

# 5

## COMPETITIONS



### READING

#### Before You Read

Find the words given in the following box. The first ones have been done for you

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
1.	B	Z	W	I	N	N	E	R	S	P	O
2.	F	I	G	H	T	C	Z	I	T	H	R
3.	R	U	X	G	L	O	B	A	L	O	T
4.	E	Q	Y	W	B	N	T	F	J	T	I
5.	C	O	M	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
6.	O	G	U	S	A	E	Q	R	K	U	G
7.	N	X	S	Y	U	S	O	N	G	G	A
8.	O	T	I	W	T	T	X	U	L	H	L
9.	M	I	C	S	Y	L	O	S	E	R	S

#### Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

#### Beauty Contests

A beauty contest, or beauty pageant, is a competition between people, based largely, though not always entirely, on the beauty of their physical appearance. Competitions for men and women are separate events, and those for women are more common. Also, there are beauty contests for teenagers, which are sometimes controversial, especially if they dress in no more than a swimsuit.



Beauty contests for women often have rules regarding the “purity” of the contestants. For example, they must not be married, must agree to remain celibate during their “reign,” and must agree to refrain from other acts that contest organizers regard as “moral degradation.” Breaking any of those rules disqualifies the contestant.

The modern beauty pageant can trace its origin to the *Miss America* pageant, first held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 1921, under the title “InterCity Beauty” contest. The following year, the title was renamed *Miss America*. Nowadays, the two largest and most famous international beauty contests include the yearly *Miss World* competition (founded in 1951) and *Miss Universe* (1952). As women from around the world participate each year in the competitions for these titles, the organizers of the major beauty contests represent their contests as events of world importance.



While many other people consider beauty contests to be agreeable entertainment events of no great importance, many feminists regard beauty contests for women as degrading to females in general, as well as to the women who compete in them. They have particularly objected to swimsuit rounds in competitions where the contestants parade dressed only in swimsuits and high-heeled shoes. Partly because of this, beauty contests have declined in popularity since their peak in the 1960s.

a) Answer the following questions.

1. In what country did the first beauty contest take place? When was it?
2. What is it about beauty contests for teenagers that can be criticized?

3. What are some conditions applicable to beauty contestants?
4. What are the two supposedly most prestigious beauty contests in the world today? When did they first take place?
5. What are the possible arguments against beauty contests according to the passage?

b) The following statements can be true (T) or false (F). Check (✓) the appropriate boxes.

- |                                                                                            | T                        | F                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Beauty pageant</i> is another term for <i>beauty contest</i> .                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Beauty contests are competitions between young ladies only.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Physical beauty is not the only requirement to win a beauty contest.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Winners of beauty contests must remain single all their lives.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The first beauty contest took place in the United States.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Most people are strongly against beauty contests because of the dress contestants wear. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. There are beauty contests in which contestants have to be marching in a parade.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The heyday of beauty contests was in the 1960s.                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

c) Work in groups. Express your points of view on beauty contests.

*“Industry, appearance, speech, and behavior are attributes that should be required of an ideal modern woman.”* Would you agree about the opinion as for each attribute? To what extent?



**LISTENING**

- a) *Work in pairs. Talk about the job you want to do in the future, your hobby, and your ambition or wish.*



Example



I enjoy cycling, and my dream job is to be a doctor. My ambition is that people are free from all diseases.

- b) *Listen to the introductory part of a quiz show. Fill in the table below with the correct information about the contestants.*

Name	Age	Job	Hobby	Ambition/Wish
Ngoc Quynh	24			
Minh Dan				
Huy Vu				

- c) *Listen to the recording again. Take a few notes on the expressions that would help create an interview with your friend about his hobby, ambition or wish, and dream job.*

Notes

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d) *Work in pairs. Talk about some popular competitions or contests in your school/community.*

I really enjoy the quiz programs in our school.

I myself am fascinated with the eloquence contest.



## SPEAKING

### Expressing Personal Opinions about Types of Competitions

a) *Write the names of the competitions in the blanks.*

beauty contest  
game show

song contest  
tug of war



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Work in groups. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of competitions commonly held in your school or community. You can use the useful expressions and the suggested words or phrases below.*

### Useful Expressions

#### Agreement


- I can't agree with you more.
- You're right. There's no doubt about that.
- Exactly, I'm with you there.

#### Disagreement

- Well, personally I think that...
- That's an interesting point of view, but I think...
- I don't quite agree because...

### Suggested Words or Phrases

+ (For)	- (Against)
✓ encourage self-study	✗ dangerous, accident-prone
✓ entertaining, exciting, fascinating	✗ excessive emphasis on physical beauty
✓ good physical exercise, keep our body fit	✗ simple-minded, boring, monotonous
✓ lots of fun, funny	✗ distract students from study, inhibit creativity
✓ promote teamwork spirit	✗ too commercialized
✓ enhance mutual understanding	✗ too noisy, dim lights

 Examples



c) Give a short presentation in front of the class about a contest that you have recently taken part in or watched. The following guiding questions might help you.

- ✓ What type of contest was it? When?
- ✓ How many contestants were there? Where did they come from?
- ✓ How did the contest go? How interesting was it?
- ✓ What were the final results?
- ✓ What was your overall impression about the contest? How did you like it? (announcer, cheerleader, and audience)



## WRITING

### Writing a Letter to Ask for and Give Information about Competitions

a) Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions about contests on the media.

1. Where (TV, radio, newspaper, Web site, etc.) can information about a contest be obtained?
2. What preparations are needed?
3. What is required to ensure a successful application?

b) The following sentences, which form a letter asking for information about a contest on television, are in the wrong order. Work in pairs. Put them in logical order. Then discuss how the underlined words may have helped you.

101/A4 Quang Trung St.

