

Lesson 1

Read this story about two volleyball teams. As you read, ask yourself, "How are the two teams alike? How are the two teams different?" Look for clue words.



Spike!

Two teams jog onto the volleyball court. There are six Tigers in bright yellow T-shirts and shorts and six Lions in brown T-shirts and shorts. Liz and Jess, the best players for the Tigers, warm up. Liz stretches her sore leg muscles, while Jess practices serves. "This is the championship!" says Liz.

The Tigers stride to one side of the net, and each player takes a position. Jess stands on the far right side directly behind the net. Liz stands behind her to serve.

On the other side of the net, the Lions also take their positions. Their uniforms are brown, like bark, and the players look like two rows of trees. The teams are ready to start the game.

Liz serves the ball, throwing it in the air and smacking it forcefully with her hand. Skillfully, the Lions pass the ball, set it, and spike it over the net. But Jess blocks the ball. After Jess's teammate Jane spikes it, the ball crashes sharply onto the gym floor on the Lions' side of the net.

"Good job!" yells Coach Brown.

The Tigers score a point, and the crowd whoops excitedly. The score is one to zero. Since the Tigers have scored, it's still their turn to serve.

Liz serves again. This time she serves out of bounds, so the Lions get the ball. The players on each team rotate to change their positions.

A tall, thin girl gets ready to serve for the Lions. She fixes her ponytail elastic. Then she smacks the ball as hard as she can.

"Awwwh," cries Jess as the white leather ball sails over her head.

"Don't worry, Jess. You'll get the next one," Jane calls out.

Both teams have good players who can dive and roll, block shots, and pass the ball as if it were as light as a feather. During the spirited game, both teams score thirteen points.

With the score tied, fans for the Tigers and the Lions cheer wildly and stomp their feet on the gym bleachers. Liz again serves the ball with determination. This time, it flies cleanly over the tall net.

The center back of the Lions keeps running but can't reach the ball. The ball bounces right into the Lions' court. The Tigers score a point. They win!