

The Olympic Games

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Activity 1

Read the following questions and discuss them with your partner.

1. Do you watch the Olympic Games? Which sports are your favourites?
2. The Olympic Games were originally meant for amateur sports enthusiasts. Nowadays many competitors are professional. Is this fair?
3. Are the Olympic Games just a 'festival of sport' as originally intended, or are they unduly influenced by modern politics?
4. In the history of the Olympics there have been times when countries have boycotted the Games for political reasons. To what extent do you think such action is justified?
5. Many people around the world had hoped that the centenary of the Olympic Games would be held in Athens (where the Games started). However the Games that year were held in Atlanta, USA, home of a large soft-drinks company which is, coincidentally, a major sponsor of the Olympic Games. It was alleged at the time that sponsors had too much say in the organisation of the Olympics. How much say do you think sponsors of major sporting events should have?
6. Do you think it can ever be acceptable to take drugs or medicines during a sports competition such as the Olympics?
7. How do you think athletes who cheat should be treated? Should they be disqualified, banned, stripped of their medals or given a second chance?

Activity 2

*Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.*

1. What is the connection between the French aristocrat, Baron de Coubertin and the Olympic Games?
2. What happened to the Olympic Games in 393 A.D.?
3. When were athletic events for women introduced?
4. Where were the Olympic Games held in 1896?
5. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 3

Taking part is more important than winning.

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject why not go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there?

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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