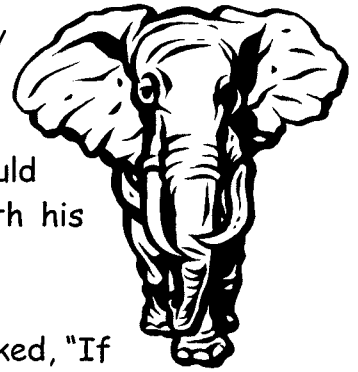


Reading Test 4 - The Boot Sale

Aaron and Sean were best mates. They didn't know how they became best mates but they were. It might, thought Sean, have had something to do with the fact that the other boys at school poked fun at both of them. You see, Aaron had ears that would make an African elephant jealous and Sean had a problem with his knee that made him walk with a limp.



One day they were sitting on a park bench talking when Aaron asked, "If you had one wish, what would you wish for?"

"That's easy," replied Sean. "I would like my leg to get better so that I didn't have a limp, and then I could play football."

"I'd wish for smaller ears that didn't stick out," said Aaron, with a sigh.

Just then, a gang of boys went by on their micro-scooters.

"Hey Aaron," one of them yelled, "don't stay out in this wind too long; with ears like that you'll take off like a glider!"

"Yes," said Aaron, watching them scoot into the distance, laughing, "I would definitely wish for smaller ears."

Aaron liked Sundays at home because everyone went out and he had the place to himself. His mum was known as the 'Boot Sale Bandit' because she loved boot sales so much. Aaron did his best to avoid them, but his mum went every Sunday, whatever the weather.

"You never know what bargains you might get," she'd say, as she packed her pockets with old carrier bags ready for her assault on the latest boot sale. Aaron thought you could substitute 'rubbish' for 'bargains' and you wouldn't be far wrong.

The doorbell would ring and Aaron knew it would be Mum returning fully laden, with her carrier bags bulging. She would have so many bags that she wouldn't be able to reach into her pocket for the door key. Aaron would rush to open the door and let her in.

"What a fantastic boot sale!" she would cry, when she got her breath back. "Bargains galore!"

"So I can see."

"Now, Aaron," Mum would say, "don't use that tone of voice."

Aaron would settle back in his chair for the next instalment, with a glazed expression on his face. Mum would proceed to unpack every item and explain what it was, how much the stallholder wanted, how much she offered and how much she eventually paid. It was the same every Sunday, and Aaron would often drift into his own world after the first ten items.

But this Sunday was to prove different...

"And this," said his mum, triumphantly, "is my favourite purchase of the week."

With a flourish she held out a brass lamp.

"I'll bet that's Aladdin's lamp," muttered Aaron.

"Aaron! I've told you about taking that tone with me."

"But," said Aaron, trying to mollify his mother, "it *does* look like Aladdin's lamp."

"And how would you know what Aladdin's lamp looks like?" she asked.

"I saw it in a pantomime at Christmas."

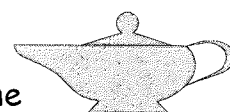
Mum seemed satisfied with that and suddenly decided that Aaron should have the lamp for his bedroom. Later, Aaron was in his room looking at the lamp and wondering why he had made his mum think that he liked the hideous object.

"Well," he decided, "if it *is* Aladdin's lamp, I'd better give it a rub."

He started to rub the lamp but nothing happened. He gave it a shake and a small spider crawled out and dropped to the floor.

'Hmmm...' he thought, and began to rub again.

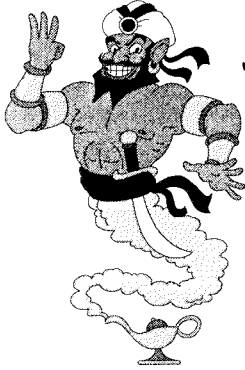
This time, as he rubbed the lamp he began to sense a burning smell coming from it, and smoke gradually started to pour out from under the lid. Aaron dropped the lamp, startled. As it hit the floor, he heard a yelp and found himself face to face with a man in instantly recognisable clothes. He was rubbing his head vigorously and looked very irritated.



"I am the genie of the lamp," he announced grandly, "although if you have an ounce of intelligence *that* should be obvious!"

"Shhh," said Aaron, "Mum will recognise that tone of voice a mile away."

"That," boomed the genie, "is your problem. I am required to tell you that since you have ill-treated me and my home, you are not entitled to the full quota of three wishes, you are allowed only one."



