

Name _____



Dribble, Shoot, Score: The Exciting World of Basketball

Basketball is a thrilling sport that is played and loved by millions of people around the world. It's a fast-paced game that combines skill, teamwork, and strategy. In this passage, we'll explore what basketball is all about and dive into some of its basic rules.

What is Basketball?

Basketball is a team sport that is played on a rectangular court with the primary objective of scoring points by shooting the ball into the opposing team's basket. Each team consists of five players on the court at a time, and the game is played in four quarters, each lasting 12 minutes.

Basic Rules of Basketball

- **The Objective:** The main goal of basketball is to score more points than the opposing team. Points are scored by making baskets, which are worth either two or three points, depending on the player's distance from the basket.
- **The Court:** A basketball court is 94 feet long and 50 feet wide. The court is divided into two main sections: the frontcourt (where a team's offensive plays happen) and the backcourt (where the opposing team defends).
- **The Teams:** Each team consists of five players, including two guards, two forwards, and one center. These positions have different roles on the court, with guards typically handling the ball and forwards and centers focusing on scoring and defending.
- **Dribbling:** Players use a technique called dribbling to move the ball around the court. Dribbling involves bouncing the ball while walking or running. It's a crucial skill that allows players to advance toward the opposing team's basket.
- **Passing:** Teams work together by passing the ball to teammates. Passing is essential for setting up scoring opportunities and keeping the ball away from the opposing team's defenders.
- **Shooting:** The primary way to score in basketball is by shooting the ball into the opponent's hoop. A basket made from outside the three-point line is worth three points, while those made from inside are worth two points.
- **Free Throws:** When a player is fouled by an opponent during a shooting attempt, they are awarded free throws. Free throws are taken from a designated line and are worth one point each.
- **Defense:** A critical aspect of basketball is defense. Teams use various strategies to prevent the opposing team from scoring, such as blocking shots, stealing the ball, and guarding players closely.
- **Shot Clock:** In professional basketball, there is a shot clock, which is a timer that limits the time a team has to take a shot. Typically, teams have 24 seconds to attempt a shot after gaining possession of the ball.
- **Jump Ball:** The game starts with a jump ball, where the referee tosses the ball into the air, and two players from opposing teams jump to try to gain possession.

