

Mastering the Court: Net and Wall Games with Max

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical principles in net and wall games, focusing on spatial awareness, communication, and controlled shot placement.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of court positioning and tactical play to provide detailed, reasoned answers. Max the monkey is ready to help you solve these tactical puzzles!

In net and wall games, success depends on more than just physical skill; it requires clever decision-making. Whether playing singles or doubles, players must constantly analyse the opponent's position and the space available on the court. By manipulating the speed, height, and angle of the ball or shuttlecock, a player can force an error or create a winning opportunity.

Word bank: volley · court coverage · trajectory · tactical · rally · forehand · backhand · anticipation · placement

1. Max is playing a singles game and notices his opponent is standing close to the net. Explain why a high, deep lob shot would be a superior tactical choice compared to a low, fast drive shot in this specific scenario. (2 marks)

2. When playing doubles, why is it essential for teammates to communicate constantly about court coverage? What might happen if both players rush to the same area? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the tactical advantages of hitting the ball into an open space versus hitting it directly towards an opponent's body. (2 marks)

4. Justify why 'anticipation' is considered the most important skill for a defender in a wall game. How does watching the opponent's racket or body shape help you prepare? (2 marks)

5. If you are losing a rally because your opponent is hitting very powerful shots, what tactical adjustment could you make to your own positioning to regain control? (2 marks)

6. Max suggests that 'placement is more important than power.' Explain what he means by this and provide an example of how a slower, well-placed shot can be more effective than a fast one. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a rectangular court. Use arrows to show the 'ideal' path a ball should take to land in the back corner, and mark an 'X' to show where the player should stand to best defend the court once they have hit that shot.



Extension challenge: Design a 3-minute tactical drill for your peers that focuses on moving an opponent from one side of the court to the other. Explain your rules and describe how your drill encourages players to think about court geometry and space.