

The Story of the Olympics: An Unofficial History

Rachel Bladon

The story step by step

- 1 Listen to Chapter 1. Match the Olympic facts with the numbers you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.8–11 or in the answer key.

Facts	Numbers
1 The number of athletes and spectators in the Olympic stadium.	a 2
2 The number of years between each Olympic Games.	b 3
3 The number of athletes competing in the Summer Olympic Games.	c 4
4 The number of events.	d 16
5 The number of different sports.	e 26
6 The number of years after the Summer Games that the Winter Olympic Games are held.	f more than 300
7 The year the first Youth Olympics were held.	g 100s
8 The number of people who watch the Olympic Games on television.	h 1980
9 The number of years ago the first Olympic Games were held in Greece.	i 2000
10 The year the Summer Olympics were held in Sydney, Australia.	j 2010
11 The number of mascots in the Sydney Olympics.	k nearly 3000
12 The year the Summer Olympics were held in Moscow, Russia.	l 1000s
13 The number of kilometres the Olympic torch travelled in the months before the 2008 Olympics.	m more than 10,000
14 The number of days the Olympic Games last.	n 137,000
15 The number of medals awarded.	o millions

- 2 Listen to Chapter 2 (from 'The Greeks told many stories ...' to '... Hera, his queen.'). Complete the different myths about how the Olympics began. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.13–14 or in the answer key.

One *myth* tells the story that Pelops, the _____ of Olympia, competed in a chariot _____ with another _____, Oinomaos, because Pelops wanted to _____ Oinomaos's _____. Oinomaos's _____ was broken, so Pelops won the _____. Another myth is that the _____ Olympic Games were _____ games held for Pelops after he _____.

When the Olympic _____ began, Olympia was in the _____ state of Elis in the south-west of _____, with olive _____ and small _____ all around. The _____ Games were held during a _____ ceremony for Zeus, the king of the _____, and for Hera, his queen.

3 Listen to Chapter 2 again (from 'The first Games that were written about...' to '...a high mountain not far from Olympia.'). Decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F). The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.14–15 or in the answer key.

- 1 The first Olympic Games took place on just one day. T
- 2 There were ten events. _____
- 3 The runners wore shoes but no shorts. _____
- 4 The first Olympics were held every four years. _____
- 5 Before and after every Olympic Games all wars stopped. _____
- 6 Free men and slaves could compete in the Olympics. _____
- 7 In the early Olympics, only Greek men could compete. _____
- 8 The *Heraia* was a competition for women. _____
- 9 When athletes competed women were not allowed to watch the Games. _____
- 10 Married women spectators were thrown off the top of Mount Typaeon. _____

4 Listen to Chapter 3 (from 'By 400 BC...' to '...because such a strong man lived there too.'). Put the events of the 400 BC Games next to the correct day on which they occurred. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.17–19 or in the answer key.

athletes promised to follow the rules athletes registered boxing chariot races
horse races pentathlon prizes given track races **wrestling**

Day one	_____ _____ _____
Day two	_____ _____ _____
Day three	_____ _____ _____
Day four	<i>wrestling;</i> _____ _____
Day five	_____ _____ _____

- 5 Listen to Chapter 4. Complete the profiles of important people in Olympic history. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.21–26 or in the answer key.

Name	Nationality	Job	What he did
Panagiotis Soutsos	<u>Greek</u>	<u>poet</u>	He was the <u>first person</u> who talked about <u>reintroducing</u> the Olympic Games.
Evangelis Zappas	_____	<u>not known</u>	He wrote to _____. When he died, he gave all his money _____.
William Penny Brookes	_____	_____	He sent money to _____ to buy _____. He organized _____ in London.
Pierre de Coubertin	_____	_____	He organized _____ at the Sorbonne _____ in Paris.
Demetrios Vikelas	_____	_____	He became the first _____ _____.
Georgios Averoff	_____	_____	He gave more than _____ to renovate the Panathenaic stadium in _____.
James Connolly	_____	_____	He was the _____ of the modern Games.
Spyros Louis	_____	_____	He was the first person to win _____ in Athens.

