

I Love Tennis

by Carol Holt



I want to be a good tennis player someday. I love the game. I love to watch it being played. You can learn from watching.

I leave for school early. I stop at the park. I stop to watch the tennis players.

Often two women are playing. They aren't playing to win. They're practicing. They face each other. The net is between them. First one hits from close to the net. The other stands far back. They hit many balls back and forth. Then they change places.

The two women are famous. Tennis is their work. They play for prize money.

Practice is important. I play whenever I can. My mother plays with me. She teaches me.

I have a dream. I want to make tennis my work. Then I'll play for prize money. I'll travel. I'll be famous.

And I'll practice in the park. Maybe a young girl will watch. Maybe she'll want to play tennis too.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is about a girl who
 - a** only wants to watch tennis.
 - b** wants to play tennis well.
- 2 Tennis players who play for prize money
 - a** have to practice a lot.
 - b** do not have to travel.
- 3 The girl plays tennis whenever she can because she
 - a** likes to play tennis with her mother.
 - b** wants to make money from tennis someday.
- 4 Practicing tennis is
 - a** different from playing to win.
 - b** the same as playing to win.
- 5 To be good at tennis, you should
 - a** practice and watch good players.
 - b** travel and play for money.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

he'll is made from *he will*

Say the contraction for each pair of words. Write the contraction.

- 1 she will
- 2 you will
- 3 I will
- 4 we will
- 5 it will



LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 You need to practice or _____ never play better.
- 7 If the ball is hit too low, _____ hit the net.
- 8 If I practice a lot, _____ be famous one day.
- 9 My mother says _____ teach me how to hit the ball.
- 10 Tomorrow _____ play together for two hours.

THINK ABOUT IT

D Read each sentence. Which word in the box means the opposite of the underlined word? Write the word.

low love young lose early

- 1 I hate to lose when I play tennis.
- 2 I stopped at the park and was late for school.
- 3 The two women were not playing to win.
- 4 She hit the ball high.
- 5 I hope I am never too old to play tennis.