

Reading Comprehension #01

1. Skim the text. Choose the best title.

- A. Olympic gold
- B. Unable to compete
- C. A Paralympic dream
- D. Ludwig Guttman – doctor and sportsman
- E. An end to discrimination



- 1 Daniel Dias is a famous Paralympic athlete. He was born in Brazil in 1988 with no hands and no feet. But he showed at a young age that he was talented and determined. He took up swimming in his teens and mastered all the main swimming strokes within two months. He achieved his dream of competing in the Paralympics and was one of the leading medal winners at the Beijing Games in 2008. He won four gold medals, four
5 silver, and one bronze. Dias' achievements make him an inspiration to disabled and able-bodied young people alike. The success of Paralympic athletes like Dias on an international stage is due in part to Dr. Ludwig Guttman.

- 10 In the 1940s, just after the Second World War, Dr. Ludwig Guttman had a dream that changed the aspirations of disabled people forever. A lot of the patients at his hospital were soldiers who were hurt during the Second World War. At that time, people often used to feel ashamed of their disabilities, and they used to hide them away. It used to be almost impossible for disabled people to live ordinary lives and join in with sporting activities. Dr. Guttman's dream was to create a competition for disabled people, to give them the chance to show to their talents to the world.

- 15 The first "International Wheelchair Games" took place in 1948 in Stoke Mandeville, UK. There were only a small number of participants. By 1960, the games were a major international event and 23 countries took part. By 1988, the Paralympic Games were a regular and popular feature of the sporting calendar, and for the first time in that year they were held just after the main Olympic Games, and in the same city, Seoul.

- 20 There are now both Winter and Summer Paralympic Games, held in the same year and the same place as the regular Olympic Games. The events draw huge crowds of disabled and able-bodied spectators. Wheelchair basketball is especially popular, not because it features people who can't walk, but because it is simply a very exciting spectacle.

However, some Paralympic athletes see the existence of separate "disabled" events as a form of discrimination. In fact some, like the South African runner Oscar Pistorius, feel that true equality will only come when they can compete against able-bodied competitors in the main Olympic Games.

2. Read statements 1–3. According to the text, which are true?

- 1 Only a few of the patients at Dr. Guttman's hospital were disabled.
- 2 The first competition for disabled people involved competitors from over 20 countries.
- 3 Only people with disabilities can watch and take part in the Paralympics.

- A. 1 only.
- B. 2 only.
- C. 3 only.
- D. 2 and 3 only.
- E. None.

3. Read the text. Number the events in the order they happened.

A. The International Wheelchair Games took place in Stoke Mandeville.	
B. The Paralympic Games were held in the same city as the Olympic Games.	
C. Dr. Guttman had the idea for a disabled competition.	1
D. Daniel Dias won four gold medals.	
E. 23 countries took part in a competition for disabled people.	

4. Read the text again. Choose the correct answers.

1. Daniel Dias ...

- A.** started swimming when he was very young.
- B.** found it very difficult to learn to swim.
- C.** learned to swim very quickly.
- D.** always wanted to be an Olympic swimmer.
- E.** became disabled after an accident.

2. A lot of the patients at Dr. Guttman's hospital ...

- A.** didn't want to fight in the Second World War.
- B.** were very keen to do sport.
- C.** didn't feel ashamed of their disabilities.
- D.** fought in the Second World War.
- E.** were able to live normal lives.

3. In 1988 the Paralympic Games ...

- A.** were held at the same time as the Olympic Games.
- B.** were held before the Olympic Games.
- C.** were held in the same place as the Olympic Games.
- D.** were as popular as the Olympic Games.
- E.** had only a small number of participants.

4. Wheelchair basketball ...

- A.** is very popular with disabled athletes.
- B.** is exciting for everyone to watch.
- C.** is exciting because the people who play it can't walk.
- D.** is a very simple game.
- E.** is especially exciting to watch if you are disabled.

5. Some disabled athletes ...

- A.** think they can never win against able-bodied athletes.
- B.** think they don't have a fair chance of winning at the Paralympic Games.
- C.** believe there should be more events for them.
- D.** it's wrong that there is a separate competition for them.
- E.** think it isn't fair if they have to compete against able-bodied athletes.

5. Find words 1–6 in the text. Choose the correct definitions.

1. mastered (line 2)

- A.** began to learn something
- B.** learned something completely
- C.** learned the basics of something

2. leading (line 4)

- A.** least successful
- B.** ahead of others
- C.** second

3. aspirations (line 9)

- A.** lives
- B.** hopes
- C.** abilities

4. ashamed (line 10)

- A.** feeling depressed
- B.** feeling angry
- C.** feeling embarrassed

5. participants (line 15)

- A.** events
- B.** people watching
- C.** people taking part

6. spectators (line 19)

- A.** people who take part in an event
- B.** people who organize an event
- C.** people who watch an event