

### Lesson 3

## Dhyan Chand

Look at the pictures below. The people in the pictures are all great Indian sportspersons. In pairs, discuss and write down the names of the sportspersons from the options given in the box. Can you guess which sport each player is famous for?



- Viswanathan Anand • Saina Nehwal • Chungneijang Mary Kom Hmangte
- Sania Mirza • Bhaichung Bhutia • Sachin Tendulkar

Now, think of one famous sportsperson from Assam and tell the class why he or she is famous.

**Here is a story about Dhyan Chand, one of the greatest hockey players the world has seen.**

Dhyan Chand was one of the eminent Indian sports personalities who achieved world fame. Dhyan Chand attained international stature in the field of hockey and is counted among the greatest sports legends. It is said that what Pele is to football and Muhammad Ali is to boxing, Dhyan Chand is to hockey. He remains the greatest hockey player of all time. Till the arrival of Dhyan Chand, the Europeans and the Americans were the leading masters of the game. Dhyan Chand shocked the Europeans and the Americans with his splendid performance in three Olympics.

This great hockey player was born as Dhyan Singh in August 1905 into a Rajput family in Allahabad. The turning point of his life came when he joined the British Indian Army at the age of 16.

The Army gave him the much needed opportunity and facilities to practise hockey. He preferred to do his practice sessions at night after his duty hours. He often waited for the moon to come out so that the visibility in the field improved. His practice sessions coincided with the rising of the moon and so, Dhyan Singh came to be called Dhyan Chand by his fellow players. His coach also predicted that he would one day shine like the moon. He gave him the title Chand. (Chand is a Hindi word for moon).

A few years later in 1928, he led the Indian hockey team to win the first Gold Medal for India in Amsterdam. He won his second Gold in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. The last Gold came to him in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin where he led the Indian team. He also won the title of "hockey personality of the century" there.



Dhyan Chand was given the nicknames 'The Wizard' and 'The Magician of Hockey' for his superb ball control. During his sporting career spanning twenty three years (1926 to 1949), he scored a total of 570 goals in 15 matches, according to his autobiography titled *Goal*.

The Government of India awarded him the national honour of Padma Bhushan in 1956. He passed away at the age of 74 in Delhi on 3 December 1979. Very appropriately, his birthday 29<sup>th</sup> August is celebrated as National Sports Day.

### ACTIVITIES

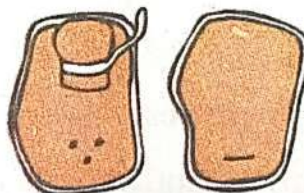
1. **Let's find out how much we have understood:**
  - (a) With which other sportspersons is Dhyan Chand compared?
  - (b) Who were the leading masters of hockey when Dhyan Chand started his career?
  - (c) When did the turning point in Dhyan Chand's life come?
  - (d) How did Dhyan Singh become Dhyan Chand?
  - (e) Where did Dhyan Chand win the title "hockey personality of the century"?
  - (f) What is his birthday celebrated as?
  - (g) Why was he given the nicknames 'The Wizard' and 'The Magician of Hockey'?
2. **There are six paragraphs in the lesson. Read the following headings and match them with the respective paragraphs:**
  - (a) Recognition and awards received by Dhyan Chand
  - (b) Dhyan Chand's achievement in the international arena
  - (c) Dhyan Chand, an international legend in hockey
  - (d) Dhyan Chand's early life
  - (e) Dhyan Chand's goals
  - (f) How Dhyan Singh became Dhyan Chand

3. Match the following parts with the correct information from the lesson:

(a) Dhyan Chand was born	came in 1928.
(b) He joined the British Indian Army	India's second gold in hockey.
(c) The first gold medal for India	in 1905.
(d) The 1932 Olympics brought	Dhyan Chand's autobiography.
(e) <i>Goal</i> is the name of	at the age of 16.

4. Let's check how much we have understood the lesson. Say whether the following statements about Dhyan Chand are true or false:

- (a) Dhyan Singh came to be called Dhyan Chand.
- (b) Dhyan Chand was born in Allahabad in 1905.
- (c) He was born in the month of September.
- (d) Dhyan Chand was a football player.
- (e) India won the first Gold medal in Hockey in 1928.
- (f) Dhyan Chand scored a total of 600 goals in 20 matches.



5. Arrange the letters to form words. You will find words from the lesson you have just read.

stautre    ledgens    praticec    visilibity    ceraer

Now, pronounce the words correctly with the help of your teacher.

