

# 11

## THE ASIAN GAMES



### READING

#### Before You Read

Look at the news on a Web site and some pictures of the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, 2006. Tell your partner if you wish to be at such an event. Give your reasons.



#### Viet Nam to send 365 to Doha ASIAD



The National Sports and Physical Training Committee has finalized a list of 365 athletes to compete in 25 events at the 15th Asian Games (ASIAD) to be held in Doha, Qatar, December 1-15.



The Viet Nam team eyes six gold medals in bodybuilding, karatedo, judo, tae kwon do, shooting, and weightlifting.

Four years ago, Viet Nam took four gold medals and finished 15th out of 44 countries at the Pusan ASIAD in the Republic of Korea.

 Example



I'd like to be at the opening ceremony. It is colorful and I'd like to look at athletes in their national costumes.

### Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

#### The 15th Asian Games



The spirit of the Asian Games has been built up over a long period of time, and passed from one Games to the next spreading messages of unity, warmth, and friendship through competitive sport. The warmth of the Asian Games comes not only from the symbolic flame, but from the

relationships that are established among individual athletes, coaches, trainers, officials, volunteers, and spectators who come together from many different backgrounds and cultures.

Just 11 countries and regions participated in the 1st Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951, with only six sports. The 15th Asian Games took place from December 1 through December 15, 2006, in Doha, capital of Qatar. More than 10,000 athletes, who represented 45 countries and regions, took part in 39 sports and 424 events of the Games, the most important event in Asia. Some new events such as chess and triathlon were also included in the Games.

The 15th Asian Games was organized at 34 sporting venues, including Khalifa Stadium, which hosted the opening and closing ceremonies. The Opening Ceremony of the 15th Asian Games, Doha 2006, at Khalifa

Stadium, was the most spectacular opening of any Games with 50,000 people to get into Khalifa Stadium and more than one billion television viewers. The Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee (DAGOC) wanted to ensure that everybody who saw the ceremony would have a memory for life as suggested in the slogan “The Games of Your Life.” The 15th Asian Games was a successful sporting event that all attendees would never forget. Everyone is looking forward to the 16th Asian Games, which will be held in Guangzhou, China, from November 2 to November 18, 2010.

a) Complete the table below with the information from the reading text.

Date of opening	
Date of closing	
Number of sports	
New sports	
Number of countries	
Number of athletes	
Big cities	
Main stadium and its capacity	
Number of venues	
Venue of opening ceremony	
Venue of closing ceremony	

b) What types of information are you interested in knowing about the 15th Asian Games, Doha 2006? Work in groups. Answer these questions.

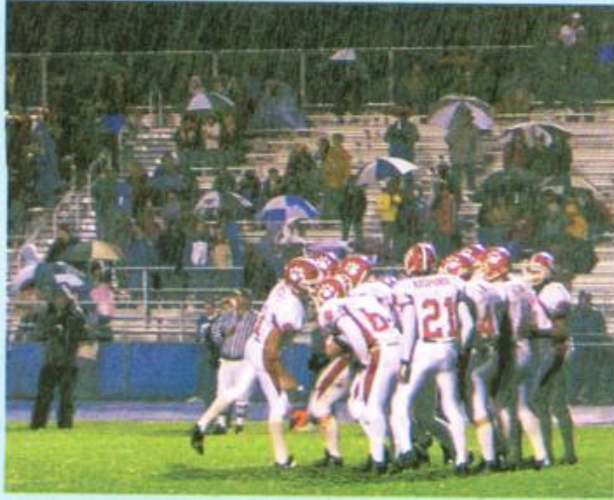
1. Where is Qatar on the world map?
2. What sports did Viet Nam take part in?

c) If your country is hosting such an event, which item(s) in a) will be of your greatest concern? Write it out and state your reason briefly.



## LISTENING

a) Listen to the 4 recordings and match each of them with the correct picture.



a



b



c



d

b) Listen to each recording again and choose the correct answers.

