



319 S. Naperville Road Wheaton, IL 60187 [www.questionsgalore.net](http://www.questionsgalore.net)  
Phone: (630) 580-5735 E-Mail: [info@questionsgalore.net](mailto:info@questionsgalore.net) Fax: (630) 580-5765

## STUDY GUIDE: TENNIS

### Basics

Tennis is either played between two people, one on each side of the court, or two sets of partners. The racquet is spun or a coin is tossed, and the winner can choose if he or she wants to serve or receive the serve. The goal is to get the ball over the net and make it land on the opponent's side.

The ball is served across the net to start. It must fall in the "Service court," (see glossary) or else it is a fault, and the same server gets another chance to serve again. If that serve is a fault too, a point (a double fault) is deducted from the server. If the serve touches the net but lands properly in the service court, it is called a let. Once the ball bounces on the court, a rally continues until one player fails to hit the ball, or until the ball is hit into the net. Every time a point is scored in a singles game, the opponents switch sides of the court (left or right).

The ball must bounce once before it is returned on a serve. Any other ball can be hit before or after it bounces as long as it only bounces once. A tennis score typically starts at zero which is also called love. The first point is 15, the second 30, then 40, and then game. If the score is 40-40, it is called deuce. Whoever scores the first point after deuce is said to have the advantage, but once deuce occurs, a player or team must score two points in a row to win. Most women's matches are the best of three sets, so the player winning two sets wins the match. A match for men usually consists of the best of five sets.

## Page 2, TENNIS

### Glossary

<b>Ace:</b>	A serve that can't be returned
<b>Ad (advantage):</b>	Whoever scores the first point after deuce has this because if he or she gets the next point, he or she is the winner.
<b>Advantage court:</b>	This is the term for the left service court where the receiver receives the serve when one of the players has the advantage.
<b>Advantage in:</b>	This phrase means the server has the advantage.
<b>Advantage out:</b>	This phrase means the receiver has the advantage.
<b>All:</b>	Tied.
<b>Alley:</b>	One of the 4 ½ -foot areas outside the single's court that is used in doubles.
<b>American Twist:</b>	A right-handed serve that bounces high and to the receiver's left due to spin. It's the opposite of reverse twist.
<b>Approach Shot:</b>	A hard, deep shot that lets the player take the net.
<b>Back Court:</b>	The part of the court between the service line and the baseline.
<b>Backhand:</b>	For a right-handed player, it's a shot hit from the left side of his or her body and vice versa for a left-handed player.
<b>Backspin:</b>	Also known as under spin, this means the ball rotates backwards and bounces low.
<b>Ball Toss:</b>	Tossing the ball into the air before serving.
<b>Band:</b>	The canvas along the top of the net.
<b>Baseline:</b>	A line parallel to the net at the end of the court that marks the boundary of the playing area.
<b>Block:</b>	To return the ball without swinging the racket.
<b>Break Point:</b>	A point which, if the receiver wins it, will mean a service break.
<b>Carry:</b>	This illegal move occurs when a player holds the ball on his or her racket.
<b>Center Service Line:</b>	This line marks the service court boundaries and goes from the net to the midpoint of the service line.
<b>Changeover:</b>	The 90-second time period after every odd-numbered game during which players change sides.
<b>Chip:</b>	A soft shot with backspin that drops just over the net.
<b>Court:</b>	The tennis court measures 78 feet long by 27 feet wide in singles and 36 feet wide in doubles. The two sides are divided by a net. Service lines are marked parallel to this net 21 feet from each side. The center service line divides the region between the sidelines and the service line into two equal parts called service courts.
<b>Cross-court:</b>	A shot hit from one side of the court that lands in the other side of the court.
<b>Daisy Cutter:</b>	A shot that bounces low because of backspin.
<b>Default:</b>	Opting out or refusing to compete, which means the opponent wins automatically.
<b>Defensive lob:</b>	A high shot when the other player is close to the net. It's often used "to buy time."

## Page 3, TENNIS

<b>Defensive Volley:</b>	A shot that's done just to keep a rally going.
<b>Deuce:</b>	The score when the game is tied at 40.
<b>Double Fault:</b>	The server fails to execute both of the allowed serves.
<b>Double hit:</b>	Hitting the ball twice on one hit.
<b>Doubles:</b>	A match with two players on each team.
<b>Down the Line:</b>	A straight shot; the opposite concept of a cross-court shot.
<b>Drop Shot:</b>	A soft shot that drops just over the net when the other player is playing deep.
<b>Drop Volley:</b>	A drop shot that happens before the ball bounces.
<b>Error:</b>	A shot that doesn't cross the net or lands outside of the court. One point is lost when this happens.
<b>Face:</b>	The flat area of the racket comprised of the strings.
<b>Fault:</b>	An invalid attempted serve.
<b>Follow Through:</b>	A continuous movement of the arm and racket after the ball has been struck.
<b>Foot Fault:</b>	The server steps into the court before the ball is hit.
<b>Forecourt:</b>	The area between the service line and the net.
<b>Forehand:</b>	For a right-hander, it's a shot hit from the right side.
<b>Forty:</b>	The third point of a game for either player.
<b>Frame:</b>	The portion of the racket to which the strings are attached.
<b>Gallery:</b>	The area where the spectators sit, or the actual spectators.
<b>Game Point:</b>	The point that will end the game if it is achieved.
<b>Grand Slam:</b>	There are four tournaments in the "Grand Slam" of tennis: The Australian Open, the French Open, the U. S. Open, and the Wimbledon.
<b>Groundstroke:</b>	The most typical shot. This shot comes from behind the baseline, or the backcourt, after the ball has bounced once.
<b>Head:</b>	The top part of the racket including the strings.
<b>Jam:</b>	To hit the ball directly at the other player's body.
<b>Jump Smash:</b>	A smash performed while a player jumps upward.
<b>Kick Serve:</b>	A serve with a lot of spin that changes direction when it bounces.
<b>Kill:</b>	Also called a smash, this means to hit the ball hard where the opponent can't return it.
<b>Let:</b>	A stroke that doesn't count and has to be replayed.
<b>Lob:</b>	A shot hit high over the opponent's head.
<b>Long:</b>	A shot lands behind the baseline.
<b>Love:</b>	Zero points.
<b>Love Game:</b>	A game in which the losing player scored no points.
<b>Love set:</b>	A set in which the losing player won no games.
<b>Match Point:</b>	The point that will end the match if it is scored.
<b>Midcourt:</b>	The area of the court around the service line.

