

# THE OLYMPIC GAMES



## Pre-reading....

1. What are the Olympic games?
2. Where did they begin?
3. Do you like to watch the Olympics? Why or why not?
4. Name some Olympic sports.

During the Olympic games, people from all over the world come together in peace and friendship. Some of these people compete for medals. Several million people attend the games, and millions of other people watch them on television.

Why do we have the Olympic Games? How did they begin? The first Olympic Games that we have records of were in Greece in 776 B.C. The games lasted one day. The only event in the first thirteen Olympic Games was a race. Men ran the length of the stadium (about 192 metres). Then, longer running races were added. Through the years, a few other kinds of events, like the long jump, were also added. During this time, the games were for men only, and women could not even watch them. In the year 393, a Roman emperor ended the Olympic Games because the quality of the games became very low. The Olympics did not take place again for 1500 years!

In 1894, Pierre de Coubertin of France helped form the International Olympic Committee, and the modern Olympic Games began. In 1896 the games were held again in Athens, Greece. The Greeks built a new stadium for the competition. Three hundred and eleven athletes from thirteen countries competed in many events. The winners became national heroes.

After 1896, the games were held every four years during the summer in different cities around the world. In 1900, the Olympics were in Paris, France, and women competed for the first time. In 1908, in London, England, the first gold medals were given to winning athletes. Before that time, the winners received only silver and bronze medals. The Olympic flag was first introduced in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium. The flag has five rings on it. The rings represent the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North and South America. Each ring is a different colour - blue, yellow, black green, or red - because the flag of each of the countries that compete in the games has at least one of these colours in it.

The Olympic Winter Games began in 1924 in Chamonix, France. Athletes competed in winter events such as skiing, ice skating, and ice hockey. Today, the Winter Games take place every four years. The Summer Games also take place every four years, but not in the same year as the winter events. Both the Summer Games and the Winter Games must have at least fifteen events, and they cannot last more than sixteen days.

Until recently, Olympic competitors could not be professional athletes. All of the athletes in the Olympic Games were amateurs. Today, however, many of the Olympic athletes are professionals who play their sports for money during the year. Some people disagree with this idea. They believe that the Olympic Games are for amateur athletes, not paid professionals. Other people think that anyone can play in the Olympic Games. No matter who the athletes are, millions of people throughout the world enjoy watching the greatest athletic competitions, the Summer Games and the Winter Games of the Olympics.



## ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED AUGUST 17, 2015)

**KEY : Let's PLAY around with Preposition**  
1. at 2. by 3. of 4. on 5. of 6. About 7. By 8. in, at 9. On, on 10. in 11. for 12. in 13. For 14. of 15. Of 16. from 17. in 18. about 19. in 20. at 21. at 22. on 23. in 24. at 25. on  
**KEY : How well did you play ? Let's find out!**  
26. to 27. from 28. with 29. in 30. of, at 31. on 32. at 33. At, on 34. from 35. on 36. in 37. at 38. on 39. for 40. about 41. at 42. up 43. on 44. on 45. for 46. on 47. in 48. with 49. for 50. In.  
**KEY : Punctuate the following stories:**  
**The following are the Best Answers:**  
**Story 1**  
Yesterday, I went to Anik's house - but he wasn't at home! His mother told me that he had gone to East Ramna Park. So I decided to go there and try to find him. I eventually found him cycling a path at a steady pace with his friends Manik, Tamal and Daud. The boys all invited me to join them so I hired a bike which wasn't as expensive as I thought and we began our bike ride. We rode for roughly two hours before we decided to eat - we were famished! We ate at KFC. The Hamburgers were delicious, a perfect end to a perfect day.

## Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

**Story 2**  
Tarik had lost his keys - again. We were all helping him search for them, clambering about and searching in every place we could think of. We went through the WHOLE house. We looked in every drawer and cupboard and then it was down to the silly places - under the bed, in the couch, under the carpet... we even had to look out in the garden! But alas... we could not find the keys! "OH!" Tarik said suddenly, looking very guilty indeed. "I put them in my pocket when we left the Regent Theatre... sorry everyone! I'll make it up to you though - to say thanks for helping... I'll buy everyone an ice-cream!"  
**Story 3**  
Morris the Martian was flying around the Solar System one day, when he saw a strange light in front of him. What is that? he thought to himself. Morris was scared, but he flew a little bit closer so that he could see it better. "Hello," he called out. There was no reply. "Hello. Is anyone there?" he called, but again there was no reply. Suddenly a creature appeared in front of the light. "BOO!" it shouted. Poor Morris was really scared and he flew off home and hid under his bed.

