

Complete the text about taking part in the Olympic Games. Fill in the blanks from the word list on the right. There are TWO words you will not need.

For many athletes taking (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Olympic Games is the peak of their career. It is an event which takes (2) \_\_\_\_\_ only every four years and athletes are prepared to do whatever is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and sacrifice anything to make their dream come (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

While few athletes have the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in Olympics twice or even three times in their life many only have a once-in-a-lifetime shot at gold, silver and bronze medals.

In the months and years before the Olympics they try to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for the games in national and international (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Once selected by their national Olympic committees they prepare with the help of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ developed training schedules so that they can perform best when the day arrives.

When athletes take part in the Olympics they stay at the Olympic Village, in itself a small town which (9) \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of athletes, coaches and officials from all over the world. They are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ training facilities, roam through souvenir shops and cafes and socialize with (11) \_\_\_\_\_ from other countries.

The opening (12) \_\_\_\_\_ is an event which most describe as something really special. Thousands of athletes parade into the stadium, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ their country's flag and wear their official Olympic outfit.

However, winning a gold medal is surely the most (14) \_\_\_\_\_ moment of an athlete's career, when you stand on the podium, seeing your flag (15) \_\_\_\_\_ and hearing the national anthem played. Then you finally know that all the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ made, and hardships endured in the previous years have (17) \_\_\_\_\_ off.

accommodates  
ceremony  
chilling  
competitions  
display  
highly  
medals  
national  
necessary  
offered  
opportunity  
paid  
part  
participants  
place  
qualify  
raised  
sacrifices  
true