

Visualisation

Before an important event, I **advise** ¹ athletes to visit (athletes/visit) the stadium. This **allows** ² _____ (them/visualise) the day of the competition. They **can** ³ _____ (imagine) the smells and the sounds in the stadium, and they **imagine** ⁴ _____ (win) the competition. Then, when the day of the competition arrives, they **try** ⁵ _____ (recreate) the success they imagined.

Positive thinking

I **encourage** ⁶ _____ (athletes/talk) to themselves before a big race. I **force** ⁷ _____ (them/concentrate) on the times when they won. They **need** ⁸ _____ (stay) in the present and tell the negative voice in their head to **stop** ⁹ _____ (talk). Good athletes **want** ¹⁰ _____ (win), but top athletes **expect** ¹¹ _____ (win). That's positive thinking!

Relaxation

Even top athletes **can't help** ¹² _____ (feel) nervous, especially when they find themselves standing next to last year's champion! I **let** ¹³ _____ (them/talk) to me about their worries, but on the day of the competition, negative thoughts are not allowed! It's a simple fact that if they **manage** ¹⁴ _____ (control) their nerves, they **tend** ¹⁵ _____ (do) better. Winning – it's all in the mind!