

Listening and reading comprehension exercises

Althea Gibson: The story of the tennis' fleet-of-foot girl

By Megan Reid

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6x7EAK8M-A>

Pre-listening/reading: Exercise #1 – Pictionary

Label the images.

court – athlete – hopscotch – neighborhood – mind – racket - taunt



Pre-listening/reading: Exercise #2 – What word is it?

Match the definitions and the words.

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| 1. Hit or aim at with a sweeping arm movement. | a. () Tantrum. |
| 2. It's an abstract idea of that which is due to a person by law or tradition or nature. | b. () Right. |
| 3. Invulnerable to intimidation. | c. () Volley. |
| 4. It's a display of bad temper. | d. () League. |
| 5. People in general (often used in the plural). | e. () Swing. |
| 6. It's a tennis return made by hitting the ball before it bounces. | f. () Fearless. |
| 7. It's a stroke that pulls the ball in play. | g. () Serve. |
| 8. An association of sports teams that organizes matches for its members. | h. () Folks. |

During listening/reading: Exercise #3 – Complete the sentences

Watch the video and complete the sentences.

1. Althea heard about a place six blocks up, where _____ could play tennis.
2. I'm Althea Gibson, she announced, smiling widely, you should _____ me.
3. She had a big serve and an even bigger _____.
4. But Althea knew she could be more than equal, she could be _____.
5. She took a _____ and bounced the white tennis ball.

During listening/reading: Exercise #4 – True or false

Read the statements and according to the video write "T" for true or "F" for false.

1. In summer, many people played sports in parks in 143rd street. _____
2. Althea received free instruction in tennis because she was very talented. _____
3. Black people were allowed to play tennis at Cosmopolitan club. _____
4. Althea played many sports when she was young. _____
5. Althea Gibson was the first black Wimbledon tennis champion. _____

After listening/reading: Exercise #5 – Quiz

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the main idea of the story?
 - a) Althea Gibson rose from difficult beginnings and overcame great obstacles to finally become a legendary champion.
 - b) Fairness in American sports has changed a great deal for the better since Althea Gibson performed as an athlete.
 - c) Althea Gibson was a multi-sport athlete with a great talent for tennis who won many tournaments.
2. Why didn't many clubs let Althea play tennis?
 - a) Because she was from Harlem.
 - b) Because she was African American.
 - c) Because she wasn't rich.

3. Why did Althea feel lonely when she attended tennis matches?
 - a) Because she was treated different due to her color skin.
 - b) Because she had no friends.
 - c) Because she had to travel far away from home.
4. Althea Gibson won the U.S. Championships after many tries. What does tell you about her character?
 - a) She was very smart.
 - b) She was very brave.
 - c) She was very determined.
5. How many times did Gibson win the Wimbledon tennis tournament?
 - a) Three times.
 - b) Four times.
 - c) Two times.