

English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 4

Worksheet

The rise and rise of British tennis
star Laura RobsonTHE  INDEPENDENT

Lead-in

- 1 Work in small groups. What do you know about Wimbledon? Make a list of all the words you know connected with the game of tennis.

Reading comprehension

- 2 Read through the whole article quickly. What can you remember about Laura Robson's achievements? Work with a partner. Try to fill in the gaps from memory, then check them in the text.

At the age of (1) 14 Laura won the Wimbledon junior final, being the first winner from (2) the United Kingdom in 24 years. She is now also playing international tennis at senior level, and she is to be ranked at around (3) number 10 in the world. She has won (4) 10 senior matches so far. In a recent senior women's tournament, she was beaten by the world's no. (5) 1 who said that she expected Laura to be ranked soon in the top (6) 10. Laura was born in (7) London and plays with her (8) right hand. When she is (9) 18 years old, she will be allowed to play in (10) some professional events a year.

- 3 Read the text again. Decide if the following statements about Laura and other young tennis players are True (T), False (F) or Not given (N).

- 1 Laura can be quite shy when not playing tennis. (T)
- 2 She has never used a chequebook. ()
- 3 She may be competing against top women's players in Luxembourg. ()
- 4 She feels quite relaxed about playing in senior matches. ()
- 5 Keeping up with her schoolwork is not a problem. ()
- 6 Recently she defeated women players from Poland and Israel. ()
- 7 She lost this week's match against Angelique Kerber. ()
- 8 Laura hopes she will one day be No. 1 world champion. ()
- 9 She is the youngest player to win a senior women's title. ()
- 10 Winning championships at an early age does not guarantee future success in the game. ()

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Vocabulary: words in context

4 Find words and phrases in the text to match the following definitions (paragraph numbers are given).

- 1 signature, especially of a famous person (1) autograph
- 2 laughing and joking (1) _____
- 3 sequence of sporting events (4) _____
- 4 last-minute invitation to play (4) _____
- 5 consequences of a particular event (5) _____
- 6 doing something with steady determination (9) _____
- 7 certain to succeed (9) _____
- 8 easily beat, crushed (10) _____
- 9 exhaustion from working too hard (15) _____
- 10 serving as a model for everyone (16) _____

5 The following words or phrases are printed in italics in the text. Find them and circle the best definition in this particular context.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 <i>obliged</i> | was forced / agreed to do it / didn't agree to do it. |
| 2 <i>anything but</i> | quite the opposite / just the same / less confident |
| 3 <i>captivating</i> | delighting / imprisoning / winning |
| 4 <i>in demand</i> | required to do something / in short supply / popular |
| 5 <i>in her stride</i> | while playing / calmly and confidently / taking big steps |
| 6 <i>made the running</i> | moved around very fast / played badly / played better |
| 7 <i>play smart</i> | dress elegantly / cheat / do something in a clever way |
| 8 <i>in the wake of</i> | being awake / following / at the funeral of |
| 9 <i>swept aside</i> | easily defeated / disappointed / injured |

Grammar: tense revision

6 Read through the last two sentences of paragraph 10 (from 'Laura will have ...') to the end of paragraph 11 (to ... 'a lot of positives'). Find at least one example of the following verb forms:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| 1 present simple | <u>can</u> |
| 2 present continuous | _____ |
| 3 past simple | _____ |
| 4 past continuous | _____ |
| 5 past perfect | _____ |
| 6 future perfect | _____ |
| 7 past tense (modal) | _____ |

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7 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form in the following paragraph. You will need to use a range of tenses.

Although Laura is very young (1) to be playing (to play) in senior international tennis tournaments, she (2) _____ (already miss) the chance to become the youngest player on the main women's tour. Tracey Austin (3) _____ (hold) that record since 1997, when she (4) _____ (win) at Portland at the age of 14 years 28 days. Martina Hingis (5) _____ (be) currently the youngest player to become world No. 1. She (6) _____ (do) so at 16 years 6 months in 1997. Three months previously Hingis (7) _____ (become) the youngest Grand Slam winner since the nineteenth century at the Australian Open. If Laura (8) _____ (wish) to succeed on the international women's circuit, she (9) _____ (face) some very stiff competition and (10) _____ (need) to work very hard indeed. No doubt she (11) _____ (realise) this by now.

Discussion

8 Discuss the following questions in groups.

- 1** Laura finds it difficult to keep up with her schoolwork. Do you think that gifted young people like Laura should be allowed to follow their dreams, or should they be encouraged to concentrate more on their education?
- 2** Would you enjoy Laura's lifestyle? Do you think you would cope with the kinds of pressures and difficulties faced by such young stars?

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