## Page 4, TENNIS

<b>Net:</b>	The barrier that divides a tennis court into lengthwise halves. It's a web, usually made of braided, synthetic material, suspended from a steel cable that's strung between two, 3½-foot metal posts that are located three feet outside the sidelines. The cable is covered by a band of canvas or synthetic material that is two to 2 ½ inches wide. A two-inch wide center strap, also made of canvas or synthetic material, holds the net taut at the center. As a verb, "to net" means to hit the ball into the net.
<b>Net Game:</b>	A style in which a player likes to play at the net as often as possible. The opposite is a baseline game.
<b>Net man:</b>	The partner who plays the net while his partner serves in a doubles game.
<b>No-man's Land:</b>	The area between the baseline and the service line, from which it is difficult to return a ball.
<b>Out:</b>	A shot that is wide or long, or lands outside the playing area.
<b>Overhead:</b>	A shot hit like a serve, that's often synonymous with a smash.
<b>Overspin:</b>	Another word for topspin.
<b>Pace:</b>	The rate of speed at which the ball is hit. This term doesn't necessarily connote fast.
<b>Pass:</b>	To hit a shot past the other player while he or she is close to the net.
<b>Placement:</b>	A shot hit in a part of the court where the opponent can't return it.
<b>Point Penalty:</b>	A penalty that costs the player a point, such as unsportsmanlike conduct.
<b>Put Away:</b>	A euphemism for kill.
<b>Racket:</b>	The equipment used to hit the ball. It is usually strung with synthetic material or real gut. The frame might be made from wood, steel, aluminum, graphite, fiberglass, titanium, or carbon.
<b>Rally:</b>	An exchange of shots back and forth over the net.
<b>Receiver:</b>	The player who receives the serve for the entire game.
<b>Retrieve:</b>	To return a shot that's hard to reach.
<b>Return:</b>	To successfully send an opponent's shot back over the net.
<b>Reverse Spin:</b>	Backspin.
<b>Reverse Twist:</b>	A serve that bounces high and to the receiver's right (assuming it's served by a right-handed player) because of its spin. The opposite of American twist.
<b>Run Around the Backhand:</b>	To go to great and awkward lengths to avoid using the backhand.
<b>Runback:</b>	The region from the backstop to the baseline.
<b>Run Down:</b>	To retrieve.
<b>Serve:</b>	A serve must land in the diagonally opposite service court. On the first point, the server must stand to the right of the center line. After that, he or she goes back and forth from side to side after each point is scored.
<b>Service Court:</b>	One of the two, 21-foot by 13.5-foot rectangles on either side of the net between the service sideline, the service line, the center service line between them, and the net itself.
<b>Set Point:</b>	A point that, if won, will win the set.
<b>Sideline:</b>	The side boundary line of the court.

Page 5, TENNIS

<b>Singles:</b>	A match between two individual players.
<b>Slice:</b>	A shot that has both backspin and sidespin.
<b>Smash:</b>	A hard, downward shot that is hit from overhead.
<b>Strings:</b>	The usable surface of the racket made of interlaced gut or synthetic materials.
<b>Stroke:</b>	A swing or shot.
<b>Sudden death:</b>	A tie-breaker whose length is chosen in advance. For instance, in a 13-point tie-breaker, the first person to reach seven points wins. If they must still win by two, it is called a "lingering death tiebreaker."
<b>Sweet Spot:</b>	The best place to hit the ball with the racket; usually in the middle of the strings.
<b>Tape:</b>	The white band along the top of the net.
<b>Throat:</b>	The part of the racket where the handle connects to the head.
<b>Topspin:</b>	A forward spin that causes the ball to drop sharply and bounce high.
<b>Twist:</b>	Using both topspin and sidespin on a serve.
<b>Unforced Error:</b>	A point is lost because a shot was hit badly and goes off the court or into the net.
<b>Volley:</b>	A player hits a ball before it bounces.
<b>Wide:</b>	A shot that lands further than the sideline.
<b>Wood Shot:</b>	The ball contacts the wooden part of the racket instead of the strings.