

The Winter Olympics

WORKSHEET A

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games, which took place in Vancouver, Canada, in February this year, were watched by a huge TV audience around the world. However, in many countries some of the sports in the Winter Olympics are not very well known because few people play them. Apart from during the Games, they rarely appear on TV. Below are descriptions of three sports in the Winter Olympics, plus one imaginary sport: can you identify the three real sports and then match them with their names?

curling	biathlon	iceball	skeleton
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1. This is an individual sport in which competitors travel on flat sleds along a downward-sloping track of ice. The track has some curves and is also narrow, so competitors go down one at a time, not together. Wearing crash helmets, the competitors lie on the sleds with their heads at the front. Most of them travel at well over 100 kilometers per hour on most parts of the track. The winner is the person who gets to the bottom of the track in the quickest time.
2. This is a team sport played with a hard leather ball (slightly larger than a tennis ball) on a rectangular ice rink about 60 meters in length. There is a goal at each end of the rink. The two teams each have eight players, who all wear skates and protective clothing. The five “defensive” players (including one goalkeeper) carry sticks, the three “offensive” players do not. The objective is for the offensive players to throw or kick the ball into their opponents’ goal, while the defensive players try to stop the ball using either their sticks or any part of their bodies.
3. This is an individual sport made up of skiing and rifle shooting. Carrying their rifles on their backs, competitors ski a long distance (up to 20 kilometers) on a snow-covered route that is mostly flat. They have to stop in various places to fire their rifles at targets: whenever they miss a target there is a time penalty, which means some time is added on to the time they take to reach the end of the route. The winner is the competitor who finishes in the quickest time, including penalties.
4. This is a team sport played on ice. The teams slide stone discs, weighing about 20 kilograms, along the ice towards a target, which is a circular area on the ice about 30 meters from where the discs leave the players’ hands. The objective is to get the stones to stop as close to the middle of the target as possible. The players can’t touch the stones after they have released them, but they are allowed to use brushes to sweep the ice in front of the moving disc, as this can alter its speed and direction.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Most of the text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Skeleton

This is an individual sport in which competitors travel on flat sleds along a (1) **downword**-sloping track of ice. The track has some (2) **coves** and is also narrow, so competitors go down (3) **one in the time**, not together. Wearing (4) **crush** helmets, the competitors lie on the sleds with their heads at the front. Most of them travel at (5) **well** over 100 kilometers (6) **por** hour on most parts of the track. The winner is the person who gets to the bottom of the track in the (7) **quick** time.

Biathlon

This is an individual sport (8) **made up** (9) **ski** and rifle shooting. (10) **Carry** their rifles (11) **in** their backs, competitors ski a long distance (up to 20 kilometers) on a snow-covered route that is mostly (12) **flat**. They have to stop in various places to (13) **fly** their rifles at targets: whenever they (14) **mass** a target there is a time penalty, which means some time is (15) **add** on to the time they take to reach the end of the route. The winner is the competitor who (16) **finish** in the quickest time, including penalties.

Curling

This is a team sport played (17) **in** ice. The teams slide stone discs, weighing about 20 kilograms, (18) **along** the ice towards a target, which is a (19) **circular** area on the ice about 30 meters from where the discs leave the players' hands. The (20) **adjective** is to get the stones to stop as close to the middle of the target as possible. The players can't touch the stones after they have (21) **released** them, but they are allowed to use (22) **bushes** to (23) **sweat** the ice in front of the (24) **mover** disc, as this can (25) **alternate** its speed and direction.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Decide if the following statements about the Winter Olympics are true (T) or false (F), then bet a minimum of 10 points up to a maximum of 50 on your choice.

		T/F	Points bet	Points lost	Points won
1	The skeleton competition at the Winter Olympics is only for men, as it is considered too dangerous for women.				
2	Canada won more gold medals than any other country at the 2010 Winter Olympics.				
3	Some of the countries that compete in the Winter Olympics have very little snow or ice: Brazil and Ghana are two examples from 2010.				
4	Curlers (players in curling) wear ice skates.				
5	The winner of the men's individual biathlon at the 2010 Winter Olympics was a Brazilian.				
6	The United States won more medals (gold, silver, or bronze) than any other country in 2010.				
7	The gold medal winner in the men's skeleton competition in 2010 went down the 1.4-kilometer track in less than one minute.				
8	The UK (Great Britain) did not win any medals in 2010.				
9	Norway was among the top ten countries in 2010 in terms of its total number of medals (gold, silver, or bronze).				
10	The winner of the women's curling competition in 2010 was Australia.				
		Total points lost and won			
	Final total (subtract total points lost from total points won)				