

Ones To Watch

Wimbledon. Arguably, the most famous tennis tournament in the world. Certainly the oldest. The Championships were first contested in 1877 and that inaugural tournament was won by Spencer Gore. Since then the competition has been held almost every year, with only the First and Second World Wars interrupting play for longer than the customary rain breaks.

A long line of great champions therefore stretches all the way back to that first ever tournament. Fred Perry to Andre Agassi; Billie Jean King to Serena Williams. Who will join (or rejoin) that list this year? Here are some players to watch.

Men's Singles

Name: Andy Murray
Age: 30
Country: United Kingdom
World Tennis Rank: #1

Accomplishments: 45 career titles, including 2 Wimbledon Championships and 2 Olympic Gold medals. His victory at Wimbledon in 2013 made him the first British man to have won the title for 77 years. He is the first British professional player to be World Number 1.

About: Murray is the defending champion and as such, has a great weight of expectation on his shoulders. The British public have waited decades for a dominant player from the United Kingdom and as Wimbledon is the most prestigious championship on British soil, Andy Murray faces huge pressure to succeed every year. He carries the hopes of a nation!

Name: Rafael Nadal
Age: 31
Country: Spain
World Tennis Rank: #2

Accomplishments: Former World Number 1, Nadal, has 73 career titles in singles tennis. He is the only player in history to have completed 'La Decima'; winning the same tournament ten times!

About: 'Rafa' will be coming into Wimbledon fresh from a stunning championship victory at Roland-Garros (the French Open Tournament). He has been so utterly

dominant on France's clay courts that his win this year was his tenth at the tournament. He has won Wimbledon before and is resting before this year's championship, so expect him to come out all guns blazing in his opening game!

Name: Kyle Edmund

Age: 22

Country: United Kingdom

World Tennis Rank: #44

Accomplishments: 2015 Davis Cup winner and British Number 2 behind Andy Murray.

About: While Edmund may not be as accomplished as the other players in this list, he is certainly on his way up. At only 22 years of age, he is very young and has a long career ahead of him. At the French Open this year, he came back from a whitewash in the first set, (he barely won any points, let alone games) against Rafael Nadal to win the second, then push the eventual champion all the way in the third. As Britain's other big hope in the Men's competition, let's hope he continues that momentum!

Women's Singles

Name: Angelique Kerber

Age: 29

Country: Germany

World Tennis Rank: #1

Accomplishments: Kerber has 10 Championship wins to her name and has risen all the way to the top of the World Rankings.

About: She is only the second German woman (after Steffi Graf) to make it to World Number 1, reaching that mark by winning the Australian and US Open Championships last year. She has not had the most successful 2017 so far, having had to retire from a tournament in Madrid (through injury) and then not making it past the second round in Rome or France. She is still World Number 1, however, and will be looking to turn her year around at Wimbledon, so the rest of the field ought to watch out!

Name: Jelena Ostapenko

Age: 20

Country: Latvia

World Tennis Rank: #12

Accomplishments: Young Jelena has won the French Open Championship and is currently at her highest-ever position in the World Rankings.

About: The young Latvian stunned the world in France earlier this year, defeating World Number Two, Simona Halep, to win her first major tournament. Before that win, she was ranked at number 47 in the world, but has now been catapulted up to number 12. People who had not heard of her before, know who she is now! At only 20, she has a lot of time to get better and better. Wimbledon will be a great opportunity for her to continue her rise!

Name: Johanna Konta

Age: 26

Country: United Kingdom

World Tennis Rank: #8

Accomplishments: In April 2017, Konta won the Miami Open tournament, the most high-profile competition won by a British woman for four decades. She is also the first British woman since 1983 to be ranked in the top ten players in the world.

About: Born in Sydney, Australia, to Hungarian parents, Johanna has trained all over the world, but has found a place to settle here, representing the United Kingdom. Only four years ago, she was well outside the top 100 players in terms of ranking, so it is an amazing achievement to have risen so high, so quickly. Perhaps she can take her career one step further by winning Wimbledon. We will have to wait and see!

Section A

1. What do you think the word 'inaugural' means? (C1/2a)

2. What do you think is Andy Murray's most impressive achievement? Why? (C4)

3. Where is Jelena Ostapenko from? (C6/2b)

Section B

4. Who is 'Rafa' a nickname for? (C6/2b)

5. What is a whitewash? (C1/2a)

6. Summarise why each of the three male competitors is 'one to watch'. (S2/2c)

7. Place Angelique Kerber, Jelena Ostapenko, Simona Halep and Johanna Konta in the order they appear in the World Rankings. (C6/2b)

8. Find one fact and one opinion from Johanna Konta's profile. (C9)

9. Summarise why each of the female players are 'ones to watch'. (S2/2c)

Section C

10. What is the effect of starting the whole text with a single word? (L5/2g)

11. What does the inclusion of the word 'professional' suggest has happened before Murray became World Number 1? (P5/2d)

12. What does the word 'prestigious' mean? (C1/2a)

13: What does the word 'field' relate to in Angelique Kerber's profile? (C1/2a)

Section D

14. What does the phrase 'come out all guns blazing' mean and where do you think the phrase originated? (R3)

15. Why do you think the writer points out that Kerber is 'only the second German woman... to make it to World Number 1'? (L5/2g)

Ones to Watch – Challenge Activity

Section A

These words have been taken from the text. Match each word to the correct meaning.

- | <u>Word</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|---------------|---|
| 1. contest | a. according to the usual practices of a set of circumstances |
| 2. inaugural | b. resist an attack made on (someone or something) |
| 3. customary | c. engage in competition |
| 4. tournament | d. an act of defeating an opponent in a game |
| 5. victory | e. a series of contests between a number of competitors |
| 6. defending | f. marking the beginning of an activity |

Section B

Murray is the defending champion and as such, has a great weight of expectation on his shoulders. The British public have waited decades for a dominant player from the United Kingdom and as Wimbledon is the most prestigious championship on British soil, Andy Murray faces huge pressure to succeed every year. He carries the hopes of a nation!

Look at the definitions below. Identify the word they are describing from the above passage.

<u>Definition</u>	<u>Word</u>
a person who has defeated all rivals in a competition	
a strong belief that something will happen	
most important, powerful, or influential	
attempt to persuade or coerce into doing something	
achieve the desired aim or result	

Ones to Watch – Challenge Activity

Section C

Write the meaning of each of these words.

arguably	
decade	
nation	
accomplished	
eventual	
momentum	
retire	
catapulted	

Section D

Born in Sydney, Australia, to Hungarian parents, Johanna has trained all over the world, but has found a place to settle here, representing the United Kingdom. Only four years ago, she was well outside the top 100 players in terms of ranking, so it is an amazing achievement to have risen so high, so quickly. Perhaps she can take her career one step further by winning Wimbledon. We will have to wait and see!

Identify words in the text that mean the same as:

portraying		dwell	
practised		accomplishment	
pause		profession	
position		incredible	