"Wowee!" screamed Aaron. "My dream come true!" Aaron touched his enormous ears for the last time. This would be great. He thought of a quote from a film he had seen last week; 'So long, suckers, you're going to be history.'

"What is your wish?" asked the genie.

"I wish," cried Aaron, "that my ears were a size to fit my face!"

"Good idea," muttered the genie. "If I had ears like those, I would wish for exactly the same thing."

The genie started to wave his arm.

"Stop!"

The genie was startled into stopping his magic spell.

"I've changed my mind! I wish my best friend Sean didn't have a bad leg and that he could play football."

"Are you sure?" asked the genie. "What about your ears?"

"I'm positive. Help my friend instead."

The genie waved his arm and with a blinding flash he was gone.

Aaron was left in a smoke-filled room with his hands covering his still-big ears. As the smoke cleared, Aaron heard his mum calling from downstairs saying that Sean was on the phone. Aaron smiled to himself, ran down to the phone and was greeted by Sean's excited voice.

"You'll never guess what's happened...!"

Reading Test Questions 4 - The Boot Sale

1. At the start of the story Aaron and Sean discuss their wishes. Sean wishes for...

A new football	To be captain of the football team	His leg to get better so he can play football	Aaron to have his wish come true
----------------	------------------------------------	---	----------------------------------

1 mark

2. This week Aaron's mum returns from a boot sale with...

Some bargains	Things Aaron really liked	A brass lamp	A pantomime ticket
---------------	---------------------------	--------------	--------------------

1 mark

3. When Aaron first rubs the lamp he drops it. As a result...

The smoke stops pouring out	The genie laughs at him	The genie gives him 3 wishes	The genie will only give him 1 wish
-----------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------

1 mark

4. Aaron is about to make his wish. It is for...

A smaller nose to fit his face	Long hair so that his ears won't show	Ears that fit his face	His leg to get better
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

1 mark

5. But at the last minute Aaron changes his mind and decides to wish instead that Sean's leg gets better and he can play football. You realise the wish has come true when...

Sean arrives at the house in his football kit	The room fills with smoke	Aaron's ears are the same size	The phone rings and it is Sean. He is very excited
---	---------------------------	--------------------------------	--

1 mark

6. Why did Aaron always have to open the door for his mum?

1 mark

7. a) Aaron usually watched his mum unpack her boot sale bargains with a 'glazed expression' (Page 2). What does that phrase mean?

1 mark

7. b) What other evidence from the same paragraph also shows Aaron's reaction to his mum's bargains?

1 mark

8. Events from the story 'The Boot Sale' are listed below. Number each event to show the order in which they happen. The first one has been done for you.

	The genie appears
1	Aaron and Sean discuss their wishes
	Mum gives Aaron the lamp
	Sean phones Aaron
	Aaron's mum returns from the boot sale

2 marks

9. Why were the clothes of the genie 'instantly recognisable'?

1 mark

10. What mood was the genie in when he first appeared?

1 mark

11. Why did Aaron only receive one wish?

1 mark

12. Why do you think Aaron decided to change his wish?

2 marks

13. Put a tick or a cross next to the phrases below to show what did and what did not happen in the story.

	Aaron's mum stayed in on Sundays
	Other boys poked fun at Sean and Aaron
	Sean enjoyed playing football
	Aaron was bored by his mum's boot sale bargains
	The genie rubbed his ear vigorously
	Aaron thought the lamp looked hideous
	Mum came home without buying anything
	Aaron's dreams came true
	Sean phoned Aaron
	The genie interrupted his magic spell

5 marks

14. At the start of the story Aaron has no interest in what his mum buys at boot sales. Do you think he changes his mind after she bought the lamp? Why?

1 mark

15. When Aaron's mum finds out about the lamp, the genie and Sean's leg, what effect do you think it will have on her going to future boot sales?

1 mark

16. The story ends as Sean rings Aaron on the phone. Write down the conversation that you think took place between them.

3 marks

Maximum
25 marks

Reading Test Extra - Sports

Football

Football had been played in England from the 12th Century. There was no limit on the number of players and so few rules that the game became too rough to play, and often games ended in fights.

It became such a rowdy sport that it had to be banned from London streets in 1314.



Another 500 years passed before football began to be played again. This time in public schools. Once this happened rules had to be drawn up for the game. Problems arose because there were different rules in different schools and arguments developed when boys went on to university. It was difficult for boys from all the different schools to play together as they were all used to playing with different sets of rules. Cambridge University therefore decided to issue rules for an 11-a-side game in 1863. These new rules led to proper team games, which led, in turn, to the development of the professional teams we have today, where people are paid to play.

