

London to host 2012 Olympics

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Today's contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
After Reading	6
Discussion	7
Speaking	8
Listening Gap Fill	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

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THE ARTICLE

London to host 2012 Olympics

BNE: London will host the 2012 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee announced the decision on July 6 in Singapore. It was the closest race to decide the venue of the Games in Olympics history. Up to the last minutes of the final decision it looked like Paris, the longtime favorite, would win. However, in the final round of voting London managed to edge its rival by 54 to 50 votes. Crowds in London erupted with joy. Meanwhile, Parisians that had gathered to celebrate a Paris victory went home in stunned silence.

It is the first time the Games will be held in London since 1948. Organizers gathered an impressive collection of high profile sporting and political figures to support London. A huge boost came when Nelson Mandela backed the British capital. Other big names who championed London were Australian Olympic champion Kathy Freeman, England's soccer captain David Beckham and Prime Minister Tony Blair. He took time off from the G8 summit to dash to Singapore. His eleventh-hour visit certainly paid dividends.

WARM-UPS

1. OLYMPIC CHAMPION: Imagine you are an Olympic champion. Decide in what sport you won your gold medal. Talk to the other Olympic champions in your class about being champion and how you won your medal. How has your life changed since becoming champion?

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

London / the Olympic Games / Paris / joy / silence / Nelson Mandela / David Beckham / gold medals / dividends

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. OLYMPICS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the Olympics. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

4. OLYMPIC OPINIONS: In pairs / groups, talk about these opinions on the Olympics. Which do you agree and disagree with?

- a. London deserved to get the Olympics.
- b. London won because France's Jacques Chirac criticized British and Finnish food.
- c. It's time for the Olympics to be held in Africa.
- d. I really want to go to London in 2012.
- e. The Olympic Games are not important – It's just sport.
- f. The World Cup is much bigger and more important than the Olympics.
- g. London is the world's greatest city.
- h. The Olympic Games are more about politics than sport.
- i. Paris should get the 2016 Olympic Games.
- j. The Olympics is a true celebration of human togetherness.

5. LOSING CITIES: In pairs / groups, talk about whether London is the best city to host the 2012 Olympic Games. Compare London to the other cities that were in the final round of voting.

- London
- Paris
- Madrid
- New York
- Moscow

Do you think your city should one day host the Olympics?

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. London easily won the right to stage the 2012 Olympic Games. | T / F |
| b. The final round of voting was between London, Paris and New York. | T / F |
| c. London beat Paris by just four votes. | T / F |
| d. People in Paris screamed and shouted all the way home. | T / F |
| e. London last held the Olympics 29 years ago. | T / F |
| f. Nelson Mandela backed London's bid. | T / F |
| g. Tony Blair dashed to Singapore to help London win. | T / F |
| h. British companies are paying their shareholders big dividends. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. host | broke out |
| b. venue | lift |
| c. edge | collected |
| d. erupted | stage |
| e. stunned | rush |
| f. gathered | shocked |
| g. support | last-minute |
| h. boost | location |
| i. dash | back |
| j. eleventh-hour | beat |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. London will | with joy |
| b. race to decide | dividends |
| c. London managed to edge | sporting and political figures |
| d. Crowds in London erupted | silence |
| e. stunned | visit |
| f. gathered an impressive | host the 2012 Olympic Games |
| g. high profile | collection |
| h. Other big names who | the venue of the Games |
| i. eleventh-hour | its rival |
| j. paid | championed London were... |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the correct spaces.

London to host 2012 Olympics

BNE: London will _____ the 2012 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee _____ the decision on July 6 in Singapore. It was the _____ race to decide the _____ of the Games in Olympics history. Up to the last minutes of the final decision it looked like Paris, the _____ favorite, would win. However, in the final round of voting London managed to _____ its rival by 54 to 50 votes. Crowds in London _____ with joy. Meanwhile, Parisians that had gathered to celebrate a Paris victory went home in _____ silence.

erupted
announced
edge
longtime
host
stunned
venue
closest

It is the first time the Games will be held in London _____ 1948. Organizers _____ an impressive collection of high profile sporting and political _____ to support London. A huge _____ came when Nelson Mandela backed the British capital. Other big names who _____ London were Australian Olympic champion Kathy Freeman, England's soccer captain David Beckham and Prime Minister Tony Blair. He took time _____ from the G8 summit to _____ to Singapore. His eleventh-hour visit certainly paid _____.

