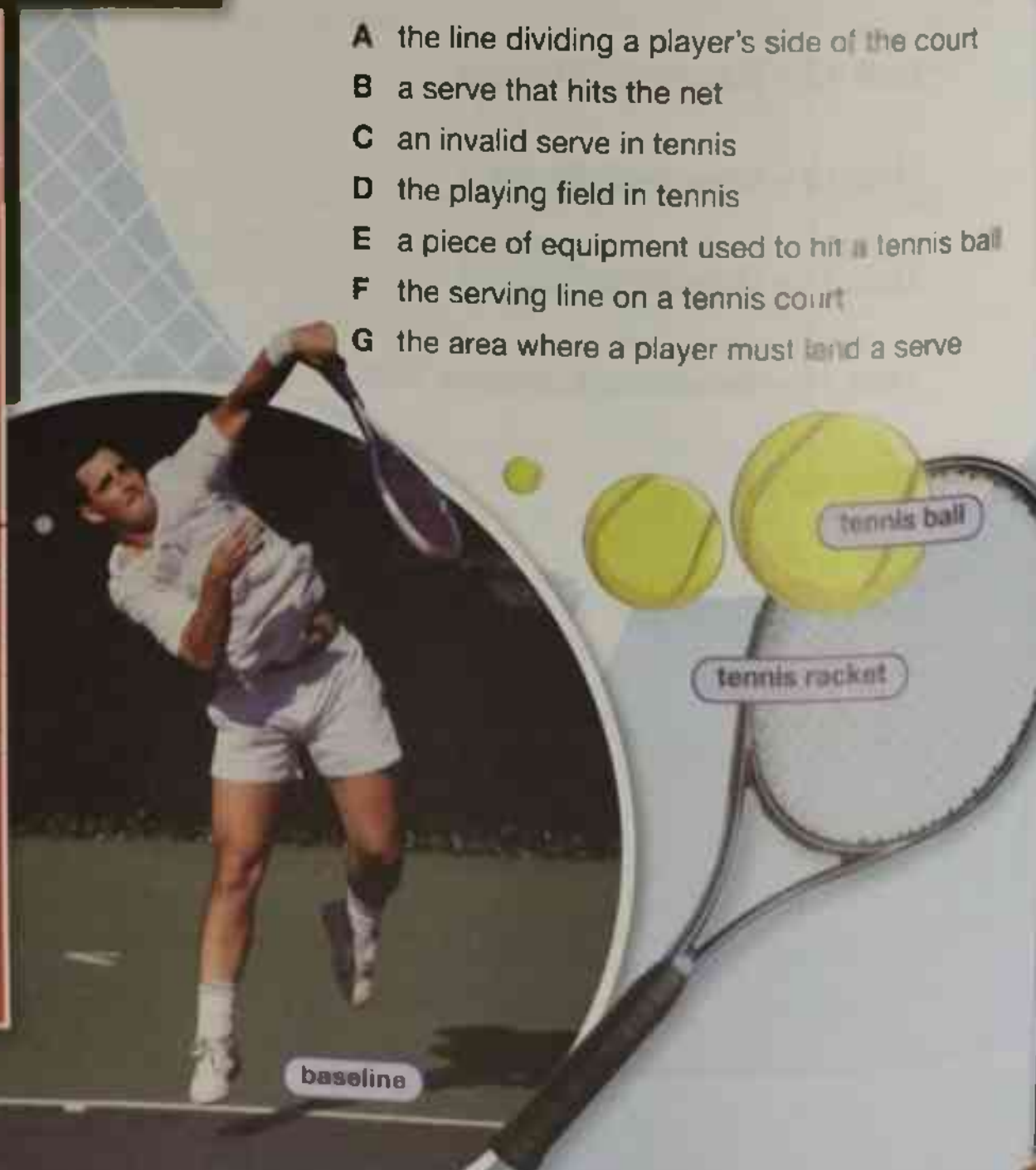
net

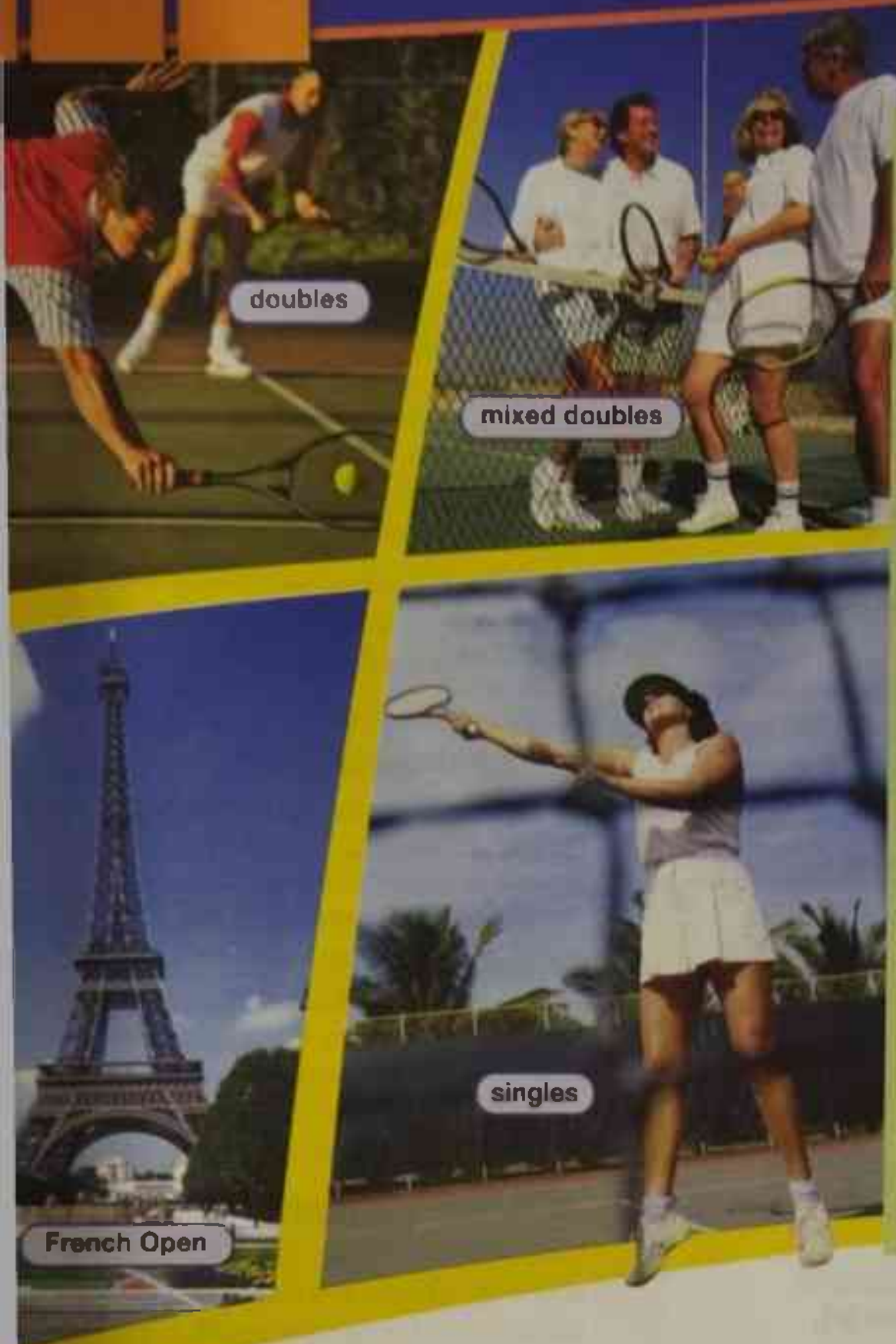
service box

service line

baseline

double alley





Tennis Spectator

Spring Edition

My Year on the Tennis Circuit

By Kate Prescott

I'm finally back in the UK after an amazing year traveling the tennis circuit. Tennis Spectator sent me all over the world this past year. In addition to covering dozens of smaller tournaments, I made it to every **Grand Slam**. It was a tennis writer's dream!

The adventure began in Paris at the start of summer for the **French Open**. There I witnessed the best tennis players fighting for the top spot in the **singles** contest. Unfortunately, I did not have time to enjoy Paris. After the Open, I rushed back to London for **Wimbledon**. My favorite event here was the **mixed doubles**.

For the next few weeks I took a break. I reported on changes from the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)** that affect player **ranking**. The ITF adjusted the distribution of **ranking points** to make the system fairer. Because of them, the Opens will **seed** players slightly differently next year.

I then traveled to New York City for the **US Open**. I remained in the US for most of the fall. I traveled across the country to cover smaller tournaments. In January, I flew to Melbourne for the **Australian Open**. The women's **doubles** event was very exciting to watch. I was on the edge of my seat at every match!

Vocabulary

③ Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word or phrase best fits each blank.

1 Wimbledon / US Open

A Mary traveled to London to see

B While James was in the United States he went to the

2 singles / seed

A Two opponents battled for the title in the match.

B In order to players, the tournament directors consider their previous wins.

3 ranking / mixed doubles

A Married couples often enjoy playing in tournaments.

B Samantha improved her after winning the tournament.

Get ready!

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

- 1 What are some types of tennis matches?
- 2 Where are some of the venues for Grand Slam tournaments?

Reading

② Read the article from Tennis Spectator. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 One of the Grand Slam tournaments is held in Japan.
- 2 The Australian Open is held at the beginning of the new year.
- 3 The ranking system used by the ITF was changed.