THE LONDON MARATHON

Listen to a man talking about the London Marathon and fill in the gaps (1 - 10) in the following sentences with NO MORE THAN THREE words or numbers.

The London Marathon is popularly called the

1._____

2. _____run to win.

In 2002 an 3._____athlete born in Morocco set a 4.

_____

The three reasons why not very popular marathon runners take part in the event are:

- a passion for running
- raising money for 5. _____
- just for fun

The ways to register for the marathon are:

- finishing a marathon under a certain time
- running for an 6. _____
- becoming a charity runner

You might be given a place in the marathon if you raise more than 7. _____

Athletes often wear 8. _____

On one occasion one of the runners disguised as a 9._____who was carrying a glass of water.

One of the rhinos finished the race thanks to the support of two members of his 10.

_____

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This year's London Marathon takes place on Sunday, April 17th. Usually it is a day of madness and excitement. It's known as **"the fun run" (1)**, and last year over 30,000 people were happy to run the 26 miles – or 42 kilometres – in the rain. **If you are a world champion, you run to win (2)**.

The greatest marathon runners on the planet take part each year. In 2002 the Moroccan-born American (3)**, Khalid Kannouchi, won in 2 hours, 5 minutes and 38 seconds, and** set a new world record (4)**. This year he will compete against the Kenyan Evan Rutto, who won in 2004, and other top athletes, including Hendrik Ramaala, Haile Gebrselassie and Olympic champion Stefano Baldini.**

Less famous athletes race for three reasons: a passion for running, **fund-raising for charities (5)** (last year over £30 million was collected), or else just for fun. You must qualify and register to run in the race. There are three ways of doing this. You get an automatic place if you have finished a marathon in under 2 hours 45 minutes, or **if you run for an athletics club (6)**. The third way is to become a "charity runner." Charity organisations buy places and give them to runners on condition that they raise a minimum sum, **between £500 and £2,000 (7)**. The charities organise training for these runners, they help them raise the cash and they support them during the race. **The runners often dress in crazy costumes (8)**. Last year there were two giant bananas, a telephone box, a fire engine, **a waiter with a glass of water on a tray (9)** (he drank the water when he finally crossed the finishing line) and three rhinoceroses. The three "rhinos" lasted for most of the race and nearly stopped on many occasions, but painkillers and supporters kept them going. William "Rhino" Jones remembers the end of the race: "I couldn't go on. **Then I saw my wife and daughter in the crowd (10)**. They were waving. Suddenly the Rhinos were running hand in hand to cross the finishing line!

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