Rugby

In 1823, a boy at Rugby School, a famous public school, ignored the rules of football and picked up the ball and ran with it. This began a new game called Rugby which was named after the school. In this game the ball is handled as well as kicked.



Today, like football, rugby is played around the world by both men and women.

Ancient Sport

Sport was important in Ancient Greece, as it was not only a form of entertainment but also a way of training to keep men fit and healthy for fighting. It was very competitive. The oldest and most famous sporting event that started in Ancient Greece is the Olympic Games.

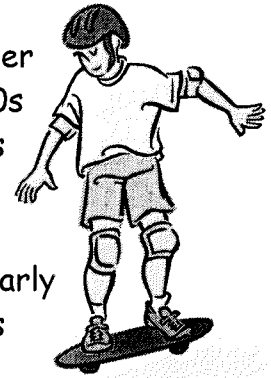
At that time a truce was called for the five days of the games so that athletes who wanted to compete could travel safely to the games through states that normally would have been at war.

The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC. As well as running events and gymnastics, there were musical and literary competitions.

The ancient Olympic Games ended in AD 395 and didn't start again until 1896. The modern games are a worldwide event, and the next competition is to be held in Athens in 2004.

Modern Sports

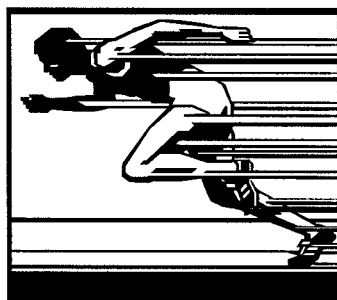
Some modern sports were actually invented a long time ago; roller skates were invented in 1760, and skateboarding began in the 1930s when surfers built boards with wheels to try out surfing techniques on land.



Technology has made a tremendous difference to sport. In early sports, the only concern was whether you won! However, today's athletes and swimmers can measure how long it takes them to run or swim, and then compete against their own or other competitor's best times in order to improve. Consequently, even if they are swimming or running on their own, they are still in competition against themselves or others.

It was the invention of the stopwatch, in the mid-19th Century, that meant that athletes or swimmers or anyone in competitive sport could race against the clock for the first time. Therefore, when other athletes' times were published, you could run in a local field but also be able to test yourself against other runners in the world. Computerised timers are now used that are accurate to about one millisecond (one-thousandth of a second).

The results of some races are decided by computerised technology. Important race starts are also linked to computers - both the gun that starts the race and the starting blocks that the athletes' feet rest on at the starting line are linked by computer. If a runner jumps the gun, in other words starts racing before the gun goes off, the race has to be stopped and started again. This is called a false start. False starts can occur naturally as the result of nervous tension before the race. Occasionally they are deliberate. Some athletes will deliberately cause a false start to distract the other competitors.



Reading Test Extra - Questions - Sports

1. The text 'Sports' is divided into...

Four sports

Four sentences

Four sub-sections

Four paragraphs

1 mark

2. Why was football banned in 1314?

1 mark

3. a) In which century was football first played in England?

1 mark

3. b) In which century did football gain proper teams and rules?

1 mark

4. Why was it important to have a set of rules for football?

2 marks

5. What does the term 'professional' mean, when applied to sport?

1 mark

6. How did the game of rugby get its name?

1 mark

7. The section 'Ancient Sport' tells you about...

Old sportsmen and women	The Olympic Games	What comes next	Fighting
-------------------------	-------------------	-----------------	----------

1 mark

8. Write down two reasons why sport was important in Ancient Greece

1 mark

9. Why was a truce called for the five days of the Olympic Games?

1 mark

10. Name two sports that were part of the earliest Olympic Games.

1 mark

11. What other competitions used to take place in the early Olympic Games?

1 mark

12. Why do you think surfers 'invented' skateboarding?

1 mark

13. What was invented in the mid-19th Century that changed the nature of competition in sport?

1 mark

14. What does it mean to 'race against the clock'?

2 marks

15. a) What does the term 'jump the gun' mean?

1 mark

15. b) What is the correct term in sport for 'jumping the gun'?

1 mark

16. Why is it as important to have computerised technology for the start of races as it is for the finish?

2 marks

17. In some races, you are only allowed 2 or 3 false starts. Any more than this and you would be disqualified. Why do you think this is?

2 marks

Maximum
23 marks