### Recording 1

- The problem with ticket sales is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - tickets are not enough for the demand
  - tickets are being forged
  - ticket sales are not as fast as the organizers expected
- The percentage of tickets already sold is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - more than 14%
  - more than 40%
  - less than 40%

3. There are no more tickets available for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the judo event
  - B. the boxing event
  - C. the track and field event

Recording 2

4. In the badminton event, there was a dispute in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. fans' support
  - B. judges' decisions
  - C. players' equipment
5. What did the Indonesian players do?
- A. They sat on the playing floor.
  - B. They complained about the Korean fans.
  - C. They walked out of the playing floor.

Recording 3

6. El Zetn Youssef would have won \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the gold medal
  - B. the silver medal
  - C. the bronze medal
7. Afterwards, the medal was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. given to Youssef because he agreed to take the drug test
  - B. not given to any competitors
  - C. given to another bodybuilder

Recording 4

8. The rain canceled \_\_\_\_\_ in the softball event.
- A. one semifinal
  - B. the final only
  - C. both one semifinal and the final
9. The semifinal was between \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Japan and China
  - B. China and Taiwan
  - C. Taiwan and Japan
10. The gold medal was finally given to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Japan
  - B. China
  - C. Taiwan



## SPEAKING

### Reporting a Sporting Event

- a) Look at this competition schedule of the 15th Asian Games, Doha 2006. Work in pairs. Talk about the games you want to see.

#### Schedule

Competition Date      F = Finals

Sports / Discipline	Nov.			Dec.														
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Opening Ceremony																		
Athletics											F	F	F		F			
Badminton								F				F						
Baseball										F								
Basketball																		
Billiards (Cue Sports)								F	F	F	F	F		F				
Bodybuilding											F	F						
Bowling						F	F		F		F		F					
Boxing															F			
Canoe / Kayak														F				F
Chess							F											F
Cycling						F	F	F	F									
Diving													F	F	F	F	F	
Fencing												F	F	F	F	F	F	
Golf														F				
Gymnastics					F	F	F	F	F									
Judo					F	F	F	F										
Karate															F	F		
Rowing									F	F								
Sailing														F	F	F		
Sepak takraw									F				F			F		
Shooting					F	F	F	F	F	F	F							
Soccer																F		F
Softball																	F	
Swimming					F	F	F	F	F	F								
Table Tennis							F		F	F								
Tae kwon do										F	F	F	F					
Tennis											F					F	F	

Sports / Discipline	Nov.			Dec.														
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Triathlon											F							
Volleyball															F		F	
Weightlifting					F	F	F	F	F									
Wrestling												F	F	F		F	F	
Wushu																	F	
Closing Ceremony																		

b) Look at the schedule again. Use the useful expressions to report information about the games to your partners.

### Useful Expressions

- Someone says/ said (that) ...
- I am/ was told (that) ...
- What I hear/ heard from ... is/ was (that) ...
- According to ...
- As far as I am informed ...

 Example

According to the schedule, the wushu event lasts for four days altogether.

I see. So, when is the event over?



c) Talk with your partner about soccer results.



Example

A: My roommate told me that Qatar beat Thailand in the soccer game yesterday.

B: It's no surprise! Qatar is really a much stronger team.

Soccer Results	
Qatar: gold; Iraq: silver; Iran: bronze	
Qatar vs. Jordan	3 – 0
Qatar vs. Uzbekistan	0 – 1
Qatar vs. United Arab Emirates	4 – 1
Qatar vs. Thailand (quarter-final)	3 – 0
Qatar vs. Islamic Republic of Iran (semi-final)	2 – 0
Islamic Republic of Iran vs. Republic of Korea	1 – 0
Qatar vs. Iraq (final)	1 – 0



## WRITING

### Writing a Report

- a) An observer has written a report on the hotels and sporting venues for an international sporting event. The following is his report, the parts of which are not in logical order. Rearrange them to make a good report.

### Report on the Facilities for the International Sporting Event

1.

