

## International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Sports Around the World

This discussion guide aims to provide you with interesting facts, thought-provoking quotes, and insights into various aspects of sports globally. We'll touch on various topics ranging from athletic achievements to sports events around the world, and many other topics.

According to TopEnd Sport (a news website about sports, science, and health) the "Top 10 Greatest of the World's Major Sporting Events" are:

- 1- FIFA World Cup
- 2- Olympic Games
- 3- UEFA Champions League
- 4- Cricket World Cup
- 5- Super Bowl
- 6- Wimbledon
- 7- Tour de France
- 8- Rugby World Cup
- 9- Formula One Racing
- 10- National Basketball Association (NBA)

*Do you agree with this ranking list? If you could, how would you rearrange this list?*

*What sports are your favorite to watch and to play?*

*What famous athlete would you like to meet and talk with? (can be from history) Why?*

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does." - Nelson Mandela

Did you know that more than 200 countries participate in the Olympics, showcasing the diversity of sports worldwide? This is a good example of how sports bring people, nations, continents, and the entire world together.

Read through the following questions and choose one question you would like to talk about.

*Do you think that sports can be used as a tool to make world peace a reality?*

*What other benefits for humanity do the Olympics bring?*

*How do politics get in the way of the Olympics? Think of past examples.*

*How do you think sports contribute to cultural exchange and understanding between nations?*

Below are some common idioms taken from the world of sports. See if you can figure out what sport is represented by each idiom. Feel free to "google" the answers.

<https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/idioms-sports.php>

I think you're barking up the wrong tree by blaming Matt for the missing money. *Sport?*

The situation at work became a sticky wicket. *Sport?*

George was blind-sided by his getting fired at work. *Sport?*

Jane's friends reminded her that there are many other fish in the sea. *Sport?*

All of the students laughed when Joe gave an answer that was out in left field. *Sport?*

After a while it became clear this plan was a slam dunk. *Sport?*

George and Stan are neck and neck for the promotion. *Sport?*

I was called in to pinch hit for Sarah at work. *Sport?*

Even though this new job will mean relocating, I think you should take the bull by the horns for once. *Sport?*

This physics test is a 3<sup>rd</sup> and long for me to pass. *Sport?*

Sorry, I can't go to the movies today, but I'd love to take a rain check. *Sport?*

If they don't accept our offer this time we are going to throw in the towel and look at houses elsewhere. *Sport?*

The school's no smoking policy is three strikes and you're out. *Sport?*