Summer 2 Week 6 Reading Comp

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The Wimbledon Championships

Wimbledon is the world's oldest tennis tournament and is also widely considered 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 in which 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. The five junior events are similar with boys' singles, girls' singles, boys' doubles, girls' doubles and disabled doubles. The five invitational events are the gentlemen's doubles, senior gentlemen's doubles, senior ladies' doubles, gentlemen's wheelchair doubles and ladies' wheelchair double

Tickets

The majority of Centre Court tickets are made available through a public ballot where applicants are selected 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.

Summer 2 Week 6 Reading Comp

The Courts

In 2009, Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a retractable roof helping to substantially reduce the loss of playing time caused by bad weather. 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 in exceptional circumstances. The remaining 17 courts are regularly used for other events hosted by the club.

Trophies and Prize Money

The gentlemen's singles champion receives a silver gilt cup. The trophy has been awarded since 1887 and bears the inscription: 'All England Lawn Tennis Club Single Handed Championship of the World.' The women's singles champion receives a sterling silver salver which is decorated with figures from mythology. In 2015, the prize money for the winners of both trophies was £1,880,000!

A Few Famous Champions

Martina Navratilova won a record nine Wimbledon singles titles. 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 utterly 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.
- Ball boys and girls should not be seen and should blend into the background and get on with their jobs quietly.
- Wimbledon hosted the tennis events of the 2012 Olympic Games.
- 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.

Summer 2 Week 6 Reading Comp

Questions

Remember to answer in full sentences

1. Where is Wimbledon held?

_____

2. List the three other Grand Slam tennis tournaments.

_____

3. Outline the main events at Wimbledon.

_____

4. How does the ticket system work?

_____

5. Why is Wimbledon starting later in 2017?

_____

6. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'?

_____

7. How are the main show courts used differently to the other courts throughout the year?

_____

8. Compare the Wimbledon success of the Williams sisters.

_____

9. How would you have felt if you had been playing against your brother or sister in the Wimbledon finals?

_____

10. What is the Wimbledon dress code for players?

_____

11. When must players bow or curtsy?

_____

12. 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. List the three other Grand Slam tennis tournaments.

   The other Grand Slam tournaments are the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.

3. Outline the main events at Wimbledon.

   The five main events are gentlemen's singles, ladies' singles, gentlemen's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

4. How does the ticket system work?

   You can apply for tickets through a public ballot then people are selected at random by a computer. Fans without tickets can queue up overnight to get seats on match day but the number of tickets is limited each day.

5. 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.

6. What is special about 'Middle Sunday'?

   Traditionally, there is no play on the 'Middle Sunday'.

7. How are the main show courts used differently to the other courts throughout the year?

   The main show courts, Centre Court and No. 1 Court, are normally used for only two weeks a year during the championships. The other courts are regularly used for other events hosted by the Club.

8. 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.

9. How would you have felt if you had been playing against your brother or sister in the Wimbledon finals?

   Own answers.

10. What is the Wimbledon dress code for players?

    Wimbledon tennis players are required to wear all-white or at least almost all-white clothing.

11. 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.

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

    Own answers.