Ward 11, Go Vap Dist., Ho Chi Minh City

Home phone: 895.9925; Cell: 091.312.0857

E-mail: lnmthuc@yahoo.com

April 30, 20\_\_

Tran Dinh Tu

Quiz Manager

ATV 9, Ho Chi Minh City Television

10-12 Dinh Tien Hoang St.

Dist. 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Dear Mr. Tu

- a. Second, still concerning the regulations on candidacy, contestants should be high school students "living in Ho Chi Minh City."
- b. So, can we assume that my 12-year-old brother may register?
- c. I am writing to clarify several of the regulations of your English-Speaking World's Cultures Contest scheduled to be taking place this summer.
- d. First, while the contest claims to be intended for high school students, the minimum age is not stipulated.
- e. Thus, is my cousin, who is a student at a high school in Ho Chi Minh City but has a Dong-Nai-based residential registration, eligible for the contest?



- f. Do you really mean "sent" or what you mean is "received by April 30"?
- g. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.
- h. Thank you very much and my best wishes for the success of the contest.
- i. Last, with regard to the registration deadline, is it required that all applications be "sent by April 30"?

Sincerely

Le Nguyen Minh Thuc

- c) Imagine you were Mr. Tu. Write a reply to the letter above. The following prompts may help you.
- Thank you for your questions – a reminder for us to be more specific and precise.
  - No lower age limit; your brother might win *The Youngest Contestant Prize*.
  - All an applicant needs is a student I.D. – no need for the household book of registration – your cousin is absolutely qualified for the competition.
  - In terms of the deadline, the correct word is "sent" – the postmark would tell when your application was posted.



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Word Study

#### Nouns Derived from Verbs



#### Examples

- This sporting event will be *attended* by the Chairman of Physical Training and Sports.
- While *attending* college, he worked as a motorcycle-park *attendant* in the evening.
- Average weekly movie *attendance* in February still remains 1.82 million.
- Has he been one of the *attendees* at the meeting?

a) Write appropriate nouns in the blanks.

Verbs	Nouns Denoting Person Doing the Work	Nouns Denoting Action or Activity
announce	<u>announcer</u>	<u>announcement</u>
collaborate	_____	_____
compete	_____	_____
contest	_____	_____
design	_____	_____
entertain	_____	_____
ice-skate	_____	_____
organize	_____	_____
participate	_____	_____
perform	_____	_____
win	_____	_____

b) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate nouns from the box in a) to complete the following sentences or exchanges. The first two items have been done for you.

- That (1) *ice-skater* couldn't win the prize because of her poor (2) *performance*.
- In a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ any players need to learn to be as cooperative as possible for the benefits of their teams.
- What do you think about the eloquence (4) \_\_\_\_\_ held in our school last week?  
– It was very good. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ were all convincing and attractive.
- The prize (6) \_\_\_\_\_ will be announced in a few minutes.
- Teacher (*to students*): You shouldn't be too nervous at the quiz. With close (7) \_\_\_\_\_, I believe, you will win the highest prize.
- The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Miss World contests may disqualify contestants who do not live up to their titles.

## Grammar

### Gerund and Present Participle

Gerund: used as a noun equivalent	Present Participle: more like a verb or an adjective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Withdrawing from the events at this time may result in paying heavy fines.</li><li>• The problem is appealing for funds for the games.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The big firms are competing fiercely on price.</li><li>• He stepped on the platform, smiling very happily.</li><li>• Winning the championship, we burst into tears.</li><li>• The coach caught the player smoking in his room.</li><li>• The actors rehearsing over there are going to have their first performance tomorrow.</li></ul>

### Perfect Gerund and Perfect Participle

A perfect gerund / participle is used instead of a gerund / participle when we want to emphasize the completion of the action.

Gerund	Perfect Gerund
We are very happy about your completing the assignments.	We are very happy about your having completed all the assignments before the deadline.
Participle	Perfect Participle
Finishing the work, they went home.	Having finished the work, they all went home, very much relaxed.

- a) With the verb given in parentheses, fill the blanks in the following sentences or exchanges with a:

**I. Gerund or perfect gerund**

1. Soccer coach (*to Lam*): I really appreciate your \_\_\_\_\_ (train) hard last month.
2. The runner-up was not so pleased with his \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the silver medal.
3. The athlete denied \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the banned drugs before \_\_\_\_\_ (be) called to the team.
4. She shouldn't have too much regretted \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) the English-speaking contest last week – she was not fluent enough anyway.
5. We are very grateful for your \_\_\_\_\_ (make) all necessary arrangements for our visit and now \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to see us off.
6. – What is the most difficult thing about \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) to become an eloquent speaker?  
– It's mastering the language.

**II. Present participle or perfect participle**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at the audience, the contestant gave her answer with confidence.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (practice) intensively, Lam is now quite sure of his success in the coming competition.
3. One of the journalists told us to start early, \_\_\_\_\_ (remind) us that the roads would be crowded.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the World Trade Organization, Viet Nam can now see new opportunities and challenges.
5. Never have the enterprises worldwide seen the global competition \_\_\_\_\_ (become) so harsh.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) all the rules of chess, the contestants started to play the first game.

b) Match the first part of each sentence in A with the appropriate part in B to make a meaningful sentence.

A	B
1. Competing in the Olympic Games	a. requires great endurance.
2. Thank you	b. for having given me good advice before the contest.
3. Running a marathon	c. would be very challenging for student athletes.
4. The 22nd SEA Games was believed	d. the home team seems to be more relaxed now.
5. Have you ever taken part	e. having taken dope before the game.
6. Having scored three successive goals,	f. dealing with the excited fans.
7. That athlete denied	g. in an egg-eating contest?
8. During the soccer game, the police faced a very difficult task	h. to have been very successful.