



# The Olympic Games

Lesson code: U3S7-E3EE-HQ7

INTERMEDIATE

## 1 Reading

Read the text about the Olympic Games and complete the definitions below with the words in bold:

### The Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were first **held** in Greece between 776 BC and 393 AD. They were a series of competitions among different city-states and consisted of **athletic events** such as running and jumping, as well as **combat events** such as boxing and wrestling. The Games were a time of **goodwill** -- all conflicts between the participating city-states were postponed until the competition was finished.

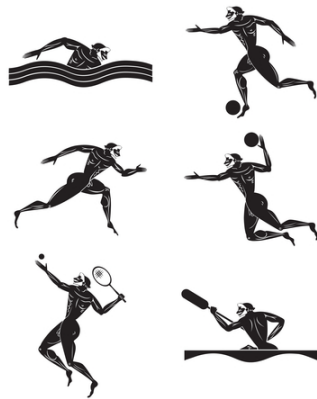
The modern Olympic Games began in Athens in 1896. 14 nations and 241 **athletes** competed in 43 events. Today there are about 300 events and over 205 **participating** countries. Almost every sport is included, including **aquatic events** such as swimming. The Games are **regulated** by the International Olympic Committee and are hosted every four years by a different nation. No Olympics were held in 1916, 1940 and 1944, because of war.

As the Games became more popular, the Olympic Committee made some important changes. In 1921, they decided to hold a winter version of the Games. The Winter Olympics officially began in 1924 in France. In 1960, Rome hosted the first official Paralympic Games, a multi-sport event which allows athletes with **physical disabilities** to compete. This started as a small sporting event among British World War II **veterans** in 1948. In 2010, Singapore hosted the first Youth Olympic Games, which allowed athletes between the ages of 14 and 18 to compete.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : sports events which include running, jumping and throwing
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : sports events in which competitors fight each other
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : sports events that take place in water
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : made to happen
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : injuries that make it difficult to do things that other people do, e.g. walk
6. \_\_\_\_\_ : ex-soldiers
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : controlled
8. \_\_\_\_\_ : friendly, co-operative feelings



**2 Events**



Put the following events into the correct categories below:

- |                |            |               |               |
|----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| archery        | basketball | cycling       | diving        |
| fencing        | hockey     | judo          | rowing        |
| the 100 metres | the discus | the high jump | the long jump |
| the marathon   | water polo | weightlifting | wrestling     |

Athletic events: \_\_\_\_\_

Combat events: \_\_\_\_\_

Aquatic events: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Study the descriptions below. Which events are they describing?

- The winner is the person who **jumps the highest**.
- Competitors **fight each other** with long thin swords.
- Competitors try to **throw each other to the ground**.
- Competitors try to **throw** a plate-shaped object **as far as possible**.
- The winner is the team **that reaches the finish line first**.  
The winner is **the first team to reach the finish line**.

Now describe another event to your partner. He/she must try to guess which event you are talking about. Change roles and repeat. You may find the vocabulary below useful:

- get the ball in the other team's goal/net*      *shoot arrows at a target*      *jump into water head first*  
*lift the heaviest weight*      *run a distance of ...*



### 3 Athletics quiz

Test your knowledge about athletics:

- The 100 metres world record is ...
  - 9.58 seconds
  - 9.38 seconds
  - 9.88 seconds
- On most outdoor athletics tracks, one lap is ...
  - 200 metres
  - 400 metres
  - 800 metres
- Athletic events which involve jumping and throwing are called ...
  - field events
  - track events
  - aquatic events
- The event which consists of ten track and field events is called the ...
  - decathlon
  - heptathlon
  - pentathlon
- The 2004 Olympic Games were held in ...
  - Beijing
  - Seoul
  - Athens
- The object that is passed from runner to runner in a relay race is called a ...
  - stick
  - baton
  - tube
- If a runner starts before the gun fires in a race, it is called a ...
  - fast start
  - failed start
  - false start
- Outdoor athletics tracks have eight ...
  - lines
  - lanes
  - loops
- The objects that athletes must jump over in certain races are called ...
  - hurdles
  - frames
  - tables
- The official distance of the marathon is about ...
  - 16 miles
  - 26 miles
  - 36 miles

Check your answers with your teacher and count your score.

### 4 Talking point

Do you watch the Olympics? Which events do you like? Who are your country's most famous 'Olympians'?

