

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

The Chinese Olympics

Politics and the Olympics don't mix. The success of the Games will be determined by the competition between athletes and the friendship of the various nations. China's president, Hu Jintao, made the statement, as he expressed the real meaning and spirit of the Games. During the Cold war, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political squabbles, and refused to let their athletes compete. There aren't any chances of similar disagreements at the 2008 Olympic Games, and Hu could add some positive comments just days before August 8th.

China's president ignored the problems which have dogged the games during the past months. He ignored the environmental problems and pollution from which China suffers as it rushes to become an industrial superpower. He ignored the recent terrorist attack which killed sixteen policemen, as well as the terrorist's threat to target "the most critical point of the Olympics." He ignored human rights abuses and the strict restrictions China has placed on the media.

As a reminder, however, Hu said to the assembled reporters to respect China's laws and to report fairly on the Games. The meeting was carefully controlled, and reporters had to submit questions in advance. When one reporter posed a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to promote a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage. China's government also hopes that this year's Olympics will demonstrate a new, modern image.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

advance	friendship	posed	determined	rights
strict	suffers	pollution	threat	demonstrate
squabbles	reminder	promote	assembled	dogged

The Chinese Olympics

Politics and the Olympics don't mix. The success of the Games will be (a. _____) by the competition between athletes and the (b. _____) of the various nations. China's president, Hu Jintao, made the statement, as he expressed the real meaning and spirit of the Games. During the Cold war, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political (c. _____), and refused to let their athletes compete. There aren't any chances of similar disagreements at the 2008 Olympic Games, and Hu could add some positive comments just days before August 8th.

China's president ignored the problems which have (d. _____) the games during the past months. He ignored the environmental problems and (e. _____) from which China (f. _____) as it rushes to become an industrial superpower. He ignored the recent terrorist attack which killed sixteen policemen, as well as the terrorist's (g. _____) to target "the most critical point of the Olympics." He ignored human (h. _____) abuses and the (i. _____) restrictions China has placed on the media.

As a (j. _____), however, Hu said to the (k. _____) reporters to respect China's laws and to report fairly on the Games. The meeting was carefully controlled, and reporters had to submit questions in (l. _____). When one reporter (m. _____) a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to (n. _____) a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage. China's government also hopes that this year's Olympics will (o. _____) a new, modern image.

STEP ONE

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "the Olympics" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

STEP TWO

Vocabulary match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

a.	determine	q.	argument
b.	squabble	r.	severe
c.	dog	s.	hurt from
d.	suffer	t.	show
e.	threat	u.	gather
f.	strict	v.	warning
g.	assemble	w.	publicize
h.	pose	x.	decide
i.	promote	y.	ask
j.	demonstrate	z.	follow

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	squabbles	strict	determined	dogged	promote
	posed	suffers	demonstrate	assembled	threat
a.	The success of the Games will be () by the competition between athletes.				
b.	the Cold war, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political ().				
c.	China's president ignored the problems which have () the games during the past months.				
d.	He ignored the environmental problems and pollution from which China ().				
e.	He ignored the terrorist's () to target "the most critical point of the Olympics."				
f.	He ignored human rights abuses and the () restrictions China has placed on the media.				
g.	As a reminder, Hu said to the () reporters to respect China's laws and to report fairly on the Games.				
h.	When one reporter () a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.				
i.	The purpose of the meeting was to () a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage.				
j.	China's government also hopes that this year's Olympics will () a new, modern image.				

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases you circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	According to the article, what will determine the success of the Olympics?
b.	What happened at the Olympic Games during the Cold War?
c.	China's president ignored several things. What were they?
d.	According to the article, what was the primary purpose of the meeting?
e.	According to the article, what is the primary purpose of the 2008 Olympics for China?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	What's your opinion or impression of the Olympic Games? Please explain.
c.	What's your opinion or impression of China? Please explain.
d.	If you were the president of China, how would you determine if the Olympics were successful? Please explain.

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.