

## Olympic Torch Tours UK

The Olympic torch relay is currently touring the United Kingdom for 70 days ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Large crowds gather everyday to watch it pass their doorstep. Wherever it goes it appears to cause great excitement! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, when the torch started its journey at Lands End in Cornwall, the Olympic torch has been touring the UK. In all, it will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers. Organisers say 95% of the country's population should be able to be within one hour of the route, which ends on 27<sup>th</sup> July with the lighting of the cauldron during the opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, London.

The perception is that the relay is an enactment of an ancient Greek tradition. In reality, it is a phenomenon of the modern Olympics started in Berlin in 1936 by the Nazis whose ideology stems in a mash-up of Greek myths, thought to date from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. An Olympic flame however, did burn at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

Post-war the flame was embraced for the 1948 London Olympics. Organisers embraced the idea of the torch relay. Despite the austere times, the torch was mobbed by crowds along the route. Since then the Olympic torch has made an appearance during both the summer and winter games. The torch relay has taken on themes: Rome 1960: The Ancient Relay; Mexico City '68: The Relay to the New World; Seoul '88: Harmony and Progress. The torch has taken to the skies – on Concorde, by parachute and into space twice. It has been in canoes, steamboats, on camels, as well as being carried by many famous sportspeople and celebrities.

The Beijing 2008 global relay was the most ambitious, but it met frequent and sometimes violent protest. Until the 1950s, it was rather a sexist torch – no women were allowed to take part! Sometimes the flame is accidentally extinguished en route. Special back up flames from Olympia are carried, often in miners-style lamps.

For those lucky enough to be carrying the flame around the UK it must be an emotional feeling for them to be carrying the light of many great sportsmen and women. One thing is certain - London 2012 is getting closer!

**Category: Sport / Olympics / Olympic torch in UK**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. The Olympic torch:** Think of three things you know about the Olympic torch? Go round the room swapping details with others.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**5. The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**6. Geography: United Kingdom & Great Britain:** What is the difference between the United Kingdom and Great Britain? Draw a map on the board of the UK/Great Britain then **look on Google maps** to help you.

**7. Olympic flame:** In pairs think of five things about the Olympic torch. Then add five previous Olympic cities. Write them below. Discuss together. Which Olympics was best?

Olympic torch	Previous host cities
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

**8. Let's roleplay 1:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Sport FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *The Olympic torch relay in the UK*.

1	A torch carrier
2	An Olympic spokesperson from Greece
3	An Olympic sportsperson
4	A UK Olympic spokesperson

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9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Olympic torch**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a bar in a small village in England. Start a conversation about the Olympic torch. *5-minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Where is Land's End?
- 2) What started in 1936?
- 3) Which city hosted the Olympics in 1960?
- 4) Where are the Olympics being held in 2012?
- 5) What happened in Amsterdam?

**Student B**

- 1) What does the figure '95' represent?
- 2) How many torchbearers are there?
- 3) When do this year's Olympics start?
- 4) Which city had the torch theme of 'The Relay to the New World'?
- 5) What happened in 2008?

12. **The Olympic flame:** Think of three places in the UK the Olympic flame has been to. (**See page 8 links!**) Write them below. Then add three reasons why YOU would want to carry the Olympic torch. Discuss together with your partner.

Places in UK it has been to	Why you would carry the torch?
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **The Olympic flame**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

14. **Business case:** In pairs, prepare a brief business case for hosting the Olympics. Explain some challenges you might face. *5-10 minutes*.