6 Listen to Chapter 5 (from 'The next Games ...' to 'At last the Olympics were a great international event, ...'). Answer the questions with the information you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.26–28 or in the answer key.

1 What was missing from the Paris Games of 1900?

There was no stadium and there were not many spectators.

2 Why was the marathon in the 1904 Games probably the most badly organized event of all?

3 How many kilometres did the winner of the 1904 marathon run?

4 What did the 1906 Olympic Games in Greece probably stop?

5 Where were the Games held in 1908?

6 When did the 'Jim Thorpe Olympics' take place?

7 Who was Jim Thorpe?

8 How many countries competed in the 1924 Games, held in Paris?

7 Listen to Chapter 5 again (from 'At almost every Olympics, ...' to '...in their homes.'). Complete the list of changes at the Olympics with the correct past simple passive verbs. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.28–32 or in the answer key.

1 Gold, silver and bronze medals *were given* for the first time to the athletes.

2 The parade of nations _____ at the opening ceremony.

3 The (marathon) race _____ longer.

4 Automatic timing devices and the photo-finish camera _____ for the first time for track events.

5 The Olympic flag _____ first _____ in 1920.

6 The Athletes' Oath or promise _____ in the opening ceremony.

7 In 1924 the first Winter Olympic Games _____.

8 Women _____ to compete in gymnastics, track and field events.

9 In 1932 the medal ceremony _____.

10 A lighted torch _____ from Olympia in Greece to the Berlin stadium.

11 In 2008 the torch _____ up Mount Everest.

12 The 1936 Games were special because they _____ on television for the first time.

- 8 Listen to Chapter 6 (from 'Track events' to 'small fences.'). List the different track events you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.33 or in the answer key.

100 metre,

- 9 Listen to Chapter 6 again (from 'In the years since...' to '...4 × 100 metre relay.'). Match the athletes with their achievements. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.34 or in the answer key.

1 In 2008 Usain Bolt ran	a when she was thirty years old and the mother of two children.
2 Jesse Owens took home	b same events as Jesse Owens almost fifty years before.
3 In 1984 the American athlete Carl Lewis won the	c nine gold and three silver medals in long-distance races.
4 At the 1920, 1924 and 1928 Olympics, Paavo Nurmi from Finland won	d the 100 metre race in only 9.69 seconds.
5 In 1948 Dutch athlete Fanny Blankers-Koen won gold in the women's 100 metres, 200 metres, 80 metre hurdles and 4 × 100 metre relay	e four gold medals from the 1936 Games.

- 10 Listen to Chapter 6 again (from 'Field events' to '..., jumping and throwing events'). Tick (✓) the sporting events you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.34–35 or in the answer key.

100 metres ✓	archery	long jump
110 metre hurdles	decathlon	modern pentathlon
200 metres	discus	pole vault
400 metres	fencing	relay
400 metre hurdles	hammer	running
800 metres	heptathlon	shooting
1500 metres	high jump	shot-put
5000 metres	horse-riding	swimming
10,000 metres	javelin	triple jump

- 11 Listen to Chapter 6 again (from 'Gymnastics' to '...at these Olympics.'). Read the text below as you listen and correct the mistakes you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.35–37 or in the answer key.

Gymnastics are another of the ~~newest~~ *oldest* Olympic sports. They were popular in modern Greece and there have been gymnastics events at the modern Olympics since 1896. In gymnastics, there are nine races to win. Gymnasts compete in front of a group of journalists, who give them a point, taking away points for every error. Until 1996 the judges had hardly ever given a gymnast a perfect score but in that year's Olympic Games in Toronto, Canada, fourteen-year-old Nadia Comăneci of Romania was awarded a perfect score for the second time. Not surprisingly, Nadia Comăneci won two gold medals, two silver and three bronze at these Olympics.

- 12 Listen to Chapter 6 (from 'Water sports' to '...in Seoul in the same year.'). List the sports you hear ending in *-ing* and which usually follow *go* in the first column; those that use a ball or follow *play* in the second column; and those that usually follow *do* in the third column. The first three are examples. Check your answers on pp.37–38 or in the answer key.

