
Task 1

Read this article about the beginnings of the modern Olympics. In the sentences that follow the text there are some gaps. Your task is to fill the gaps with one or two words so that the sentences correspond to what the text says. Write the words on the dotted lines. An example has been given for you.

It's the Olympic Spirit that Still Moves Them

The first recorded Olympic chant of the modern era, fittingly, was “Nike! Nike!,” which is the Greek word for “victory”. The first man to hear it was James Connolly, an American hop-step-and-jumper, who dropped out of Harvard to compete in the 1896 Games. Arriving in Athens the night before the start of the Games (having, according to Olympic historian David Wallechinsky, miscalculated the gap between the American and Greek calendars) Connolly entered the triple jump on the first day and won, easily, with a jump of just under 45 feet. The first-place medal that year was silver, not gold, but it came accompanied by a certificate and an olive branch. Connolly, who went on to become a well-known war correspondent and novelist, apparently never regretted choosing Olympic immortality over a degree from Harvard.

There were only around 300 athletes altogether at that first modern Olympiad – drawn from a world population of little more than a billion and a half. The competitors represented a total of 13 countries, although most of them were, as it happened, Greek. In photographs, their faces beam with Olympian idealism and spirit, and their handlebar moustaches bristle with pride.

They trained as hard as they needed to win, but not many of them could afford to spend their whole lives in the gym: after all, they were all amateurs. The very first marathon winner, in 1896, was a Greek shepherd named Spiridou Louis, who promptly retired from sports and went back to his village.

The Olympics has bequeathed to the world thrilling examples of courage (sprinter Gail Davers battling an almost fatal thyroid condition; wrestler Jeff Blatnick overcoming Hodgkin’s disease), of determination and astonishing physical grace. And should the Games last another 100 years, there will always be heroes to cheer. Nike! Nike!

0) The Greek word Nike means *victory* in English.

1) The first modern Olympiad was held in Greece, but the very first event was won by an

2) Unlike in present-day Olympics, winners received a medal then.

3) James Connolly never completed his

4) After his Olympic victory he became a journalist, and he also

5) Only different nationalities took part in the first modern Olympics.

6) All the 300 participants were

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