

1. The Winter Olympics

The subject of this week's lesson is the Winter Olympic Games, which last took place in Vancouver, Canada, in February this year.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of the Winter Olympics (though at this stage try not to say too much about the three sports described in the lesson) and ask your students what they know about the 2010 Games that took place in Canada in February. Do your students generally find the winter or the summer Olympics more interesting? If any of your students have ever participated in any of the sports that form part of the Winter Olympics, encourage them to describe their experiences to the rest of the class.

2. Divide your students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary. Can they identify which three sports really do exist, and are part of the Winter Olympics, and which one has been made up? Also ask them to try to match the three real sports to their correct names.

3. Check answers in open class.

Answers: The real sports are 1 (skeleton), 3 (biathlon) and 4 (curling). Sport number 2 was made up, as was the name 'iceball'.

Ask your students if they have ever seen skeleton, biathlon or curling on TV, and if so, what they think of them. If they correctly identified number 2 as the non-existent sport, ask them what influenced their choice.

4. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to attempt Exercise 1 on Worksheet B, which contains the text about skeleton, biathlon and curling from Worksheet A with twenty incorrect words that they have to identify and correct. The words containing the mistakes are all in bold, as are five other words that are correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.

5. Check answers in open class.

6. Keeping students in their pairs, tell them that for the final exercise they are going to look at some statements decide if they are true or false. They are then going to have to 'bet' anything from 10 to 50 points on their guesses.

7. Give each pair a copy of Worksheet C, and ask them to read and discuss the statements. In the first column after the statement they should write T (true) or F (false). In the second column they have to write the number of points they are willing to bet on their answer (10 points if they are forced to guess, going up to 50 if they are very confident about the answer).

8. After the pairs have given their answers, it's time to score. Each pair calls out their answer and how many points they have bet. If they have answered correctly, students enter their points in the final column (points won). If they have answered incorrectly, they should enter their points in the third column (points lost). At the end, students subtract the total of the third column from the total of the fourth column to give the total number of points they have won. The pair with the most points wins.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. downward 2. curves 3. one at a time 4. crash 6. per 7. quickest
8. made up of 9. skiing 10. Carrying 11. on 13. fire 14. miss 15. added
16. finishes 17. on 20. objective 22. brushes 23. sweep 24. moving 25. alter
Words in bold that are correct: 5. well 12. flat 18. along 19. circular 21. released

Exercise 2

1. **False.** There is a women's competition as well as a men's.
2. **True.**
3. **True.**
4. **False.** They wear shoes, albeit with special soles to allow them to grip on the ice.
5. **False.** It was a Norwegian.
6. **True.**
7. **True.** The gold medal winner, a Canadian, averaged a little over 50 seconds for his four descents.
8. **False.** Britain won one medal: a gold in the women's skeleton.
9. **True.** Norway was in fourth place in the medals table, behind the United States, Germany and Canada.
10. **False.** Australia was represented at the Games, but the women's curling champions were Sweden.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/paralympic-games/>

Official website of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/olympic_games/vancouver_2010/default.stm

A section of the BBC Sport website on the 2010 Winter Olympics, which includes articles and video reports on the skeleton, biathlon and curling competitions.

Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/olympics/article7034697.ece>

An article from the *Times* on Amy Williams' gold medal win for Great Britain in the women's skeleton event. Challenging for intermediate level.