#### Hotel

There is a wide range of hotels for all tourists, but, according to the authorities, too many tourists have come to the same hotel at the same time, causing difficulties to the hotel staff. The prices are rather high, and, surprisingly, the staff members in some hotels do not speak English very well.



2.

#### Conclusion

The games are very good on the whole, but I would recommend that the Organizing Committee set up additional ticket boxes at big stadiums, lower hotel prices, and provide more training to the hotel staff.

3.

#### General

The host has a welcoming atmosphere and most people say that it is easy to find their way around among the venues. The city is clean and well-planned. The only problem is that there are not enough ticket boxes at some stadiums at busy times; thus, the lines are very long.

4.

In order to prepare this report, I visited a number of venues and attended quite a lot of games. Besides, I interviewed some members of the Organizing Committee and a number of spectators.

5.

#### Venues

All the venues are modern and in very good condition.

- b) *Read the guidelines and the useful expressions given to write a report on your school's preparation for a sporting event. You can focus on the place where the event will take place and the transportation for the participants.*

#### Guidelines

- Give your report a clear, factual heading.
- Divide the report into paragraphs or sections to deal with separate aspects of the subject.
- Start by saying what the report is about and/or how you gather the information.
- End with a conclusion which gives a summary of the situation (and a recommendation if necessary).

## Useful Expressions

### Introduction

- The aim of this report is to ...
- In order to prepare this report, I visited / interviewed / studied ...

### Reporting impressions and findings

- It seems / appears that ...
- It is interesting / surprising / strange that ...

### Quoting

- According to X, ...
- Y said / felt / mentioned that ...
- In general, ...
- On the whole, ...

### Summing up

- In conclusion, ...
- To sum up, ...

### Making a recommendation

- In my opinion, ...
- I would recommend that ...



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Word Study

#### Compound Nouns Formed from Phrasal Verbs



#### Example

*walk out* (verb) → *walkout* (noun)

Other compound nouns formed from phrasal verbs:

- go ahead → go-ahead
- kick off → kickoff
- break down → breakdown
- take off → takeoff
- drop out → dropout

- shut down → shutdown
- check in → check-in
- warm up → warmup

Fill the blanks with the compound nouns above to complete the sentences.

1. He was late for work this morning because his car had a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We do stretching exercise as a \_\_\_\_\_ before starting a tennis game.
3. The announcement was to inform passengers to be ready for the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The number of \_\_\_\_\_ is increasing in a worrying way in the mountainous areas.
5. Right after the \_\_\_\_\_, the home team scored a wonderful goal.
6. Generally, you have to be at the airport an hour earlier for the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. He ordered an immediate \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent any leak of radioactivity.
8. They are now waiting for the Ministry's \_\_\_\_\_ to start the construction of the National Stadium.

## Grammar

### Omission of Relative Pronouns

a) *Underline the relative pronoun in each sentence. Check (✓) the sentences in which it would be possible to omit the relative pronoun.*

1. The 15th Asian Games was a successful sporting event that all attendees would never forget.
2. They ensured that everybody who saw the ceremony would have a memory for life.
3. There is a wide range of sporting events that athletes can take part in.
4. The Games improve the relationships that are established among attendees who come together from many different backgrounds and cultures.

5. I'm sorry to have to say this, but the information which you gave me is misleading.
6. The athlete who(m) we have just seen on the screen won the gold medal.
7. Khalifa Stadium, which hosted the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Asian Games, is one of the best stadiums in the world.
8. The 15th Asian Games, which we are talking about, was held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

b) Match the relative clause in B with the main clause in A to make a meaningful sentence. Omit the relative pronoun if possible. Put the correct punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.

A	B
1. Playing sports, we find it easy to make friends with people	a. that I have received
2. He is a talented tennis player	b. who take up this kind of sport
3. The results of our team are disappointing	c. that you mention in your report
4. The number of people doubles every two years	d. who(m) we play with
5. All the venues are modern and in very good condition	e. that I got from the Internet
6. This is the latest news of the Games	f. who has won several medals

 Example

1. d – Playing sports, we find it easy to make friends with people we play with.