



# Olympics doping scandal

Lesson code: U3S4-Z38N-LUH

INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 Warm-up

What is doping?

## 2 Key words

Match the terms on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. a sample                    | a. a person who tells someone in authority about something illegal that is happening, especially in a government department or a company |
| 2. a cheat                     | b. a small part or quantity intended to show what the whole is like  |
| 3. a doper                     | c. a substance, e.g. steroids, taken by athletes to improve performance  |
| 4. a whistleblower             | d. somebody who behaves in a way that is not honest or fair in order to win something or to get something                                |
| 5. a scandal                   | e. somebody who uses illegal drugs to improve performance in sport   |
| 6. performance enhancing drugs | f. something that shocks people because they think it is morally wrong   |
| 7. compete                     | g. to take part in a race or competition   |

## 3 Find the information

Scan the text on the next page to find the information below.

1. The number of athletes who could be banned from competing at the Rio Olympic Games in 2016:  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The number of samples from 2008 Games in Beijing that have been retested: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The number of years that samples are kept for: \_\_\_\_\_
4. The number of retested samples from the London Olympics in 2012: \_\_\_\_\_
5. The number of Olympic associations that will be affected by the latest scandal: \_\_\_\_\_
6. The date when it was confirmed that Russian athletes were taking performance enhancing drugs:  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Olympics doping scandal: 31 new positive tests

18th May 2016

- 1 According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), up to 31 athletes from six sports could be banned from the Rio Games in 2016.
- 2 The announcement comes after the IOC retested 454 selected doping samples from the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. The tests are kept for 10 years so that they can be retested when advances in testing are made.
- 3 The IOC said the retests focused on athletes who could potentially start at the Olympic Games Rio 2016, and they were conducted using modern scientific methods. As a result, up to 31 athletes from six sports could be banned from competing at the Olympic Games in Rio.
- 4 It also retested samples from the 2012 Olympics in London and is waiting for the results of 250 retests.
- 5 "All these measures are a powerful strike against the cheats we do not allow to win," IOC president Thomas Bach said.  
  
"They show once again that dopers have no place to hide. We keep samples for 10 years so that the cheats know that they can never rest."
- 6 However, the IOC has not revealed any names of athletes yet. It also said that 12 affected national Olympic associations would be informed in the next few days and it would reveal names after B-samples have been tested.
- 7 The organisation also confirmed that it will start re-testing samples from the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics. Last week, a whistleblower said that Russian secret service agents helped to protect drug cheats in Sochi, although the Russian authorities denied the claims.
- 8 This latest doping scandal comes only a few months after Russia and Kenya broke anti-doping rules. On November 9, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) confirmed that many Russian athletes were using performance enhancing drugs and coaches, doctors, state and sports officials tried to hide this fact. As a result, Russia was banned from international competition.
- 9 Sports minister Vitaly Mutko said this week that Russia was "very sorry" and "ashamed" of cheating athletes who were not caught by its anti-doping systems. But he argued that clean athletes should not be punished.
- 10 Kenyan athletes were also involved in a recent doping scandal. However, Kenyan sports minister Hassan Wario is confident the nation will not be banned from Rio. WADA has written to Kenya, explaining what it must do to meet the anti-doping regulations.

Sources: BBC, Reuters, RT, FoxSports



#### 4 Checking understanding

Read the text again and put T (True) or F (False) next to each statement below. Explain why the 'False answers' are false.

1. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) keep tests for 10 years.
2. All samples from the Beijing Olympics were retested.
3. No athletes from the 2012 London Olympics have been put on the list yet.
4. The IOC has already revealed the names of the athletes.
5. Russian athletes are currently not allowed to compete in international competitions.
6. The Russian athletes who were caught doping were already known to be cheats in Russia.
7. Kenyan athletes have not yet been banned from the Rio Olympics.

#### 5 Find the words

Find a word in the text which means...

1. not allowed to take part (*verb -ed, P1*): \_\_\_\_\_
2. new discoveries, inventions or developments (*plural noun, P2*): \_\_\_\_\_
3. say something that was previously secret (*verb, P6*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. said that something was not true (*verb -ed, P7*): \_\_\_\_\_
5. things that people said (but have not proven) (*plural noun, P7*): \_\_\_\_\_
6. feeling guilty or embarrassed about something (*adjective + preposition, P9*): \_\_\_\_\_
7. honest, playing fair (*adjective, P9*): \_\_\_\_\_

Now choose three of the words and make up your own sentences.

#### 6 Collocations

Match the verbs on the left to the words on the right.

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. conduct | a. a claim                 |
| 2. test    | b. anti-doping regulations |
| 3. deny    | c. a rule                  |
| 4. break   | d. samples                 |
| 5. meet    | e. tests                   |

Now make up a sentence about the text for each collocation.



## 7 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or groups.

1. Do you think the 31 athletes should be banned from the Rio Olympics?
2. Is it important to test athletes for doping?
3. Are you going to watch the Olympics?
4. Would you like to go to the Rio Olympics? Why?/Why not?

