

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

Did you see it? The Olympic Games opening ceremony – live from London. 'The greatest show on earth' proved to be exactly that. It was breathtaking! The event was unveiled to the world at 9pm BST on Friday 27th July. The London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony was watched by an estimated billion TV viewers. Danny Boyle's 3-½ hour epic showpiece made compulsive viewing.

The highlight of the opening ceremony, apart from the arrival of the athletes themselves, must have been The British Monarchs own arrival. We saw James Bond arrive in a London taxi at Buckingham Palace. Inside he met Her Majesty who was waiting for him to take her to the opening ceremony. The Queen turned to him and said: "Good evening Mr Bond." Secret agent 007 then escorted the British Monarch to a waiting helicopter that whisked them across the city to the stadium. High above it the two then jumped from it. As they parachuted down into the stadium the James Bond theme blasted out around the stadium. It was a masterly manoeuvre by the British Monarch. The *stunt* was brilliant! The Queen then arrived '*in person*' with her husband Prince Phillip into the stadium where the audience gave her a rapturous welcome.

Other notable scenes included the English countryside that transformed itself into Great Britain's industrial revolution. The forging of an Olympic ring and lifting it to join the others high above the stadium was clever. We saw many Mary Poppins and J.K. Rowling reading Peter Pan – in an N.H.S. bed scene. For the kids this must have been great. We saw Rowan Atkinson as 'Mr Bean' in a 'Chariots of Fire' imaginary scene. We heard the 'Best of British' music with many different dancers performing.

Later, we saw the torch arrive by motor boat driven by David Beckham. He handed it to Sir Steve Redgrave who ran with it into the stadium. He then handed it to a new generation of younger athletes who then lit the strange petals every team had carried. An amazing thing then happened – the lit petals then lifted into the air to join together to become the Olympic cauldron. Brilliant! Paul McCartney rounded off the night with 'Hey Jude' followed by some dazzling fireworks. What a night! What a performance!

Category: Sport / Olympic Games / London 2012

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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The Sports at the Olympic Games - London 2012

1 Archery	19 Handball
2 Athletics	20 Hockey
3 Badminton	21 Judo
4 Basketball	22 Modern Pentathlon
5 Beach Volleyball	23 Rowing
6 Boxing	24 Sailing
7 Canoe Slalom	25 Shooting
8 Canoe sprint	26 Swimming
9 Cycling – BMX	27 Synchronised swimming
10 Cycling – Mountain Bike	28 Table Tennis
11 Cycling – Road	29 Taekwondo
12 Cycling – Track	30 Tennis
13 Diving	31 Trampoline
14 Equestrian	32 Triathlon
15 Fencing	33 Volleyball
16 Football	34 Water Polo
17 Gymnastics Artistic	35 Weightlifting
18 Gymnastics – Rhythmic	36 Wrestling

Choose 5 sports you watched at the Olympics

Talk about them with your partner

As a class talk about the Olympic sports at London 2012

EXERCISES

1. **The London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony:** Think of three things you know about the opening ceremony. 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?
- c) **Discuss the opening ceremony**

6. **Geography: Stratford, East London:** Where is Stratford, East London? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. **London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony:** In pairs choose five things from the article. Then add five thoughts of your own. Write them below. Discuss together.

From the article	Your thoughts
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: Sport FM:** 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 in London. Today's interview is about: *The Olympics – London 2012*.

1	Olympic organiser	3	The Mayor of London
2	A Londoner	4	An athlete taking part

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony – 30th July 2012

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **The Olympics**. *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 the Olympic Village in East London. Start a conversation about 'London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony' *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) How long was the ceremony?
- 2) Who created the opening ceremony?
- 3) Who met The Queen at Buckingham Palace?
- 4) How did we see The Queen arrive at the Olympic stadium?
- 5) What transformed into what?

Student B

- 1) Who rounded off the night?
- 2) Who and what arrived by motor boat?
- 3) Who lit the cauldron? Explain.
- 4) Rowan Atkinson appeared as whom?
- 5) Name the classic books and films.

12. **Best bits of the London 2012 Olympic Games:** Choose three of your favourite bits of the games. Discuss and compare with your partner

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 Games – London 2012**. 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. **An evening at the Olympics opening ceremony:** In pairs, imagine you spent an evening at the opening ceremony at this year's Olympics. Discuss what you saw!

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The opening ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games**. 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 Games _____
- b) The opening ceremony _____
- c) The closing ceremony _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What did you think of the opening ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London?
- 3) How did the opening ceremony differ from Beijing 2008?
- 4) Which Olympic sports have you been watching?
- 5) Which is your least favourite Olympic sport?
- 6) Which sports does your country excel in?
- 7) How many gold medals has your country won?
- 8) Did you watch the opening ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London?
- 9) What was the best bit of the opening ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Will you be going to visit London this year?
- 3) Which were your favourite Olympics? Why?
- 4) Should politics enter into sport?
- 5) Should nationalities without countries be represented?
- 6) Who is your favourite sportsman?
- 7) Who is your favourite sportswoman?
- 8) Which sports event do you think drew the highest number of TV viewers? Explain.
- 9) What did you think of The Queen's arrival at the opening ceremony at the London 2012 Olympic Games in London?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! The London 2012 Olympic Games