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Olympic flame**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Olympic torch \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The flame \_\_\_\_\_
- c) If I had the flame \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will you be watching the opening ceremony of London 2012 Olympic Games?
- 3) What theme would you give this year's torch run?
- 4) Why do you think the Beijing 2008 Olympic torch run caused so much trouble and violence?
- 5) Should the Olympics be politics free? Explain!
- 6) How would YOU feel if you were carrying the Olympic flame?
- 7) What novel ways has the Olympic flame been carried around the world?
- 8) Why do you think it took so long for women to be able to carry the torch?
- 9) Will you be going to London this summer?
- 10) Why does the world get so excited about the Olympic Games?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think of what you read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) Will you be watching the Olympics?
- 4) Would you like to run/walk with the Olympic flame?
- 5) Why wouldn't you want to run/walk with the flame?
- 6) What is the point of the flame crossing all over the UK?
- 7) Why do people get so excited about a flame passing through their area?
- 8) Surely this is all a publicity stunt for the Olympics? Explain.
- 9) Which are your favourite Olympic Games? Why?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Olympic torch

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

20 things about the Olympic torch
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The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Olympic Torch Tours UK

The Olympic torch relay is currently touring the United Kingdom for 70 days ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Large (1)\_\_\_\_\_ gather everyday to watch it pass their (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Wherever it goes it appears to cause great excitement! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, when the torch started its journey at Lands End in Cornwall, the Olympic (3)\_\_\_\_\_ has been touring the UK. In all, it will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers. Organisers say 95% of the country's population should be able to be within one hour of the route, which ends on 27<sup>th</sup> July with the lighting of the (4)\_\_\_\_\_ during the opening (5)\_\_\_\_\_ in the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, London. The perception is that the (6)\_\_\_\_\_ is an enactment of an ancient Greek tradition. In reality, it is a phenomenon of the modern Olympics started in Berlin in 1936 by the Nazis whose ideology stems in a mash-up of Greek (7)\_\_\_\_\_, thought to date from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. An Olympic (8)\_\_\_\_\_ however, did burn at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

*myths*

*relay*

*crowds*

*cauldron*

*flame*

*doorstep*

*ceremony*

*torch*

Post-war the flame was embraced for the 1948 London Olympics. Organisers embraced the idea of the torch relay. Despite the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ times, the torch was mobbed by crowds along the (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Since then the Olympic torch has made an appearance during both the summer and winter games. The torch relay has taken on themes: Rome 1960: The Ancient Relay; Mexico City '68: The Relay to the New World; Seoul '88: Harmony and Progress. The torch has taken to the skies – on Concorde, by (3)\_\_\_\_\_ and into space twice. It has been in canoes, steamboats, on camels, as well as being carried by many famous sportspeople and celebrities. The Beijing 2008 global relay was the most (4)\_\_\_\_\_, but it met (5)\_\_\_\_\_ and sometimes violent (6)\_\_\_\_\_. Until the 1950s, it was rather a (7)\_\_\_\_\_ torch – no women were allowed to take part! Sometimes the flame is accidentally extinguished en route. Special back up flames from Olympia are carried, often in miners-style (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

*parachute*

*route*

*sexist*

*lamps*

*protest*

*austere*

*frequent*

*ambitious*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Olympic Torch Tours UK

The \_\_\_\_\_ is currently touring the United Kingdom for 70 days ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Large crowds gather everyday to watch it \_\_\_\_\_. Wherever it goes it appears to cause great excitement! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, when the torch started its journey at Lands End in Cornwall, the Olympic torch has been touring the UK. In all, it will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers. Organisers say 95% of the country's population should be able to be \_\_\_\_\_ the route, which ends on 27<sup>th</sup> July with the \_\_\_\_\_ during the opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, London.

The perception is that the relay is an enactment of an ancient \_\_\_\_\_. In reality, it is a phenomenon of the modern Olympics started in Berlin in 1936 by the Nazis whose ideology stems in a mash-up of Greek myths, \_\_\_\_\_ the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. An Olympic flame however, did burn at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

Post-war the flame was embraced for the 1948 London Olympics. Organisers embraced the \_\_\_\_\_ relay. Despite the austere times, the torch was mobbed by crowds along the route. Since then the Olympic torch has made an appearance during both the \_\_\_\_\_ games. The torch relay has taken on themes: Rome 1960: The Ancient Relay; Mexico City '68: The Relay to the New World; Seoul '88: Harmony and Progress. The torch has taken to the skies – on Concorde, by parachute \_\_\_\_\_. It has been in canoes, steamboats, on camels, as well as being carried by many famous \_\_\_\_\_.

