

Audioscript

Abbie: I love tennis, but there's so much to learn, isn't there, Mike?

Mike: Yes, Abbie, but you already know a lot of the basic things.

Abbie: Such as?

Mike: Well, like standing in the right place in the court. And (1) where the racket is in your hand. That's fine.

Abbie: But there's so much more to it than that, isn't there? I mean, all the different ways of hitting the ball, being in exactly the right place at the right time. On TV you can see the big tennis stars doing the most amazing things ...

Mike: Actually, (2) it's quite a good idea to do that. You can learn a lot from the way they play.

Abbie: But the top players move around the court so fast, don't they? (3) I'll never be able to do that.

Mike: I can't see why not, with the right training.

Abbie: Well, for one thing I couldn't run around for hours the way they do. At that speed, I'd be too tired to move after about 20 minutes!

Mike: At the moment, that's probably true. But let's see in a couple of years.

Abbie: So what should I do next? Put my name down for competitions?

Mike: Well, I think (4) for now it'd be better just to keep playing at school and with friends. And I can start giving you lessons from next week, if you like. Let's see how you get on for a while and then maybe we'll think about matches.

Abbie: Oh! Sounds great.

Mike: I'll give you a book to read about tennis. It's got lots of useful advice in it, and the rules of the sport. (5) You should make sure you know all those.

Abbie: Right, I'll look at them carefully. I didn't actually know until you told me that players aren't allowed to touch the net.

Mike: That's right. And I suggest you work on your general fitness, too.

Abbie: OK. (6) I'll definitely run or train down at the gym each evening, except Sundays. I think you need a break sometime, don't you?

Mike: Yes, you do. That's very important.