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

20 things about the London 2012 Olympic Games

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

The (1)_____ of the opening ceremony, apart from the arrival of the (2)_____ themselves, must have been The British Monarchs own arrival. We saw James Bond arrive in a London (3)_____ at Buckingham Palace. Inside he met Her Majesty who was waiting for him to take her to the opening (4)_____. The Queen turned to him and said: "Good evening Mr Bond." Secret agent 007 then escorted the British Monarch to a waiting helicopter that whisked them across the city to the stadium. High above it the two then jumped from it. As they parachuted down into the stadium the James Bond (5)_____ blasted out around the stadium. It was a masterly manoeuvre by the British Monarch. The (6)_____ was brilliant! The Queen then arrived 'in person' with her husband Prince Phillip into the (7)_____ where the audience gave her a (8)_____ welcome.

rapturous

ceremony

stadium

theme

athletes

stunt

taxi

highlight

Other notable scenes included the English (1)_____ that transformed itself into Great Britain's industrial revolution. The forging of an Olympic (2)_____ and lifting it to join the others high above the stadium was clever. We saw many Mary Poppins and J.K. Rowling reading Peter Pan – in an N.H.S. bed scene. For the (3)_____ this must have been great. We saw Rowan Atkinson as 'Mr Bean' in a 'Chariots of Fire' imaginary (4)_____. We heard the 'Best of British' music with many different (5)_____ performing.

petals

cauldron

fireworks

countryside

ring

Later, we saw the torch arrive by motor boat driven by David Beckham. He handed it to Sir Steve Redgrave who ran with it into the stadium. He then handed it to a new generation of younger athletes who then lit the strange petals every team had carried. An amazing thing then happened – the lit (6)_____ then lifted into the air to join together to become the Olympic (7)_____. Brilliant! Paul McCartney rounded off the night with 'Hey Jude' followed by some dazzling (8)_____. What a night! What a performance!

scene

kids

dancers

GRAMMAR: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

The highlight of the opening ceremony, apart from the arrival of the athletes themselves, must have been The British Monarch's own arrival. (1)___ saw James Bond arrive (2)___ a London taxi (3)___ Buckingham Palace. Inside (4)___ met Her Majesty who was waiting for him to take her to the opening ceremony. The Queen turned to him and said: "Good evening Mr Bond." Secret agent 007 then escorted the British Monarch (5)___ a waiting helicopter that whisked them across the city to the stadium. High above (6)___ the two then jumped from it. (7)___ they parachuted down into the stadium the James Bond theme blasted out around the stadium. It was a masterly manoeuvre (8)___ the British Monarch. The *stunt* was brilliant! The Queen then arrived '*in person*' with her husband Prince Phillip into the stadium where the audience gave her a rapturous welcome.

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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	epic	11	brilliant
2	performance	12	highlight
3	generation	13	showpiece
4	countryside	14	athletes
5	revolution	15	ceremony
6	stadium	16	themselves
7	helicopter	17	masterly
8	billion	18	manoeuvre
9	breathtaking	19	rapturous
10	unveiled	20	notable

LINKS

<http://news.sky.com/story/966050/olympics-opening-ceremony-lives-up-to-hype>
<http://news.sky.com/story/966068/olympics-queens-double-on-parachute-jump>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEyvaQPTJqw> **Mr Bean at the Olympics! (You Tube)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNPEzJZTKmq> Report by Al Jazeera
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/london-2012/9434663/London-2012-Queen-delighted-with-James-Bond-role-in-opening-ceremony.html>
<http://thenextweb.com/shareables/2012/07/28/watch-james-bond-escorts-the-queen-to-the-2012-olympic-games/> **James Bond escorting The Queen (Brilliant!)**

Note: N.H.S. = National Health Service!

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: The Olympic Games Opening Ceremony: The **highlight** of the opening ceremony, apart from the arrival of the **athletes** themselves, must have been The British Monarchs own arrival. We saw James Bond arrive in a London **taxi** at Buckingham Palace. Inside he met Her Majesty who was waiting for him to take her to the opening **ceremony**. The Queen turned to him and said: "Good evening Mr Bond." Secret agent 007 then escorted the British Monarch to a waiting helicopter that whisked them across the city to the stadium. High above it the two then jumped from it. As they parachuted down into the stadium the James Bond **theme** blasted out around the stadium. It was a masterly manoeuvre by the British Monarch. The **stunt** was brilliant! The Queen then arrived 'in person' with her husband Prince Phillip into the **stadium** where the audience gave her a **rapturous** welcome.

Other notable scenes included the English **countryside** that transformed itself into Great Britain's industrial revolution. The forging of an Olympic **ring** and lifting it to join the others high above the stadium was clever. We saw many Mary Poppins and J.K. Rowling reading Peter Pan – in an N.H.S. bed scene. For the **kids** this must have been great. We saw Rowan Atkinson as 'Mr Bean' in a 'Chariots of Fire' imaginary **scene**. We heard the 'Best of British' music with many different **dancers** performing.

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