The Beijing 2008 global relay was the most ambitious, but it met frequent and sometimes violent protest. Until the 1950s, it was rather a sexist torch – no women were allowed to take part! Sometimes the flame is accidentally \_\_\_\_\_. Special back up flames from Olympia are carried, often in \_\_\_\_\_.

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Olympic Torch Tours UK

The Olympic torch relay is currently touring the United Kingdom for 70 days ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Large crowds gather everyday to watch it pass their doorstep. Wherever it goes it appears to cause great excitement! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, (1)\_\_\_ the torch started its journey at Lands End in Cornwall, the Olympic torch has been touring the UK. In all, it will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers. Organisers say 95% of the country's population (2)\_\_\_ be able to be within one hour of the route, (3)\_\_\_ ends on 27<sup>th</sup> July (4)\_\_\_ the lighting of the cauldron during the opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, London. The perception is (5)\_\_\_ the relay is an enactment of an ancient Greek tradition. In reality, it is a phenomenon of the modern Olympics started in Berlin in 1936 by the Nazis (6)\_\_\_ ideology stems in a mash-up of Greek myths, thought to date (7)\_\_\_ the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. An Olympic flame (8)\_\_\_, did burn at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

**from**  
**however**  
**should**  
**that**  
**which**  
**when**  
**with**  
**whose**

Post-war the flame was embraced for the 1948 London Olympics. Organisers embraced the idea (1)\_\_\_ the torch relay. Despite the austere times, the torch was mobbed by crowds along the route. Since then the Olympic torch has made (2)\_\_\_ appearance during both the summer and winter games. The torch relay has taken on themes: Rome 1960: The Ancient Relay; Mexico City '68: The Relay to the New World; Seoul '88: Harmony and Progress. The torch has taken (3)\_\_\_ the skies – (4)\_\_\_ Concorde, by parachute and into space twice. It has been in canoes, steamboats, on camels, as well (5)\_\_\_ being carried (6)\_\_\_ many famous sportspeople and celebrities. The Beijing 2008 global relay was the most ambitious, but (7)\_\_\_ met frequent and sometimes violent protest. Until the 1950s, it was rather a sexist torch – no women were allowed to take part! Sometimes the flame is accidentally extinguished en route. Special back up flames from Olympia are carried, often (8)\_\_\_ miners-style lamps.

**to**  
**as**  
**on**  
**it**  
**in**  
**an**  
**of**  
**by**

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	Olympic	11	ambitious
2	phenomenon	12	parachute
3	perception	13	sportspeople
4	ideology	14	celebrities
5	myths	15	enough
6	thought	16	emotional
7	wherever	17	thought
8	doorstep	18	embraced
9	excitement	19	austere
10	torchbearers	20	since

### LINKS

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic\\_Flame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Flame)

<http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/route/> - use this link to see where the torch is!

<http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/torch-relay/9275035/London-2012-Olympic-torch-relay-route-map-street-by-street.html> - use this link to see where the torch is!

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Olympic Torch Tours UK: The Olympic torch relay is currently touring the United Kingdom for 70 days ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Large **crowds** gather everyday to watch it pass their **doorstep**. Wherever it goes it appears to cause great excitement! Since the 19<sup>th</sup> May, when the torch started its journey at Lands End in Cornwall, the Olympic **torch** has been touring the UK. In all, it will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers. Organisers say 95% of the country's population should be able to be within one hour of the route, which ends on 27<sup>th</sup> July with the lighting of the **cauldron** during the opening **ceremony** in the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, London. The perception is that the **relay** is an enactment of an ancient Greek tradition. In reality, it is a phenomenon of the modern Olympics started in Berlin in 1936 by the Nazis whose ideology stems in a mash-up of Greek **myths**, thought to date from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. An Olympic **flame** however, did burn at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.

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