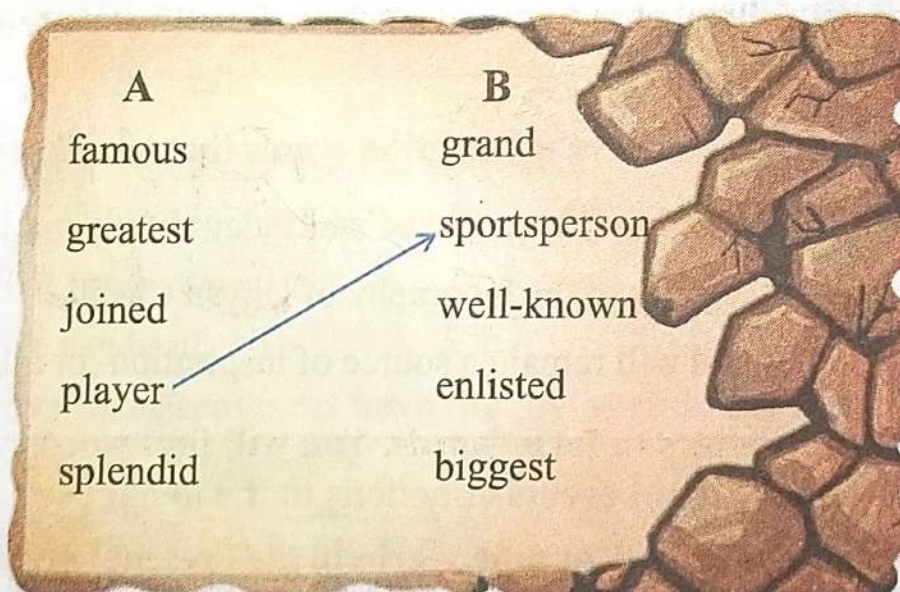
6. **Work with a friend. Consult a dictionary and match the words in column A with their meanings in column B.**

Hint: Look at the top or bottom margins of the dictionary pages to find out the first word (entry) and the last word on that page.

A	B
fame	a person who is especially good at something
stature	the state of being known by many people
legend	the importance and respect that a person has because of his or her ability and achievement
visibility	a very famous person especially in a particular field
wizard	how far something can be seen

7. **Here is another exercise to practise the new words you have learned. Say the words aloud and match the words in column A with their synonyms (words with similar meaning) in column B. One is done for you:**

A	B
famous	grand
greatest	sportsperson
joined	well-known
player	enlisted
splendid	biggest



*The teacher may help learners to find out the words.*

**8. Read the following information given in the lesson:**

- (a) Dhyan Chand joined the British Indian Army at the age of 16.
- (b) He attained international stature in the field of hockey.
- (c) He won the title of “hockey personality of the century”.

**All these sentences talk about things that already happened. When we talk about events or actions that took place at a definite time in the past, we use verbs in the Simple Past tense.**

**Now look at these sentences:**

- (a) Dhyan Chand remains the greatest hockey player of all time.
- (b) Chand is a Hindi word for moon.
- (c) We are reading an autobiography of Dhyan Chand.

**When we talk about events or actions that take place in the present, we use the Simple Present and Present Continuous tense.**

**Here are some sentences that mention events that have not yet happened:**

- (a) We are celebrating Dhyan Chand’s birthday shortly.
- (b) I shall buy a copy of the biography of Dhyan Chand.
- (c) Dhyan Chand will remain a source of inspiration for all sportspersons.

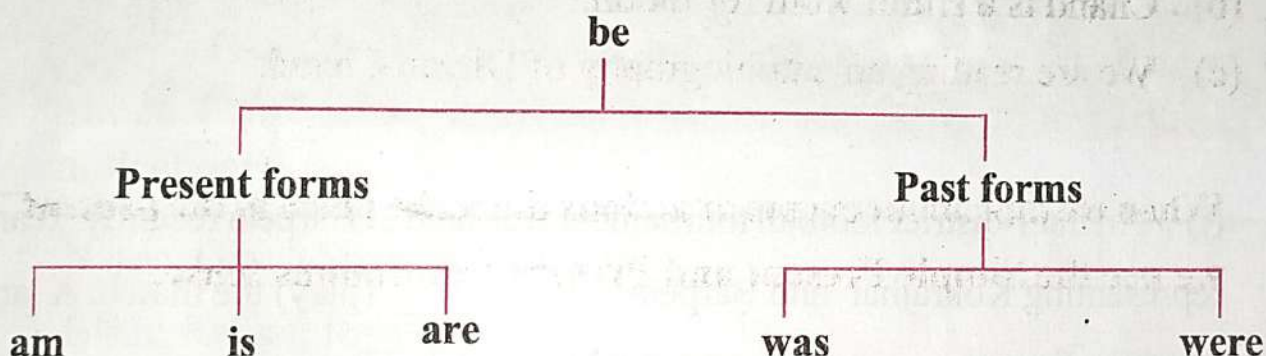
**When we talk about events or actions that will happen in the future, we use ‘will’ or ‘shall’, or other verbs in the Present tense. These verbs are used to talk about future time.**

9. Let's revise what we have just learnt. In the table below, write down the verbs from the sentences you just read in the correct columns. One is done for you.

Simple Past Tense	Simple Present Tense	Present Continuous Tense	Future Time
		are reading	

Now make a few sentences using these verbs.

