

Exploring a commentary

Read these two commentary extracts about the Wimbledon match in which Murray beat Gasquet.

They are taken from two different places in the match.

Gasquet – good forehand.

Back on the backhand from Murray.

Murray's still there.

Murray plays a miracle shot – He was virtually in the crowd when he played that backhand.

He's wrapped up this third set – He's back in the match.

The crowd, I think it's fair to say, have gone wild.

I don't need to say anything.

It's 9.30 at night, 3 minutes short of 4 hours and it's into the net.

The miracle has been achieved by Murray - Murray the magnificent!

Gasquet served for the match in the third set – Murray has somehow turned it round.

Murray will be in the quarter finals – he goes through in magnificent style: 5-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4.

1. If you didn't know the context of the match, why would this be difficult to understand?
2. Explain where in the match you think these extracts come from?
3. Why do you think the commentators do not give the score during the match?
4. Wikipedia defines a commentary as something "**live**, in **real time** with the ability to **describe the events of an often fast moving event**". They say commentators provide an "**insight into the game** and give the **benefit of their experience**".

For each of the phrases in bold above, choose an example from the commentary to support it.

5. "miracle" and "magnificent" are used to describe Murray and his game. Why do you think these words are used?
6. Choose a sport of your choice and write a short paragraph of commentary, like the ones above.