Sports ending in <i>-ing</i> , which usually follow <i>go</i>	Sports that use a ball and/or ones that follow <i>play</i>	Other sports that usually follow <i>do</i>
<i>swimming</i>	<i>water polo</i>	<i>boxing</i>

- 13 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'Since the modern Games began, ...' to '... but there are sometimes arguments.'). Put these events in the order in which they happened. The first and last are examples. Check your answers on pp.40–43 or in the answer key.

- a Athletes have to bring their own food and sleep in army camps and schools. _____
- b Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland boycott the Olympics. _____
- c Famous celebrities promise to entertain the spectators. _____
- d Finland becomes host nation instead of Japan. _____
- e Hitler becomes angry when Jesse Owens wins four gold medals. _____
- f Over sixty countries including the USA boycott the Olympics. _____
- g South Africa is banned from the Olympics. _____
- h The Olympics are cancelled for the second time in their history. _____
- i The Olympics are cancelled for the first time. 1
- j The Soviet Union and 14 other countries boycott the Olympics. 10

- 14 Listen to Chapter 8. Choose the correct answers. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.44–46 or in the answer key.

- 1 Pierre de Coubertin once said, 'The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but
- A not to lose'.
- B to take part'.
- C to try your best'.

- 2 In 1972, when the Pakistan hockey team lost in the final, they
 - A refused to leave the pitch.
 - B swore at the officials.
 - C threw water at the officials.
- 3 Cheating
 - A has happened since the Olympics began.
 - B has stopped recently.
 - C is new to the modern Olympics.
- 4 When Sotades accepted a bribe from the people of Ephesus, the Cretans
 - A exiled him.
 - B killed him.
 - C laughed at him.
- 5 The marathon runner, Fred Lorz, said he cheated
 - A because he was tired.
 - B because he didn't think he'd get caught.
 - C as a joke.
- 6 Boris Onishchenko cheated
 - A and was caught, but his team won the competition.
 - B but won the competition.
 - C and was disqualified.
- 7 The first athlete to be disqualified for taking drugs had drunk some
 - A alcohol.
 - B coffee.
 - C fruit juice.
- 8 When runner Ben Johnson failed a drugs test, he had to
 - A give back his medal.
 - B stop competing forever.
 - C give back his medal and stop competing forever.
- 9 In the 1972 Olympics, German police
 - A rescued the Israeli hostages and arrested the terrorists.
 - B killed the Israeli hostages and some of the terrorists.
 - C killed the terrorists and rescued the hostages.
- 10 In the Atlanta Games a bomb
 - A hurt over a hundred people but nobody died.
 - B killed one person and hurt more than a hundred.
 - C killed hundreds of people.

- 15 Listen to Chapter 9. Put the following words for countries, nationalities and cities in the correct column according to their stress patterns. The first four are examples. Check your answers in the answer key.

Athens British Canada Danish Dutch England Germany Great Britain Greek
 Italy London Netherlands Rome Seoul Sweden Sydney Toronto Vancouver

•	• •	• • •	• • •
<i>Greek</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Toronto</i>

- 16 Listen to Chapter 10 (from 'Who will be...' to '...of the modern Olympics!'). Complete the following with the correct verb tenses. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.54 or in the answer key.

Who will be (to be) the greatest athletes at the next Olympic Games? The 2012 Games _____ (to be) in London, Great Britain, and this _____ (to make) London the only city that _____ (to host) the Olympics three times. The 2016 Games _____ (to be) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some athletes _____ (to go) home with no medals, others _____ (to become) famous in their countries and around the world. What we _____ (to do) _____ (to know) is that there _____ (to be) some incredible races, jumps, throws and games. The ancient Olympics _____ (to go) on for more than a thousand years. The modern Olympics _____ (to be) only a little more than a hundred years old, but they _____ (to be) the most important athletic competition in the world. Perhaps one day people _____ (to celebrate) a thousand years of the modern Olympics!