

# 66 Sporting events

## A The Olympics



1



2



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### Summer Olympics: facts and figures

- The first games took place in 776 BC, with one **competition**: a **race** of about 192 metres.
- The first modern Olympics took place in 1896 with 241 **competitors taking part** in nine sports, including **athletics**<sup>1</sup>, **cycling**<sup>2</sup>, **fencing**<sup>3</sup>, **gymnastics**<sup>4</sup>, **weightlifting**<sup>5</sup> and **shooting**. By 2016, there were over 11,000 people **competing** in 28 sports.
- Gymnast Larissa Latynina **holds** the **record** for the woman with the most Olympic **medals** (18). She later **coached** the national gymnastics team.
- Boxing is now the only Olympic sport where **professionals** are not allowed to compete.

### GLOSSARY

<b>figure</b>	an amount in numbers
<b>race</b>	a competition to see who is fastest or best, or who wins
<b>take part (in sth)</b>	join with other people in an activity <b>SYN participate</b>
<b>shooting</b>	the sport of shooting animals, birds or objects with guns <b>shoot v</b>
<b>record</b>	the best performance in sth, especially sport: <b>hold a record</b> have a record; <b>break a record</b> make a new record
<b>medal</b>	a piece of metal given to an athlete who comes 1st, 2nd or 3rd
<b>coach</b>	train sb to do a sport, learn a skill, etc. <b>coach n</b>
<b>professional</b>	sb who plays a sport for money as their job <b>OPP amateur</b>

### SPOTLIGHT *competition*

A **competition** is a situation in which two or more people are trying to win something or be better than someone. The person is a **competitor**. **competitive adj**; **compete v**

■ He is **competing** in the Boston Marathon.

Use the **APP** to check the pronunciation and stress on these words.

### 1 Complete the sports.

► shooting

1 w \_\_\_\_\_

2 c \_\_\_\_\_

3 g \_\_\_\_\_

4 f \_\_\_\_\_

5 a \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Circle the correct answer(s). Both answers may be correct.

► It's a long race / medal.

1 What are the official **figures** / **competitors** for the games?

2 He broke the **record** / **competition**.

3 Did she win a **race** / **medal**?

4 **Professionals** / **Amateurs** do something as a job.

► It was a hard race / competition.

5 Anyone can **take part** / **participate**.

6 The race **takes place** / **takes part** on Tuesday.

7 She **holds** / **broke** the record.

8 He's a **competitor** / **competition**.

### 3 Complete the sentences.

► There are about 3,000 competitors in the modern Olympics.

1 The latest \_\_\_\_\_ from *Sport England* show that over 60% of the population do at least 150 minutes of exercise a week.

2 It's hard for poor countries to \_\_\_\_\_ against rich countries in certain events.

3 A Soviet gymnast holds the \_\_\_\_\_ for the woman with the most Olympic medals.

4 There are a few Olympic amateurs, but now most of the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.

5 The marathon (just over 42kms) is the longest \_\_\_\_\_ on foot in the Olympics.

6 My uncle won a silver \_\_\_\_\_ in the shooting \_\_\_\_\_ at the 1996 Olympics.

7 Michael Phelps \_\_\_\_\_ four individual world swimming records at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He was \_\_\_\_\_ by Bob Bowman throughout his career.

8 The biggest sport in the Olympics is athletics, so every event is very \_\_\_\_\_.

9 Boxing is now the one sport where only \_\_\_\_\_ can take part.

10 How many sportsmen and women \_\_\_\_\_ in the last Olympics?



### TEST YOURSELF



## B The World Cup



The World Cup is an international football **championship**, and like the Olympic Games, it is also **held** every four years. First of all, countries have to **qualify** in their different continents (**except for the host nation**) before they can take part in the final **tournament**. The first World Cup was in Uruguay, in 1930, with just 13 countries and that has now risen to 32 countries in **recent** tournaments. The most successful team has been Brazil: they have won the **final** and the competition five times. The **current champions** (in 2019) are France, but that may be different by 2022.

### SPOTLIGHT *championship and tournament*

A **championship** is a competition between different players or teams to find the best. It may take place over days, weeks or even a year. The winner(s) is/are **champion(s)**. A **tournament** is a competition in which players or teams play against each other, over days or perhaps weeks. The two words are very similar in meaning.

- He won a medal at the European Athletics Championships.
- a golf/basketball/tennis, etc. **tournament**

### GLOSSARY

<b>cup</b>	1 a large metal cup given as a prize 2 the competition to win a cup
<b>hold</b>	make sth happen: <b>hold</b> a competition / talks / a meeting
<b>qualify</b>	win the right to enter a competition or continue in it
<b>except (for)</b>	not including sb or sth: Everybody went <b>except (for)</b> me.
<b>host</b>	usually a person who invites people to their home, but also a country that invites other countries to visit them for a competition, meeting, etc.
<b>nation</b>	a country and all the people who live in it
<b>recent</b>	that happened or began only a short time ago
<b>final</b>	the last game or race in a competition to decide the winner
<b>current</b>	happening or used now <b>currently</b> <i>adv</i>

### 4 Circle the nouns.

current cup hold host recent qualification except for championship qualification nation

### 5 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?

except for    final    tournament    cup    recent    champions    held ✓    host    nations

- ▶ The World Cup is / every four years. held
- 1 The first nation was Uruguay. ....
- 2 The first was held in 1930. ....
- 3 Thirteen different took part in the first tournament. ....
- 4 Every country has to qualify, the host nation. ....
- 5 Thirty-two teams have competed in championships. ....
- 6 Brazil has won the five times and therefore the championship. ....
- 7 The in 2018 were France. ....
- 8 The winners receive a large. ....

### 6 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ No team has won the tournament five times, except for Brazil.
- 1 The 2026 World ..... will be ..... in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with 48 ..... taking part.
- 2 Germany were ..... in 2014. They played Argentina in the ..... and won 1-0.
- 3 Many people believe that the 1970 World Cup was one of the greatest ..... in its history.
- 4 ..... (in 2018), there are 134 teams that have entered the World Cup championship but have never ..... for the final stages of the tournament.
- 5 In 2010, the ..... nation was South Africa, and the ..... was won by Spain.



TEST YOURSELF