



The tennis superstar sisters – Venus and Serena Williams

Venus and Serena Williams have become familiar to television sports fans around the world. They have even had to play each other in major championship finals. Venus and Serena live in Florida with their mother, father and three sisters, Lyndrea, Isha and Yetunda.

Did you **KNOW** ?

○ Florida is in the south-eastern corner of the United States and has been in the news in recent years. In early August there was a major hurricane – reportedly the third most expensive¹ natural disaster in history. What is a hurricane?

- But back to the tennis. Richard Williams, Venus and Serena's father, acts as manager for the girls. He thinks that the two sisters are the world's best players. Unfortunately both girls have suffered² from serious injuries³ that have stopped them playing in some championship games. If the girls have to play each other their father does not watch the game. He gets too tense and does not want to favour one girl above the other.
- When Venus and Serena are not playing tennis they enjoy watching cartoons⁴. In fact their voices have been used in one of the "Simpsons" shows.
- Both girls have made a lot of money from playing tennis and are dollar-multi millionaires. Not all the money comes from tennis wins. They also get money from sponsorship and advertising⁵.

Read these statistics carefully and then answer the question.

1. Venus is 1.86 metres tall, Serena is 1.78 metres tall.
Who is the taller and by how much?
2. Venus weighs 76 kg and Serena weighs 65 kg.
Who is the lighter and by how much?
3. Serena was born in 1981 and Venus in 1980.
Who is the older?

FOR DISCUSSION

Do you think top sports people get paid too much? Think about how much a sports person earns when they are injured, and how long their career is. What jobs do you think Richard Williams has to do as the girl's manager? How would you feel if you had to play your brother or sister, or perhaps your best friend, in a major sporting competition?

1 ik 'spensiv - drahý, nákladný; 2 safo:d - sú/ jsou vystavené; 3 indžeris - poranenia/zranění; 4 wočiq katu:ns - sledujú/sledují kreslené seriály; 5 ædvetaiziq - reklama