Sport in Kazakhstan and in My Life

 Sport helps people to stay in a good shape, keeps them fit, healthy and makes them more organized, better disciplined in their daily activities and energetic.

Many sports are popular in Kazakhstan. They are: football, tennis, hockey, weight-lifting, track and field, basketball, volleyball, boxing, judo and carate, cross-country skiing, figure skating, climbing mountains, horse-racing.

All these sports have their strong supporters and fans. Thousands of peo­ple go to the stadium to support their favourite team and many thousands more watch the game on TV. For many people sport is the main form of entertainment. The people in the Republic of Kazakhstan are not only sports fans. They take an active part in all sports and sports activities, professional and amateur.

There are different sporting societies and amateur clubs in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Some of them constantly take part in different international tournaments and are well-known all over the world.

Kazakhstan sportsmen have won a great number of world records in gymnastics, judo, wrestling, athletics.

International and national matches attract many fans. Some most impor­tant games and sport events are transmitted over the radio and TV.

My favourite kind of sport is tennis. I have been playing it since I was 11 years old.

My favourite sport

 Hi! It's me again. There is plenty to do after school hours, particularly sport which I enjoy most. I love many sports but best of all football. Almost all my friends are in our football team. We train hard and we often play for the school in various regional youth tournaments. Our coach has taught us all rigid rules which must be strictly observed. The last game we played ended in a draw - 3:3. And though we know the famous Olimpic quotation "The most important thing is not to win, but to take part", we all want to win some day.

I do sport every day. After school on Mondays I go running with my friends for about an hour. Then I go to the swimming pool. Swimming is an excellent way to keep fit. It makes your legs and body strong.

Pele, the greatest footballer of all time, is my idol in football.

He became a world star at the age of only 17, when Brazil first won the World Cup in Sweden. He played in four World Cup competitions and scored over 1.200 goals in his career before finally retiring in 1977. In 1994 he be­came Brazilian Special Minister for Sport.

I'm happy that I have taken up sport. It helps me to become fit and I

hope it will help to develop confidence, persistence, resposibility, and courage

which are most important qualities to become a personality. Besides sport

gives you a sense of duty, a sense of collectivism and discipline. •

The Fifty Yard Race

{after William Saroyan)

 Once I saw an advertisement in a magazine which said: "Thin? Weak? It's not too late - yet! I can make you into a REAL MAN. Just a few minutes every day with my wonder programme will give you a new body. Write me, and you will receive details of my wonder programme immediately. Act now - before it is too late. My address is: Samuel Strongfort, 119, 54th Street, New York, NY."

I was twelve then, and I decided to become the strongest man in my neighbourhood. I cut out an advertisement from the magazine, I wrote to Mr. Strongfort, put the letter in an envelope and sent it to him. He wrote back quickly. He said I was certainly intelligent — quite different from the ordinary person, and that I would some day become somebody. His opinion about me was very much like my own. But it was nice to hear it from a man in New York — a man with the finest body in the world. In the letter there were several photos of Mr. Strongfort with his big muscles and powerful chest. He was a huge man, though he said he had once been small and weak. It was an honour to have him as a friend.

The only trouble was — I didn't have the money to pay for his programme. And I couldn't explain this to him without seeming a very ordinary person, but soon another letter came, even friendlier than the first. Mr.Strongfort was not angry with me. He had even lowered the price. But it was still more than I could afford. Then a third letter came, and others followed it. In fact, I didn't write at all. Without money I had nothing to say. The letters came all winter. One day I got a beautiful letter about the coming of spring, youth, fresh strength, etc. The end of the letter mentioned the ugly subject of money. The price had gone down six or seven times. And Mr.Strongfort had decided to teach me all his secrets in one lesson. For three dollars he would change me from a nobody into a real man.

I borrowed the three dollars from my uncle and sent them to New York. The letter with Mr.Strongfort's secrets came back. They were strangely simple.

Continents and Countries of the World

 We know that the Sun is the centre of solar system. There are seven planets in the solar system. The Earth is one of them. The Earth as other planets is round. If you look at the Earth from the space you will be able to see lands, seas, oceans, continents and different countries.

There are four oceans and six continents. The continents are Europe and Asia, Africa, America, Australia, Antarctic. America consists of North America and South America. The contintents are very large. Oceans and seas wash them and separate them from each other.

