Summer 2 Week 6 Reading Comp (Pink)

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The Wimbledon Championships

Wimbledon is the world's oldest tennis tournament and is also thought to be the most prestigious. It has been held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London since 1877. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments (majors), the others being the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only major still played on traditional grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game its original name of 'lawn tennis'.

Events

Wimbledon consists of five main events and five junior events. There are also five invitation events where some former professionals are invited back to compete. The five main events are gentlemen's singles, ladies' singles, gentlemen's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

Tickets

The majority of Centre Court tickets are made available through a public ballot in which applicants are chosen at random by a computer. Fans without tickets can queue up overnight to get seats on match day. There are a certain number of seats allocated for the queuing system.

Schedule

Currently, Wimbledon begins in June and ends in July. In 2017, the championships will begin and end in July, extending the gap between the tournament and the French Open. The five main events span both weeks, but the junior and invitational events are mainly held during the second week. Traditionally, there is no play on the 'Middle Sunday' however rain has sometimes forced play on this day.

The Courts

In 2009, Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a moving roof which can be automatically closed over the court to reduce the loss of playing time. The principal court, Centre Court, was opened in 1922. The main show courts, Centre Court and No. 1 Court, are normally used for only two weeks a year during the championships, but play can extend into a third week if there have been high levels of rain. The other 17 courts are regularly used for other events hosted by the club.

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Trophies and Prize Money

The gentlemen's singles champion receives a silver gilt cup which has been awarded since 1887. The women's singles champion wins a sterling silver salver which is decorated with figures from mythology. In 2015, the prize money for the winners of the singles finals was £1,880,000!

A Few Famous Champions

To date, Serena Williams has won four Olympic gold medals and six Wimbledon singles titles, the latest being in 2015. Her sister, Venus, has won a total of five Wimbledon singles titles, spanning between 2000 and 2008. In 2008, she played against Serena in the women's singles final and won. The sisters have also paired up and won the Wimbledon women's doubles title five times.

Roger Federer won Wimbledon five times in a row between 2003 and 2007, a period where he totally dominated grass court tennis. In 2012, Federer beat Andy Murray in the final but Murray came back the following year to beat Novak Djokovic in the men's singles, making him the first British man in 77 years to win this title.

Did You Know....?

- All Wimbledon tennis players are required to wear all-white or at least almost all-white clothing.
- Players must bow or curtsy if HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty the Queen is present in the Royal Box at Centre Court.

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Questions

Remember to answer in full sentences

1. Where is Wimbledon held?

   _____

2. Other than Wimbledon, name two Grand Slam tennis tournaments.

   _____

3. What can tennis fans do if they don't win a ticket in the public ballot but want to go and see a tennis match during the tournament?

   _____

4. Why is Wimbledon starting later in 2017?

   _____

5. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'?

   _____

6. What is unique about Centre Court?

   _____

7. Compare the Wimbledon success of the Williams sisters.

   _____

8. When must players bow or curtsy?

   _____

9. What qualities do you think you need to become a Wimbledon champion?

   _____

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Answers

1. Where is Wimbledon held?
   Wimbledon is held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London.
2. Other than Wimbledon, name two Grand Slam tennis tournaments.
   Any two from the following list: Australian Open, French Open, US Open.
3. What can tennis fans do if they don't win a ticket in the public ballot but want to go and see a tennis match during the tournament?
   Fans without tickets can queue up overnight to get seats on match day. There are a certain number of seats allocated for the queuing system.
4. Why is Wimbledon starting later in 2017?
   In 2017, the championships will begin and end in July, extending the gap between the tournament and the French Open.
5. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'?
   There isn't usually any play on the 'Middle Sunday'.
6. What is unique about Centre Court?
   Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a moving roof which can be automatically closed over the court to reduce the loss of playing time when the weather is bad.
7. Compare the Wimbledon success of the Williams sisters.
   Serena Williams has won the women's singles title six times and her sister, Venus, has won the title five times. The sisters have also paired up and won the Wimbledon women's doubles title five times.
8. When must players bow or curtsy?
   Players are required to bow or curtsy if HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty the Queen is present in the Royal Box at Centre Court.
9. What qualities do you think you need to become a Wimbledon champion?
   Own answers.