dividends
figures
championed
gathered
dash
off
boost
since

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'close' and 'race'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT OLYMPICS SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about London and the Olympics.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| • host | • 1948 |
| • race | • high |
| • last | • boost |
| • edge | • championed |
| • joy | • dash |
| • silence | • eleventh-hour |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What did you think when you read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the story?
- c. How did this headline make you feel?
- d. Are you glad London won the 2012 Olympics?
- e. Do you think London will do a good job at hosting the Games?
- f. Would you like your city to stage the Games?
- g. Why do you think Paris lost when it was expected to win?
- h. What do the Olympic Games mean for a city?
- i. What are your first memories of the Olympics?
- j. What do you think of Olympic athletes taking drugs?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What did you think about what you read?
- c. Would you like to go to the 2012 Olympics in London?
- d. Do you think the Olympics are the world's most important sporting event?
- e. What's your favorite event at the Olympics?
- f. What can you remember from previous Olympics?
- g. Do you think Africa should get its first Olympic Games in 2016?
- h. Is London a better city to host the games than the other cities – Paris, Madrid, New York and Moscow?
- i. Do you think America gets the Games too often?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

OLYMPIC GAMES:

Imagine the 2012 Olympic Games will not be held in London but in your town or city or where you are currently studying. In pairs / groups, discuss and agree on the factors below:

FACTORS	YOUR DECISIONS
The 2012 Games slogan	
Where will the Olympic village be?	
What new sports will you introduce?	
What new things need to be built?	
What problems need to be solved?	
Other	

After you have finished, change partners and show each other your plans. Give each other advice on how to improve your plans.

Return to your original partners and use the advice you received into changing your original plans to make them better.

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

London to host 2012 Olympics

BNE: London _____ the 2012 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee announced the _____ on July 6 in Singapore. It was _____ race to decide the venue of the games in Olympics history. Up to the last minutes of the final decision it _____ Paris, the longtime favorite, would win. However, in the final round of voting London managed _____ its rival by 54 to 50 votes. Crowds in London erupted _____. Meanwhile, Parisians that had gathered to celebrate a Paris victory went home in _____ silence.

It is the first time the Games will _____ in London since 1948. Organizers gathered an _____ collection of high profile sporting and political _____ to support London. A huge _____ when Nelson Mandela _____ the British capital. Other big names who _____ London were Australian Olympic champion Kathy Freeman, England's soccer captain David Beckham and Prime Minister Tony Blair. He took time off from the G8 summit _____ Singapore. His eleventh-hour visit _____ paid _____.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the 2012 London Olympics. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. 2016: Make a poster outlining why your city or town should be awarded the Olympic Games in 2016. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Give a mini presentation and take a vote on the best city / town.

4. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of the International Olympic Committee. Tell him what you think of the decision to award London the 2012 Olympics. Read your letter to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. F c. T d. F e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. host	stage
b. venue	location
c. edge	beat
d. erupted	broke out
e. stunned	shocked
f. gathered	collected
g. support	back
h. boost	lift
i. dash	rush
j. eleventh-hour	last-minute

PHRASE MATCH:

a. London will	host the 2012 Olympic Games
b. race to decide	the venue of the Games
c. London managed to edge	its rival
d. Crowds in London erupted	with joy
e. stunned	silence
f. gathered an impressive	collection
g. high profile	sporting and political figures
h. Other big names who	championed London were...
i. eleventh-hour	visit
j. paid	dividends

GAP FILL:

London to host 2012 Olympics

BNE: London will **host** the 2012 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee **announced** the decision on July 6 in Singapore. It was the **closest** race to decide the **venue** of the Games in Olympics history. Up to the last minutes of the final decision it looked like Paris, the **longtime** favorite, would win. However, in the final round of voting London managed to **edge** its rival by 54 to 50 votes. Crowds in London **erupted** with joy. Meanwhile, Parisians that had gathered to celebrate a Paris victory went home in **stunned** silence.

It is the first time the Games will be held in London **since** 1948. Organizers **gathered** an impressive collection of high profile sporting and political **figures** to support London. A huge **boost** came when Nelson Mandela backed the British capital. Other big names who **championed** London were Australian Olympic champion Kathy Freeman, England's soccer captain David Beckham and Prime Minister Tony Blair. He took time **off** from the G8 summit to **dash** to Singapore. His eleventh-hour visit certainly paid **dividends**.