

Total English

Pre-intermediate

The Olympics – It's just a game!



Speaking

1a Read what these people think about sport. Which speaker do you agree / disagree with? Why / why not?

"I love all kinds of sport. I love watching sport, I love playing it. There isn't anything about sport I don't like (except when my team loses!)" Jasper

"I'm not very interested in sport. I prefer to do other things like go out with friends, or relax at home with a good book." Eva

"Sport makes me feel good, but I don't do enough sport at the moment. I don't have time." Becky

"I've played football since I was a child. It's my favourite sport." Josh

"I try to do some sport, but I'm not very fit." Paula



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b Look at the phrases which are underlined. Change some of them so that they are true for you. Tell another student.

e.g. I love watching sport.

I hate watching sport on television. It's really boring

Vocabulary: sports

2a Can you complete the names of these sports?

e.g. t*nn*s - tennis

sw*mm*ng

r*gby

f**tb*ll

c sk*t*ng

sn*wb**rd*ng

v*ll*yb*ll

h*rs*r*d*ng

b*sk*tb*ll

t*bl* t*nn*s

r*nn*ng

s**l*ng

sk*t*b**rd*ng

w*nds*r*ng

sk**ng

b Put the sports into the correct column.

| go | play |
|----|------|
| | |

c For each sport, ask the questions.

1 Have you ever been / played _____?

2 How often do you go _____?

e.g. Have you ever played rugby?

Do you ever go canoeing?

Reading

3 Do the following quiz to test your Olympic knowledge.



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Know your Olympics?

- 1 What do the five Olympic rings represent?
a) five top sports b) five continents c) five countries
- 2 Who invented the Olympics in 776BC
a) The Greeks b) the Romans c) the Egyptians
- 3 Where will the Olympics be in 2012?
a) Paris b) Mexico City c) London
- 4 Which of the following is NOT an Olympic event now, but might be for the first time in 2012?
a) canoeing b) skateboarding c) horse riding
- 5 How long is the Olympic Marathon?
a) 36 miles b) 26 miles c) 16 miles
- 6 Where were the 1992 Olympics held?
a) Seoul b) Athens c) Barcelona
- 7 The modern pentathlon does NOT include which sport?
a) fencing b) sailing c) swimming d) horse riding e) running
- 8 There were less than 10 sporting events in the first modern Olympic games.
a) True b) False
- 9 Which Olympic sport uses swords for fighting?
a) judo b) fencing c) ice skating
- 10 How many gold medals did swimmer Mark Spitz win in 1972 Munich Olympics?
a) 7 b) 4 c) 12
- 11 Which swimmer won 8 gold medals in the 2008 Beijing Olympics?
a) Mark Spitz b) Dawn Fraser c) Michael Phelps
- 12 Which country was banned from the Olympics in 1964?
a) South Africa b) Australia c) New Zealand

4 Check your answers. How well did you do?

- 12/12: you win a gold medal
11/12: you win a silver medal
10/12: you win a bronze medal
less than 10/12: try again next time!



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Speaking

5 In groups, discuss the questions.

1 Did you watch any of the Beijing Olympics? Where did you watch it? Did you have fun? What was your favourite part?

2 What sport do you think China is best at? What sport is your country good at? Did they win any gold medals?

3 Were there any problems with the Beijing Olympics? What were they?

4 If you could compete in an Olympic sport, which sport would you choose?

5 Do you think having the Olympics in your city / country is a good or a bad thing? Why?



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Answer Key

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| go | play |
|---|---|
| swimming ice skating snowboarding running skiing skateboarding sailing horse riding windsurfing | rugby football basketball volleyball table tennis |

3

- 1 b)
- 2 a)
- 3 c)
- 4 b)
- 5 b)
- 6 c)
- 7 b)
- 8 a)
- 9 b)
- 10 a)
- 11 c)
- 12 a)



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