

Topic 2 TC Sport Communication Quality component: Preview

Task 1. Refer to each word **(1-15)** and give your own “explanation”. Imagine - if you forget this word or phrase, how would you explain it to get the other person to understand.

1. highlights of the events
2. get addicted to
3. take an interest in
4. exceptional level
5. spectator sport
6. atmosphere
7. dominate
8. national sport
9. a nail-biter
10. stay fit
11. race
12. come in handy
13. play for fun
14. get injured
15. get back into sth

Gapped Transcript

Conversation 1

Staff member: Have you been following the _____ at all?

Client: Yeah, bits and pieces. **With** the time difference, **it's not so** convenient to watch the events live here, but the _____ are on TV every evening, **so** I'll usually catch up with the action then. **How about you?**

Staff member: Yes, **to tell the truth**, I'm not normally _____ sport, but I always seem to get addicted to it during the Olympics. **I guess because** it only comes around once every four years. **It's also fun to** watch some sports I wouldn't otherwise _____.

Client: **That's true. What's your favorite sport to watch?**

Staff member: For me, **it has to be** table tennis...I'm never sure, **do you call it** table tennis or ping-pong _____?

Client: Both work. I usually say "table tennis", but both terms are common. **I have to** _____, I don't watch it often myself, but I did **happen to see** a bit of one match the other day when I was _____ the channels. The skill level of the professional players is quite _____. **It's impressive how** fast-paced it is. I felt exhausted watching the ball going _____. It's a fun spectator sport.

Staff member: Yes, I agree. It's an exciting game to watch, but **it's better to** watch on TV **rather than** in person. I saw a live match back in 2008, and **it was impossible to** _____ the ball when you're so far away. The atmosphere was exciting *though*.

Client: I bet. Do you play at all yourself?

Staff member: I used to play a lot when I was younger, **especially** while I was at university. **In fact**, I still try and play at least once a week.

Client: It seems like a fun way to _____.

Staff member: You're not wrong. It's definitely an enjoyable way to get some exercise. **Time seems to fly whenever** I play.

Client: How is China doing in the table tennis this year? I know they usually _____ this sport at the Olympics.

Staff member: Yes, we have a strong team – there are plenty of talented players to choose from. **We consider it** our national sport, so we _____ performing well. **So far**, our players are doing well. None of the star players have been knocked out; they all made it through to the semi-finals, but last night's match was a nail-biter.

Client: Oh, who were they playing?

Staff member: It was the quarter-finals of the _____ – China versus South Korea. It was a tight match, but the Chinese pair won in the end.

Client: Oh, congratulations! And good luck in the next match!

Staff member: Thanks!

Conversation 2

Staff member: How about you? **Which** sports **do you enjoy** watching?

Client: When it comes to the Olympics, **I'm more of a** track and field fan.

Staff member: That's the running, jumping and throwing events, _____?

Client: That's right. I used to do a lot of long-distance running back in high-school, **so I take an interest in** those events.

Staff member: _____ running marathons?

Client: Not usually that far; mostly 5 to 10k, up to half marathon.

P: Did you do that competitively?

Client: Oh no, just for fun...and to stay fit. I played quite a few other sports, **such as** football and rugby, at school. Oh, and **I used to** swim two or three times a week.

Staff member: **Wow, it sounds like** you were _____. **Which sport were you best at?**

Client: **Probably** football. **I used to** play most evenings after school. **As you know**, it's pretty popular in the UK. I was quite a good swimmer too. I didn't take part in too many _____, but when I did, I always did best in the butterfly races.

Staff member: **That's impressive.** I like to swim too, but **I never** learned the different strokes, just the frog one...

Client: Ah, you must mean breaststroke.

Staff member: Yes, that's the one...**I never** took formal lessons, just taught myself, but I'm sending my kids to swimming lessons. It's a useful skill to be able to swim.

Client: **I couldn't agree more.** **You never know when** it might _____. **I noticed** swimming is another sport that China does well in at the Olympics. You always seem to win a lot of medals in those events.

Staff member: **That's true**, we have some _____ swimmers. **By the way**, do you still do any of those sports you _____?

Client: **Let me see... It's been a while since I last** swam, **but I still** run **a bit** when I can find the time. We also organize a football club with work colleagues – we just play for fun once a week. But I got injured a few months ago and I haven't played _____.

Staff member: **That's a pity.** Hope you can get back into that soon. And enjoy _____ the games?

Client: Thanks, you too!