If we look at the map of the world we shall see many countries on the continents. There is only one country in Australia. It has got the same name as the continent. Countries of the world are different in their size. There are big and small countries. The largest country in the world is Russia and the smallest one is Vatican. Let us name some countries from each continent. Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain are in Europe. China, India, Pa­kistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan are in Asia. Russia is situated on the two continents: Europe and Asia. Egypt and Tunis are in Africa.

The United States and Canada are in the North America. Brazil and Chile are in the South America.

People of different nationalities live in their countries. They speak differ­ent languages. Each country has its national flag, anthem and its own tradi­tions and customs. The countries which we are going to speak about at our English lessons are Great Britain and Kazakhstan.

My Primary School

 My name is Aidar. I am 14 years old and now I am living in Astana. Astana is the capital of Kazakhstan. I started school at the age of seven. It was an ordinary school in Almaty where my family lived before. After four years of primary school I went to secondary school. Primary and secondary schools together comprise eleven years of study.'Nine years of classes are compulsary in our republic.

The primary school curriculum included such subjects as Kazakh, Maths, Russian, Drawing, Physical training and Music. We had also Nature classes. Our school was not an English school but we had English classes which started in the 2-nd form.

Our school year began on the first of September and ended in May. It lasted 9 months. We had 4 holidays a year: winter, spring, summer and autumn. On the first of September we got acquainted with our teachers and had our first lessons. Every lesson lasted fourty five minutes. Every day we had 4 or 5 lessons. We usually had a lot of homework and it took us 2 hours to do it. If we didn't know how to do our homework we usually asked the teachers for help.

Our school

 Our school is large. It is located not far from the centre of the city. If you come to our school you will see a wide school-yard around it and a sports ground behind the school. We usually have Physical Training lessons there when the weather is fine.

Our school has got three floors. There are several classrooms for the pupils of the primary school on the ground floor. There is a cloak-room, a dining room and a library there too. In the library you can find many interest­ing books. Our pupils often go there when they want to find something inter­esting for their home assignment or out-class activity. If you look around the library hall you will see many portraits of famous English, Kazakh and Rus­sian writers on the walls.

When you enter and go to the right along the corridor you will see the dinning room, where teachers and pupils have their dinner. Near the dining room you will see the Gymnasium. The pupils like to go there because many of them like PT lessons.

The classrooms for secondary forms and computer rooms for all pupils are on the first and the second floors. There we have two Kazakh class­rooms, English, Russian, Physics, Geography and other class-rooms. Every pupil of our school learns one of foreign languages: English, German or French. We learn English because at the present time it is the most widespread lan­guage in the world. At the English lessons we learn new words, grammar, poems, ask and answer questions.

Education in Great Britain

 In Great Britain children start going to shool when they are five and continue studying until they are 16 or older. Compulsary education begins at the age of five when children go to primary school. Primary education lasts for six years. First they attend the infant school from five to seven.

In infant schools children don't have real classes. They get acquainted with the class-room, desks, play and learn through playing. They learn num­bers and how to add them.

When the children are seven they go to junior school which they attend until eleven. Boys and girls study at junior school for four years. There they have classes, read and write, do mathematics. Then they go to secondary school.

At secondary school pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Geogra­phy, History, Art, Music, Foreign languages and Physical training (PT).

There are some types of secondary school in Great Britain. They are grammar schools, modern school and comprehensive schools. One can at­tend modern school but pupils of a modern school don't learn foreign lan­guages.

If they go to grammar school they will have a good secondary education. This type of school is most popular in England. At secondary schools pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Art, Music, For­eign languages and Physical education.English, Maths and Science are called "core" subjects.j Pupils take examinations in the core subjects at the age of 7, 11 and 14.

There are some private schools in England. Boys and girls do not study together at these schools. The sons and daughters of the aristocracy go to these schools. Their parents pay much money for the education in private schools. The teachers of these schools pay personal attention to each pupil.

It may be strange for you to know that English pupils have school uniform. It is an old tradition in the country. A boy's uniform consists of a special suit, a school cap, a tie and a blazer. A girl's uniform consists of a hat, a coat, a skirt and a blouse. As usual their uniform is dark.

As you have just read British education has many different faces but one purpose. Its purpose is to develop pupils' abilities and prepare them for life in the modern world.