

## Talking about Sports Day (Athletics Meet)

The school is having its Sports Day with all the students at the sports ground. Plenty of students are **taking part**. They are the **competitors**. Others are not taking part. They are the **spectators**. There are also some **officials** who are helping to organize the sports.

There are various events. Some **take place** in the middle of the field. Others take place on the track around the edge of the field. **Field events** and **track events** often take place simultaneously. In each event, there are competitors. Sometimes, there are groups or teams of competitors.

Sports which take place on the track and the field are called **athletics**. Athletes wear shorts, shirts and running shoes. In the **100-metre** race, the **sprinters** are all at the **starting-line**. The starter holds up his gun. At the **finishing-line**, the **judge** and the **time-keepers** are standing ready. "On your marks... Get set...Go!" The **starter fires his gun** and the **race** begins. The competitors run along the track as fast as they can. The spectators shout and **cheer** loudly.

'Inter' means 'between'. An **inter-house** competition is a competition between houses. An **inter-school** competition is a competition between schools. And an **international** competition is a competition between countries (e.g. Olympics, World Cup).

The athletes who come first(**champion**), second (**first-runner-up**) and third (**second-runner-up**) in each event usually **win a prize**. There are often team or house prizes, form prizes and other special prizes too. They may win a **medal(gold, silver or bronze)**, a cup, a trophy, a shield or a pennant. They get points for their house. The winning house is the one with the most points, the one with the highest **score**. Everyone is watching the **score-board** closely.

The sports are usually over by 4pm. It is time for the **prize-giving** (prize presentation). The Principal (or the **Guest of Honour**) delivers a speech and **presents** the prizes, including the Inter-house Cups and the Individual Champions for each **grade**. The winners step onto the stand to **receive** the prizes. All the schoolmates clap and cheer loudly. They **applaud** all the winners.