

CULTURE

THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

1 In pairs, discuss the questions with your partner.

- 1 Do you like doing sports? What sports do you do?
- 2 Do you like watching sports on TV? What sports do you watch?
- 3 Do you usually watch the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games?

2 Read the text in boxes 1–6 and match them to the sports in the photos. Write SV (sitting volleyball) or WR (wheelchair rugby).

3 Read the texts again and complete the table.

	Sitting volleyball	Wheelchair rugby
Where do you play?	1 _____	2 _____
What do they need?	a ball and a 3 _____	wheelchairs and a 4 _____
How many players are there on a team?	5 _____	6 _____
How many players from each team are on the court?	7 _____	8 _____

4 Find the words **highlighted** in the text and choose the correct meanings, a or b.

- 1 medal
 - a a type of ball
 - b a prize in a sports competition
- 2 wheelchair
 - a something people use when they can't walk
 - b something people use to stand on
- 3 court
 - a a place with seats
 - b an indoor or outdoor area for games
- 4 player
 - a a person in a wheelchair
 - b a person playing a game or sport
- 5 goal line
 - a a line you pass to get points
 - b the number of players on a team

FACTFILE

The Paralympic Games

The International Paralympic Committee website (www.paralympic.org) tells us these facts:

First official Paralympic Games: 1960. They were held in Rome, Italy and there was a special opening and closing ceremony.

Number of sports: Around 25

Celebrated: Every two years. There are summer Games and winter Games.



Paralympic SPORTS

The Paralympic Games take place every two years. There are winter Games and summer Games. Athletes with physical disabilities from different countries compete for gold, silver and bronze **medals**.

The Paralympic Games have a lot of different competitions for a lot of different sports. There are 22 sports in the summer Games and five sports in the winter Games.

Here's a description of two popular sports played in the Paralympic Games.



Wheelchair rugby



Sitting volleyball

1

WR You play this sport on an indoor court. **Players** are in **wheelchairs**. They need a ball. They pass the ball from one person to another.

2

You play this sport on a court inside. Players sit on the floor. They need a net and a ball. Teams need to hit the ball over the net in three turns using their arms.

3

Each team has six players on the **court**. Each team is on a different side of the net.

4

There are 12 players on a team, but there are only four players on the court for each team at one time. For a goal, the team carries the ball over the opposite team's line and two wheels need to cross the line.

5

The net is lower than in the Olympic version. In the Olympic version, the players stand.

6

The indoor court is smaller than in the game played outside. It is the same size as a basketball court. The **goal lines** are at the far ends of the court.



TALKING POINTS

Which sport do you like best – sitting volleyball or wheelchair rugby. Why?



5 Listen to an interview with Martha Dirksen about a Paralympic sport. What sport does she do?



Wheelchair basketball



Wheelchair tennis



Wheelchair rugby



6 Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 How old is Martha?
- 2 Where is the court?
- 3 What does she want to be in one day?
- 4 What has her sports hero got?
- 5 Where is David Wagner from?
- 6 Does Martha play tennis on Tuesdays?
- 7 Does Martha rest at weekends?

PROJECT

An interview

Imagine you work for a radio station. In pairs, write interview questions to ask a Paralympic athlete.

- Find out:
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