



Worksheet 1, page 1. Reading: *Interview with Justine Henin*

Read the interview with tennis champion Justine Henin. Then answer the questions.

Interview with Justine Henin

"Winning is important, but not **at any price**," says Justine Henin, the world-famous tennis champion from Belgium. Henin said this in a speech to about a hundred young **teenagers** from more than 60 countries.



She spoke about keeping high standards of **ethics** in sports, and about resisting the **temptation** to use performance-enhancing **drugs**. Here are parts of that interview:

Interviewer: You have been a top tennis player for many years, and UNESCO Champion for Sport since last December. Now you are speaking in public **on behalf of** the Organization's ideals, right?

Henin: Yes, about the ideals of high standards and not using drugs. It is very important because it involves 13 and 14 year olds. This is a **vital** age to begin to understand life. I wanted to tell the **teenagers** that sport has to be **nurtured** by **passion**, by love of the game. Of course, sport is my profession, but sport is something that I love **beyond** everything else. I obviously also love to win -- I'm a **competitor** -- but I also appreciate the **sacrifices** that I must make in order to succeed.

Interviewer: Your **mission** as UNESCO Champion consists essentially of raising the public's **awareness** of the problem of doping in sports.

Henin: That's right. To dope yourself is to **cheat**, and that is something I cannot conceive of either in my private life or in my career. Winning is important, but not at any price. Doping is obviously a question of ethics, of honesty towards one's self, of **integrity** and **dignity**, but above all, of health. Endangering one's life to win is something I don't agree with at all.

Sport is first and **foremost** a game, and we enjoy playing very much. But, in addition, sport also develops skills for your entire life -- and these skills include being honest and winning by playing by the rules. This is what I tried to explain to the children.

UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
performance-enhancing drugs = drugs like steroids or stimulants used illegally by athletes
on behalf of = instead of someone, or as their representative
doping = the practice of using drugs to improve performance in a sport



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Circle T if the statement is true according to the reading. Circle F if the statement is false.

1. T / F Justine Henin made this speech to a group of experienced professional tennis players.
2. T / F She spoke about ethics in sports.
3. T / F She represents UNESCO.
4. T / F She is passionate about the sport of tennis.
5. T / F Henin's principal mission for UNESCO is to teach tennis.
6. T / F The worst thing about doping in sports is that it is unhealthy.
7. T / F She believes that winning is the only important thing in life.
8. T / F A sport is only a game, and it doesn't teach us anything about life.