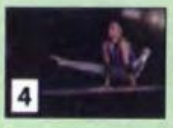
66 Sporting events

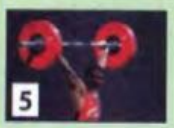
A The Olympics


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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**[1], **cycling**[2], **fencing**[3], **gymnastics**[4], **weightlifting**[5] 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

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

cup	**1** a large metal cup given as a prize **2** the competition to win a cup
hold	make sth happen: ***hold** a competition / talks / a meeting*
qualify	win the right to enter a competition or continue in it
except (for)	not including sb or sth: *Everybody went **except (for)** me.*
host	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.
nation	a country and all the people who live in it
recent	that happened or began only a short time ago
final	the last game or race in a competition to decide the winner
current	happening or used now **currently** *adv*

4 **Circle the nouns.**

currentcupholdhostrecentqualificationexceptforchampionshipqualifynation

5 **One word is mssing 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS