

Olympic Games London 2012

- a) Get together in groups of five. Each of you gets an information card about a sport which you can find at the Olympic Games in London. Read the information on your card and prepare a short presentation about your sport. (Use your dictionary for help.) Then give your presentation for the other group members. (15 minutes)
- b) Your group has won a competition and the prize is a trip to the London Olympics, but you can only have tickets for one of the sports you have just talked about. Which sport are you going to choose? Discuss your preferences in your group and then decide together. Use the language card for help. (15 minutes)



Boxing

- very popular Olympic sport
- women's boxing for the first time in London
- competition dates: 28 July–12 August
- 286 competitors (250 men, 36 women)
- famous gold medal winners: Cassius Clay / Muhammad Ali (1960), George Foreman (1968)
- 10 men's weight categories: Light fly weight (46–49 kg) to Super heavy weight (over 91 kg)
- men's bouts (fights) = 3 rounds of 3 mins. (women have 4 rounds of 2 mins.)
- points for punches to head or upper body
- knock-out → bout over (boxer must get up by the time referee has counted to 10)
- a tough sport; weight and height help; speed, tactics, quick thinking important

Canoe Slalom

- first canoe slalom held in Switzerland in 1932
- regular Olympic sport after Barcelona in 1992
- competition dates: 29 July–2 August
- 4 events = men's canoe single and double, kayak single and women's kayak single
- 82 competitors (61 men and 21 women)
- 250 metre white water course
- 25 gates (red and green – pass red gates upstream and green gates downstream)
- touching a gate → 2-second time penalty; missing a gate → 50-second time penalty
- boats small, light and easy to move
- need great upper body strength and control for speed and precision on the water rapids



Athletics

- Olympic motto = Citius, altius, fortius (Faster, higher, stronger) = What Olympics are all about: running, jumping, throwing
- competition dates: 3–12 August
- 2000 athletes (maximum of 3 per event per country)
- 47 events (track, field and road events)
- 400 metre track for sprints, hurdles and middle and long distance races
- field events (jumping: high, long, triple jump, pole vault; throwing: discus, javelin, shot put, hammer)
- heptathlon (7 events) for women and decathlon (10 events) for men
- marathon and race walking events on road
- marathon distance = 26.2 miles/42.195 km since 1908 Games in London – had to finish where the King was sitting!
- need speed, strength and endurance



Beach Volleyball

- Olympic debut at Atlanta 1996
- now a very popular spectator sport
- competition dates: 28 July–9 August
- one men's and one women's competition (each with 48 competitors)
- 24 teams; 2 athletes on each team
- volleyball court 16 metres long and 8 metres wide; 2 halves divided by a net (men: 2.43 m high; women: 2.24 m high)
- ball made of synthetic leather
- rules same as indoor volleyball but 2 differences: played on sand and outdoors
- after serve each team can touch ball 3 times before it crosses net
- 6 pools of 4 teams; each team plays all teams in their pool
- fast and physical game; height an advantage

Cycling – Mountain Bike

- competition dates: 11–12 August
- 80 competitors (50 men, 30 women)
- 4.7 km long course with rocky paths and difficult climbs up and down hills
- often crashes
- a flat tyre can end hopes of a medal
- all riders start together (mass start)
- riders start in a starting grid (like Formula One) according to world ranking
- race for a minimum of 1 hour 30 mins
- feed and technical stations on course for food/drink and repairs
- bikes built for speed, durability and comfort
- riders need lots of energy (to keep going for so long), nerves of steel (fast downhill parts of course) and technical skills



LANGUAGE CARD

I'd like/love to watch ... because ...
Watching ... would be great.
I have always wanted to ...
I really don't like ...
There are (two) reasons why.
Firstly ... and secondly ...
I can't understand why anybody would want to ...
That'd be good, but what about (-ing) ...?
Have you ever seen ... before?
Are you sure that's a good idea?
I'd prefer/I'd rather ...
I'm not sure. There are (two) sports I'd like to see./ I'm undecided./ I can't make up my mind.
What do you think?
Let's take a vote./ Let's vote on it.
Who's for ...?
OK. That's it then. We're going to ...

c) **Homework:**

Have a look at the official London 2012 website: <http://www.london2012.com/>.

Now you can choose **your** favourite sport from all the Olympic sports. Prepare a one-minute talk in which you explain your choice.