



Go for gold!

Auf die Plätze, fertig, los! Auf welcher Stufe des Siegertreppchens werden Sie landen, wenn Sie zu unserer Englisch-Olympiade antreten? Speziell für Sie hat JOANNA WESTCOMBE einen sprachlichen Neunkampf zusammengestellt — Medaillen inklusive.

all levels www.plus

On your marks... easy

1. Simply the best (6 points)

We start with some interesting facts about the Olympic Games. Complete the sentences below with words from the box, changing their form and adding extra words if necessary.

expensive • fast • high • most • skilful • young

- a) The _____-ever Olympic gold medallist is Marjorie Gestring of the United States, who was 13 years, 268 days old when she won a diving competition at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.
- b) Mark Spitz won _____ gold medals in one Games in Munich in 1972.
- c) Muhammad Ali is regarded as the _____ boxer of all time.
- d) Marion Jones may be the _____ woman on earth, but she is currently in jail for taking drugs.
- e) Kobe Bryant is one of the world's _____-paid basketball players.
- f) In Beijing, the _____ tickets are for the opening ceremony. They are said to cost up to 5,000 yuan (€470).

2. My sporting heroes (10 points)

Most of us are not Olympic athletes, but we still enjoy sport as a hobby. Complete the following text with the verbs “do”, “go” and “play” in their correct forms.

The men in our family **a)** _____ always _____ lots of sport. My Dad **b)** _____ quite a lot of athletics when he was a student and **c)** _____ a bit of squash and tennis later on. My brother **d)** _____ judo at school and **e)** _____ sailing and windsurfing a lot in the holidays. He still loves the water and wants to **f)** _____ canoeing in Canada this summer. He **g)** _____ cycling every year with a friend, too, and **h)** _____ weight training at home. I know he **i)** _____ riding only once (when the pony was bitten by a big fly), and I don't think he **j)** _____ ever _____ skiing.

3. Where it all started (11 points)

The Olympic Games have a fascinating history. Circle the best word from the choices below to fill each gap in the text.

The first modern Olympic Games took place **a) at / while / over** nine days in April 1896 in the **b) Greek / Greece / Grecian** capital, Athens. There were **c) lots of / much / a lot** financial problems until Crown Prince Constantine **d) set up / build up / get up** an organizing committee, and an enthusiastic public started **e) spending / donating / gifting** money. About 200 men from 14 different countries competed in 43 events, **f) even / although / also** most of the participants came from Greece. Football and cricket competitions were planned, but these didn't **g) take place / take part / take hold**, and sailing was cancelled because there weren't enough good boats. The swimming events were held in the open sea. Winners won a silver medal, with a certificate and a crown made **h) in / from / of** olive leaves. Germany dominated in gymnastics, and the highlight for the host country was when Greek athlete Spiridon Louis won the marathon. French aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin, the **i) grounder / finder / founder** of these new, international Games, believed that their **j) real / really / realistic** origin was Much Wenlock, a small town in north-west England, which held its first “Olympian Games” in 1850. After the 1896 Games, Greece wanted to host all future Olympics in its capital, but the 1900 Games were **k) still / yet / already** planned for Paris, and the event did not return to Athens until 2004.