10. The verb 'be' has the following forms:



Note how these verbs are used in sentences:

(i) am : I am a student of class VI.

(ii) is : He is my brother.

(iii) are : We are brothers.

All the above three sentences have the 'be' verb in the Present form.

Now look at these sentences.

(iv) was : I was absent yesterday.

(v) were : They were in the room.

These two sentences have the 'be' verb in the Past form.



11. (a) Rewrite the passage given below by putting the verbs in their appropriate forms in the blanks. Remember the rules you have just learnt:



(i) An inter-district football tournament was held at Barpeta recently. Teams representing Kokrajhar and Barpeta \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the match. A large number of people \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the match. They \_\_\_\_\_ (support) the local team. A section of the crowd \_\_\_\_\_ (be) from Kokrajhar. They \_\_\_\_\_ (support) the Kokrajhar team loudly.

(ii) The match \_\_\_\_\_ (start) at 3 p.m. Within 10 minutes Ranjit Bharali \_\_\_\_\_ (score) a goal for Barpeta. There \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a loud cheer from the supporters of the Barpeta team. But their joy \_\_\_\_\_ (be) short-lived. Within the next five minutes Kokrajhar \_\_\_\_\_ (score) their first goal. The score \_\_\_\_\_ (be) 1-1 at half time.

(b) Imagine you are one of the spectators watching the match. Your friend Rajiv, an ardent football fan engages you in a telephonic conversation. Fill in the blanks to complete the conversation. One is done for you.

**Rajiv :** What is going on now?

**Rani :** Mintu is kicking (kick) the ball. The crowd \_\_\_\_\_  
(cheer) loudly. He has scored the first goal.

**Rajiv :** Now what is the Kokrajhar team \_\_\_\_\_ (do)?

**Rani :** Aswini of Kokrajhar team \_\_\_\_\_ (run) to the centre. Now  
he \_\_\_\_\_ (kick) the ball while the centre forward of  
Barpeta \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to stop the advance.

12. Do you recognise the man in this picture? He is Girish Sharma, a champion para-badminton player. Find out more about Girish Sharma and complete the information on him for your class noticeboard.

Name: Girish Sharma

Birth: Rajkot, Rajasthan

Major achievement: Gold medal in Paralympics

Asia Cup for differently abled people

Childhood: .....

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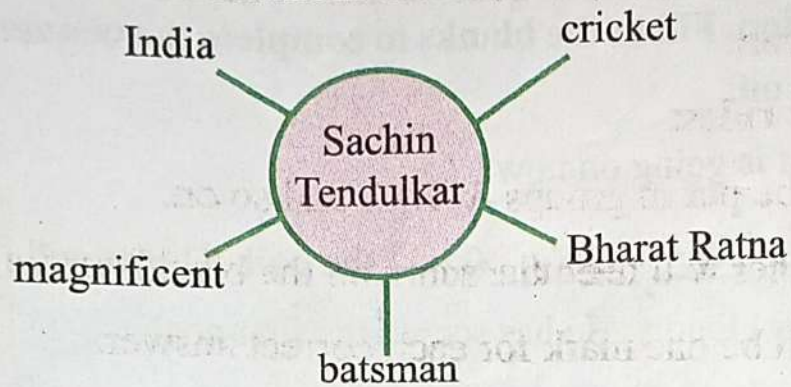
Education: .....

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Other medals won:.....

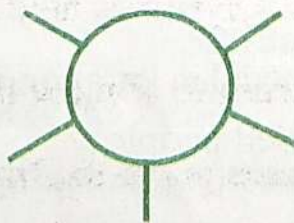


13. Which sport do you like the most? Here are some sentences on Sachin Tendulkar, the world famous cricketer.



- (a) My favourite player is Sachin Tendulkar.
- (b) He plays cricket.
- (c) He played for the Indian cricket team.
- (d) He is a magnificent batsman.
- (e) He was awarded the Bharat Ratna by the Indian government.

Now write the name of your favourite player in the circle as shown. Then write five words related to that person. Tell the class a few sentences about the person using the words you have written. You can write your sentences in the space below before sharing them with the class.



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#### 14. Quiz Time:

Your teacher will hold a quiz to find out how much you learned from the lesson.

Here are the rules:

- You will be put in groups A, B, C and so on.
- Your teacher will keep the score on the blackboard.
- There will be one mark for each correct answer.
- The group with the highest score will be the winner.

#### Questions:

- When and where was Dhyan Chand born?
- When did the turning point of his life come?
- At what time of the day did he prefer to do his practice sessions?
- What was his name before he was called Dhyan Chand?
- Where did the Indian Hockey team win the first gold medal for India?
- Where were the 1932 Olympics held?
- Who led the Indian team to win the third gold medal in Berlin?
- What are the nicknames given to Dhyan Chand?
- How many goals did he score during his sporting career?
- What is the name of Dhyan Chand's autobiography?
- Who honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1956?
- Whose birthday is celebrated as National Sports Day?

