

The Olympic Games – Word List

- **A.D. = anno Domini** = after the birth of Christ
- **all-round athlete** = sportsman or sportswoman who is good at many different kinds of sport
- **amateur** = someone who does something as a hobby and does not get money for it
- **ancient** = old
- **athlete** = sportsman or sportswoman
- **balance beam** = a long narrow wooden board on which gymnasts perform
- **ban** = forbid, not allow
- **battle** = fight
- **billion** = a thousand million
- **broadcast** = to show to millions of people on TV
- **celebrate** = to do something in a special way
- **ceremony** = an important event in which things are performed or done in a special way
- **chariot** = a wagon pulled by two horses. It was used by the old Greeks and Roman
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a country and has rights there
- **compete** = to take part against others in a sports event
- **competition** = event at which a person or a team plays against each other
- **conquer** = to get control of a country by fighting
- **create** = make
- **dash** = very quick and short race
- **decathlon** = sports competition with ten different events
- **discover** = find out
- **disqualify** = you cannot take part or the results don't count because you have broken a rule
- **disturb** = get in the way of, interrupt
- **dominate** = to be better than all the others
- **dressage** = a horse rider performs many complicated movements with their horse
- **drugs** = something that you take which is not allowed. Athletes take them to run faster or jump higher.
- **embarrassing** = if something makes you feel ashamed or nervous
- **equestrian** = everything that is about horse-riding
- **event** = one of the races or competitions that are part of the games
- **eventing** = a sport in which horses do three things on three different days
- **fist** = a closed hand
- **flame** = the hot bright gas that you see when something is on fire
- **footraces** = athletes who run against each other
- **freestyle** = you can swim in any way you want
- **govern** = to set the rules and make decisions
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **host city** = the city that organizes the games
- **host nation** = the country that organizes the games
- **in honour of** = to show how much you like or respect someone or something
- **in return** = as revenge
- **include** = consist of
- **individual** = single
- **invade** = to enter a country with an army and take control of it

- **issue** = problems or things that people talk about
- **leap** = jump
- **leap year** = every four years in which February has 29 days (for example 2012, 2016, 2020 etc..)
- **mankind** = humans as a group
- **meaning** = sense, importance
- **national anthem** = the official song of a country that is played at events
- **oath** = a promise
- **participate** = take part
- **participating nations** = the countries that take part
- **pentathlon** = a sports competition with 5 different events
- **pommel horse** = an object that has two handles on top, which you jump or swing your body over
- **postpone** = to change the time of the event to a later one
- **prepare** = practice for something
- **prisoner** = a criminal who is in prison
- **proud** = to be very pleased or happy about something
- **prove** = to show that something is true
- **provide** = give, offer
- **raise** = hold up, move up
- **receive** = get
- **refuse** = if you do not want to do something
- **relay** = swimmers swim in a team—one after the other
- **release** = set free
- **represent** = show, stand for
- **revive** = to bring back after a long time
- **rights** = to be allowed to do something
- **safety** = not be in danger
- **score** = the number of points in a competition
- **select** = choose
- **site** = place where the games are held
- **spectator** = person who watches an event
- **spirit** = the way you feel about something
- **spread** = to move from one place to another
- **stage** = organize
- **steroids** = a chemical that athletes take to make their muscles grow faster
- **strength** = power
- **take hostage** = to kidnap a person and demand something for their release
- **timing** = to do something at the right time
- **torch relay** = each runner carries the torch for some time and then gives it to the next runner
- **track and field** = running and jumping events
- **wrestling** = two people fight by holding each other and trying to make each other fall to the ground