## 1 VOCABULARY

### A. Focus on the Reading



Choose the best word or phrase for each sentence.

amateurs	compete	event	length
athletes	competition	gold medals	national
attend	competitors	heroes	professionals

1. Several million people \_\_\_\_\_ the games, and millions of other people watch them on television.
2. The first Olympic Games were in Greece in 776 B.C. Men ran a footrace the \_\_\_\_\_ of the stadium (192 metres).
3. In 1896, the games were held again in Athens, Greece. The Greeks built a new stadium for the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Three hundred and eleven \_\_\_\_\_ from thirteen countries competed in many events.
5. The winners became \_\_\_\_\_ heroes. The people in their countries were very proud of them.
6. In 1908, in London, England, the first \_\_\_\_\_ were given to the winning athletes.
7. Until recently, Olympic \_\_\_\_\_ could not be professional athletes.
8. All of the athletes in the games were \_\_\_\_\_. Today, many of the Olympic athletes are \_\_\_\_\_ who play their sports for money during the year.

### B. Focus on New Contexts

Choose the best word or phrase for each sentence.

amateur	competition	gold medals	national
athletes	competitors	heroes	professional
compete	event	length	race

1. May 1 is a \_\_\_\_\_ holiday in many countries, and people have the day off work.
2. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a football field? Is it very long?
3. Ice skating is my favourite \_\_\_\_\_ in the Winter Games.
4. Jamil is a \_\_\_\_\_ photographer. He takes pictures for magazines and newspapers.
5. In the United States, professional \_\_\_\_\_ are often paid millions of dollars for advertisements.
6. Have you ever heard of a three-legged \_\_\_\_\_? Two people run together with one person's leg tied to the other person's leg. It can be very funny!
7. Olympic athletes often become famous in their countries, and children think of them as \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Do you think that only \_\_\_\_\_ athletes should compete in the Olympics? Some people think that professional athletes should also be allowed to compete.



## 2 UNDERSTANDING THE READING

### A. Comprehension Questions

- Answer the questions about the reading.
1. What was the only event in the first thirteen Olympic Games?
  2. When did the first games begin?



3. Where were the first modern Olympic Games?
4. When were the first Winter Games?
5. How many events must there be in the Winter Games and in the Summer Games?
6. Are Olympic athletes amateurs or professionals?
7. When did women first compete in the Olympics?
8. When and where are the next Olympic Games?

### B. Details

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if it is false.



1. The first Olympic competitors ran the length of the stadium.
2. Pierre de Coubertin was an athlete in the first modern games.
3. Winners have always received gold medals.
4. The Olympic flag has six coloured rings on it.
5. The summer and winter games take place in the same year.
6. Today both men and women compete in the Olympics.
7. Professional athletes make Olympic competition more difficult for amateurs.

### C. Main Idea

Check (✓) the three main ideas of the reading.

1. The Olympic Games began in Greece with only one event.
2. The Winter Games and the Summer Games each have at least fifteen events.
3. The Olympics have changed a lot since they began.
4. Skiing is a winter event.
5. The Olympic Games bring people together in peace.

## 3 WRITING

Write a description of your favourite Olympic event, but do not write the name of the event. Then ask another student to read your description and guess the event. With your partner, try to think of the names of gold-medal winners for the events that you describe.



## 4 BUILDING VOCABULARY SKILLS

### A. Vocabulary Review

Match the words and phrases in column A with their opposites in column B.

A	B
1. different	a. melt
2. seller	b. traditional
3. take apart	c. similar
4. very small	d. connect
5. modern	e. huge
6. freeze	f. customer
7. work hard	g. major
8. not important	h. relax



### B. Context Clues

Choose the answer that is closest in meaning to each word in bold print. Use context clues.

1. There is a fire in the building! You must leave **immediately!**
  - a. soon
  - b. right now
  - c. in a few minutes
  - d. in a little while
2. Japan has a lot of **factories**. They make cars, televisions, and computers.
  - a. jobs
  - b. schools
  - c. buildings where they sell things
  - d. buildings where they make things
3. Some clothing factories make shirts. Workers **dye** the shirts different colours.
  - a. colour
  - b. change
  - c. wear
  - d. sell
4. Many people moved to San Francisco in the 1800s to work in the **gold mines**. They worked very hard digging for gold in the mountains.
  - a. Stores
  - b. Factories
  - c. places where people sell gold
  - d. places where people work to find gold
5. Some boats have **sails**. The wind blows the sails and moves these boats. They do not need engines.
  - a. large motors
  - b. two small pieces of wood
  - c. huge pieces of strong cloth
  - d. small motors outside a boat
6. When I was a student I lived with my parents. Now I have my own apartment and a job. I am **independent**.
  - a. Alone
  - b. not able to live alone
  - c. able to live and work without help
  - d. not able to find a job or an apartment