



UNIT 3
SHINING STARS



Objectives:

ss will be able to:

- * use language associated with sports and sports stars
- * group words together according to subject for easier learning

Discussion

- What's your favourite sport for playing or watching? Give your reasons.
- What do you like about this sport?
- What Omani sports stars do you know?
- What international sports stars do you know?

Read the introduction to the article about Omani sports stars. Work in four groups – A, B, C, 1 D, and read about the star as indicated. Make notes about your star in your exercise book.



Ali Al Habsi (Football)

Ali Al Habsi is Oman's star goalkeeper. His performance in the 2009 Gulf Cup secured the cup for Oman, and won him the best goalkeeper award for the fourth time. Ali started playing football at the age of 8 or 9 in his village of Al Mudhaibi. By the age of 17 he was playing for the Oman national team. Later he went to Europe. He is the first Omani to play for the prestigious English Premier League.

Advice for young people:

"Everyone wants to be a footballer because they think it's very glamorous and exciting. But it's a lot of hard work. As with everything, you have to start at the bottom and give it all you've got. That's the way to succeed."

- What sport does your star do?
- When did he or she start doing this sport?
- What was he or she the first person to do?
- What advice does he or she have for young people?

- A. admired and respected by people (adj)
- B. attractive and interesting (adj)



Ahmad Al Harthy (Racing)

Ahmad Al Harthy is the first circuit racing driver in Oman. He fell in love with racing at the age of 7 or 8, when his brother took him go-karting. His first big race was at the Middle Eastern Championships in Bahrain in 2006, when he came second. Ahmad has had many successes, including winning podium places in the Porsche Carrera Cup GB. He is very concerned about road safety in Oman and better driver education.

Advice for young people:

“If you have a goal, stay motivated and don’t give up. It’s never about *not being able to*. There’s always a way to follow your dream. Family support is very important too in helping you achieve your goals.”

- What sport does your star do?
- When did he or she start doing this sport?
- What was he or she the first person to do?
- What advice does he or she have for young people?
- track that cars race around (n)
- worried (adv)



Hiba Al Rahbi (Horse riding)

Hiba Al Rahbi is a champion horsewoman and soldier. She has ridden with the Royal Cavalry in Oman since she was 9 years old. She has taken part in many international competitions. In 2007, she won an international dressage competition in Qatar. Hiba also does racing, and trick riding at the Royal Horse Show. She was the first girl in Oman to stand on a horse. She was winner of the 2009-2010 cup for the best female rider in Oman.

Advice for young people:

“Don’t give up when things go wrong. Sometimes I’ve had bad luck – I fall or I’ve come third in a competition instead of first or second. But after a fall, you have to pick yourself up and get right back on your horse, and carry on.”

- a. What sport does your star do?
- b. When did he or she start doing this sport?
- c. What was he or she the first person to do?
- d. What advice does he or she have for young people?
- e. someone who wins competitions (n)
- f. kind of competition for horses (n)

D



Shihab Al Riyami (Volleyball)

In 2011, Shihab Al Riyami became the first Arab to be selected to represent his country on the coaching committee of the prestigious Asian Volleyball confederation (AVC). He started playing volleyball when studying sports at Sultan Qaboos University in 1997. Since then, Shihab's aim has been to promote the development of volleyball in Oman, and set up more clubs where young people can play.

Advice for young people:

“Although you need to focus on studying first, sports are extremely important in our life. If you play a sport, you can improve your ability all round – as the saying goes, a healthy mind in a healthy body.”

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|--|---|
| a. What sport does your star do? | g. be a kind of symbol for something (v) |
| b. When did he or she start doing this sport? | h. encourage the development of something |
| c. What was he or she the first person to do? | |
| d. What advice does he or she have for young people? (v) | |

1

Look at the pictograms of various sports. Write the names of as many as you know in your exercise book.

running (sprinting)



horse riding



cricket



skiing or
ski jumping



ice skating



cycling



football



rugby



fencing

Coursebook, page 7, Top Tip



Grouping words together

When learning new vocabulary, it is helpful to group words together according to subject. This can be in the form of simple lists with headings such as 'hobbies' or 'food' or more complex diagrams or charts for subjects such as 'education' or 'health.'

2

Complete the names of the countries and country adjectives/nationalities in the table below.

Example:

	Countries	Country Adjectives/Nationalities
	The United States of America	<i>American</i>
a	Greece	Greek
b	Russia	Russian
c	Poland	Polish
d	France	<i>French</i>
e	Australia	Australian
f	United Arab Emirates	<i>Emirati</i>
g	Portugal	Portuguese
h	Tunisia	<i>Tunisian</i>
i	Canada	Canadian
j	Pakistan	<i>Pakistani</i>
k	China	Chinese
l	Norway	<i>Norwegian</i>

Workbook, page 6, Activity 3

3

Use words from the table in Activity 2 to complete the sentences.

- ① Michael Jordan is a famous American basketball player.
- ② The ancient Olympic games took place in Greece.
- ③ Al Maktoum, the first Emirati gold-medallist, won his medal for rifle shooting.
- ④ China was selected to host the 2008 CE Olympics Games.
- ⑤ The 2000 Millenium Games were held in the Australian city of Sydney.
- ⑥ The 1994 Winter Olympic Games were held in the frozen city of Lillehammer, in the Scandinavian country of Norway.

Workbook, page 7, Activity 4

4

Read the following dialogue between a coach and a school student. Listen to the recording and complete the gaps.

- Coach: Good morning. Can I help you?
- Student: Yes please. I want to take up a new sport.
- Coach: What kind of sport? The fastest, the (1) longest _____, the most exciting or the most dangerous?
- Student: What's the (2) most exciting _____ ?
- Coach: Deep sea adventure diving.
- Student: Isn't that the most (3) most dangerous _____?
- Coach: No, that's deep-sea diving with sharks.
- Student: That sounds a bit too exciting for me.
- Coach: Well what about the (4) fastest _____ sport: motor-racing?
- Student: I can't drive.
- Coach: Well, what about marathon running? That might be (5) better _____ for you. You don't need a car for that.
- Student: That sounds like too much hard work. What else is there?
- Coach: What about a team sport like football? Or rugby?
- Student: I don't like playing with other people. I might get hurt.
- Coach: I think the best thing for you then is the safest, (6) slowest _____, (7) most comfortable _____ sport.
- Student: What's that?
- Coach: Sofa-surfing.
- Student: How do you play that?
- Coach: You lie down on the sofa, switch on the TV and watch other people running around!