

The Olympic Games – London 2012

The countdown to the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London continues. Final preparations are being made. The excitement is building. The Olympic flame continues its journey around the UK. Giant Olympic rings have been unveiled across the UK including at Tower Bridge in London. Athletes are moving into the Olympic Village that will become home for more than 17,000 athletes during the games. Athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees are expected to take part. Billions of people are expected to watch the opening ceremony on TV on Friday 27th July that will be broadcast live from London at 9pm.

The opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, East London, is probably the most important event of the games. A parade of athletes of all the competing nations will take place. They will watch the arrival of the Olympic flame and the igniting of the cauldron which marks the start of the games. The opening ceremony's name is called '*The Isles of Wonder*'. Spectators, sportsmen and viewers will see the opening scene which depicts a farmyard! The set of which is called '*Green and Pleasant*'. Following this is a splendid performance called '*The Best of British*'. Her Majesty The Queen will be greeted at the opening ceremony together with her husband Prince Philip. The Olympic flag will be raised and flown during the duration of the games. A total of 15,000 people will take part at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Of course spectators are keen to see the actual sports. This year will see 26 sports and a total of 39 disciplines. These include athletics; the 100 metres, 200 metres, the 400 metres. We will see archery, badminton, basketball, and even beach volleyball. Other sports include judo, fencing, diving and canoeing. Cycling is popular; BMX, mountain bike, road and track. There will be the ever popular gymnastics featuring artistic and rhythmic gymnastics. We will also see rowing, sailing, table tennis and shooting, not to mention swimming, weightlifting, and wrestling. Whatever the sport every athlete will be competing for that gold, silver or bronze medal.

The Olympic Games – London 2012 – run from Friday 27th July to Sunday 12th August 2012.

Category: Sport / Olympic Games / London 2012

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

This ESL lesson is the copyright of www.newsflashenglish.com

The Olympic Games – London 2012 – 15th July 2012

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

EXERCISES

1. **The Olympic Games – London 2012:** Think of three things you know about the event. 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 briefly the sports on page 2**

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:** 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 – London 2012 – 15th 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 'The Olympic Games - London 2012' *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) What dates are The Olympics?
- 2) How many people will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies?
- 3) How many sports are there?
- 4) Name the cycling events listed.
- 5) Name the athletic events listed.

Student B

- 1) How many Olympic Committees are there expected to attend?
- 2) Where is the opening ceremony taking place?
- 3) What will happen at the opening ceremony?
- 4) What special guests will be greeted?
- 5) Name three of the Olympic sports listed.

12. **Sports:** Choose three of the sports on page 2. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner. Which do you prefer? Which does your partner prefer?

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 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. **A day at the Olympics 2012:** In pairs, imagine spending a day at this year's Olympics. Discuss what you might see or did see!

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will you be watching the Olympics in London?
- 3) Which is your favourite Olympic sport? Why?
- 4) Which is your least favourite Olympic sport?
- 5) Which sports does your country excel in?
- 6) How many gold medals might your country win?
- 7) Does your country win many gold medals?
- 8) What is your favourite part of the Olympics? Explain.
- 9) 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 the Olympics in London?
- 3) Will you be watching the opening ceremony?
- 4) Which were your favourite Olympics? Why?
- 5) Should politics enter into sport?
- 6) Should nationalities without countries be represented?
- 7) Who is your favourite sportsman?
- 8) Who is your favourite sportswoman?
- 9) Which sports event do you think will draw the highest amount of TV viewers? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! The Olympic Games

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

20 things about the Olympics

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Olympic Games – London 2012

The countdown to the opening ceremony of the 2012 (1)_____ Games in London continues. Final preparations are being made. The excitement is building. The Olympic (2)_____ continues its journey around the UK. Giant Olympic rings have been unveiled across the UK including at Tower Bridge in London. Athletes are moving into the Olympic (3)_____ that will become home for more than 17,000 athletes during the games. (4)_____ from 204 National Olympic Committees are expected to take part. Billions of people are expected to watch the opening (5)_____ on TV on Friday 27th July that will be broadcast live from London at 9pm.

The opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, East London, is probably the most important event of the games. A (6)_____ of athletes of all the competing nations will take place. They will watch the arrival of the Olympic flame and the igniting of the (7)_____ which marks the start of the (8)_____. The opening ceremony's name is called '*The Isles of Wonder*'.

