

Key vocabulary

Amateur	A person who does something without payment – the opposite of a professional.
Anthem	An important song (usually national).
Doping	Using illegal drugs in sport. This often results in athletes being banned from their sport.
Facilities	Everything that is needed for athletes, staff and spectators (e.g. toilets, eating, seating, entertainment, venues.)
Host	The country which holds the Games (the last host was Rio in 2016; the next host was due to be Tokyo in 2020.)
IOC	Stands for International Olympic Committee – the organisation which leads the Olympic movement (based in Switzerland.)
Medal	A gold, silver or bronze award given to a winner or a runner up.
Nationality	The country a person is from.
Participant	Someone who takes part (competes) in an event.
Spectator	A person who watches an event.
Venue	The place where an event is held.

Sticky knowledge

- The official languages of the Games are English and French together with the language of the host country.
- Women have been allowed to compete at the Olympics since 1900 and the 2012 London Games was the first in which all participating countries sent female athletes.
- Greece won most medals in the first modern Games in 1896. The USA have won most overall.
- From 1924-1992, the Summer and Winter Olympic Games took place in the same year. Now they alternate every two years.
- The Olympic Games have now been hosted by 23 different countries.
- Only four athletes have won medals in both the Winter and Summer Olympics. Only one of them won medals in the same year.
- 5 new sports were due to debut at Tokyo 2020: karate, surfing, skateboarding, sport climbing and baseball.
- The only city to host the Summer Olympics three times in the modern era is London (1908, 1948 and 2012.)
- The five rings of the Olympic symbol represent the five inhabited continents of the world and the colours were chosen because every nation's flag contains at least one of them.
- To qualify to be an Olympic sport, the sport mustn't rely on machines and enough countries need to take part.

Pictures

