

Drop the ball

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni gennaio 2026

1. What qualities do you need to be a professional athlete? Add five more words to the list.

1. dedication
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

2a. Read

That was a bad performance by the Canadian team.

You're right, the goalkeeper really dropped the ball.

The ball? There aren't any balls in ice hockey.

I know that! It means he made a big mistake.

2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.

It is very disappointing for athletes when, after years of training, they
_____ at the Olympics.

If you drop the ball, it means that you make a mistake and as a result of that mistake, you do not achieve your objective.

3. When was the last time you dropped the ball at school? What would you do differently now to avoid making the same mistake?

Write your answer. Max. 100 words.

4. Athletes who drop the ball during an important match or tournament should lose their place on the team. Discuss.

Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answer: ambition; discipline; passion; respect; talent.
- 2.b It is very disappointing for athletes when, after years of training, they drop the ball at the Olympics.
3. Sample answer: I dropped the ball last semester and I failed history. I forgot that we had a test the week before Christmas and I didn't study for it. Plus, I went out with my friends the night before so I was also really tired. Now, I would make sure that I wrote the test date in my school diary and set a reminder on my phone. I would go to bed really early too! I hate failing a subject because then you have to work twice as hard to get your marks back up.