Spectators, sportsmen and (1)_____ will see the opening scene which depicts a (2)_____. The set of which is called '*Green and Pleasant*'. Following this is a (3)_____ performance called '*The Best of British*'. Her Majesty The Queen will be greeted at the opening ceremony together with her (4)_____ Prince Philip. The Olympic (5)_____ will be raised and flown during the duration of the games. A total of 15,000 people will take part at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Of course spectators are keen to see the actual (6)_____. This year will see 26 sports and a total of 39 (7)_____. These include (8)_____; the 100 metres, 200 metres, the 400 metres. We will see archery, badminton, basketball, and even beach volleyball. Other sports include judo, fencing, diving and canoeing. Cycling is popular; BMX, mountain bike, road and track. There will be the ever popular gymnastics featuring artistic and rhythmic gymnastics.

ceremony

athletes

flame

parade

Village

cauldron

games

Olympic

husband

flag

disciplines

viewers

splendid

farmyard

sports

athletics

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Olympic Games – London 2012

The countdown to the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games in London continues. Final preparations are being made. The excitement is building. The Olympic flame continues its journey around the UK. Giant Olympic rings have been unveiled across the UK including at Tower Bridge in London. Athletes are moving (1)___ the Olympic Village that will become home for (2)___ (3)___ 17,000 athletes during the games. Athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees are expected to take part. Billions of people are expected to watch the opening ceremony on TV on Friday 27th July (4)___ will be broadcast live (5)___ London at 9pm.

The opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, East London, is probably the (6)___ important event of the games. A parade of athletes of all the competing nations will take place. (7)___ will watch the arrival of the Olympic flame and the igniting of the cauldron (8)___ marks the start of the games. The opening ceremony's name is called '*The Isles of Wonder*'.

Spectators, sportsmen (1)___ viewers will see the opening scene which depicts (2)___ farmyard! The set of which is called '*Green and Pleasant*'. Following this is a splendid performance called '*The Best of British*'. (3)___ Majesty The Queen will be greeted at the opening ceremony together with her husband Prince Philip. (4)___ Olympic flag will be raised and flown during the duration of the games. A total of 15,000 people will take part (5)___ the opening and closing ceremonies.

Of course spectators are keen to see the actual sports. This year will see 26 sports and a total (6)___ 39 disciplines. These include athletics; the 100 metres, 200 metres, the 400 metres. (7)___ will see archery, badminton, basketball, and even beach volleyball. Other sports include judo, fencing, diving and canoeing. Cycling is popular; BMX, mountain bike, road and track. There will be the ever popular gymnastics featuring artistic and rhythmic gymnastics.

which

than

more

into

from

they

most

that

her

and

the

a

we

of

at

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	excitement	11	cauldron
2	preparations	12	parade
3	journey	13	probably
4	unveiled	14	farmyard
5	athletes	15	countdown
6	village	16	splendid
7	continues	17	broadcast
8	stadium	18	billions
9	Olympic	19	duration
10	ceremony	20	igniting

LINKS

<http://www.london2012.com/>
<http://www.london2012.com/sports/>
<http://www.olympic.org/london-2012-summer-olympics>
<http://www.olympic.org/>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/olympics-2012>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: The Olympic Games – London 2012: The countdown to the opening ceremony of the 2012 **Olympic** Games in London continues. Final preparations are being made. The excitement is building. The Olympic **flame** continues its journey around the UK. Giant Olympic rings have been unveiled across the UK including at Tower Bridge in London. Athletes are moving into the Olympic **Village** that will become home for more than 17,000 athletes during the games. **Athletes** from 204 National Olympic Committees are expected to take part. Billions of people are expected to watch the opening **ceremony** on TV on Friday 27th July that will be broadcast live from London at 9pm.

The opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford, East London, is probably the most important event of the games. A **parade** of athletes of all the competing nations will take place. They will watch the arrival of the Olympic flame and the igniting of the **cauldron** which marks the start of the **games**. The opening ceremony's name is called 'The Isles of Wonder'.

Spectators, sportsmen and **viewers** will see the opening scene which depicts a **farmyard**! The set of which is called 'Green and Pleasant'. Following this is a **splendid** performance called 'The Best of British'. Her Majesty The Queen will be greeted at the opening ceremony together with her **husband** Prince Philip. The Olympic **flag** will be raised and flown during the duration of the games. A total of 15,000 people will take part at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Of course spectators are keen to see the actual **sports**. This year will see 26 sports and a total of 39 **disciplines**. These include **athletics**; the 100 metres, 200 metres, the 400 metres. We will see archery, badminton, basketball, and even beach volleyball. Other sports include judo, fencing, diving and canoeing. Cycling is popular; BMX, mountain bike, road and track. There will be the ever popular gymnastics featuring artistic and rhythmic gymnastics. **(V3)**

www.newsflashenglish.com

Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of www.newsflashenglish.com