



COMPETITIONS

A. READING

Before you read

Look at the photos. Match each of them with the words in the box below.

Sao Mai Television Singing Contest
Quiz: "Road to Mount Olympia"

Olympic Games
London Marathon



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____

Work with a partner. Answer the following questions.

1. Do you like taking part in competitions like these? Why/Why not?
2. Do you hope to win a competition? If so, which competition do you like to win?
3. Is winning the most important thing in a competition? Why/Why not?


While you read

Read the passage and then do the tasks that follow.

Last Saturday the representatives of three classes of my school took part in the annual final English Competition organized by our English teachers. Its aim was to stimulate the spirit of learning English among students. The competition was sponsored by the Students' Parents Society. Mrs. Lien, our English teacher, explained the competition's rules to the students.

"...To participate in the contest, you have to work in groups of three. Each group must complete five activities in all. On completion of each activity, you will have to answer the questions on the worksheets within two minutes. The judges will observe and score your performance. The maximum score for each activity is 15 points. At the end of the competition, the judges will announce the total score of each group. The group that gets the highest score will be the winner. The winner will be awarded a set of CDs for studying English and an Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Now, let's start our competition."


Hung, Thu and Nga were the members of Group A. They quickly read the questions and tried to find out the answers. At first, things went smoothly. They almost completed the five activities. But in Activity 5, Hung had difficulty reciting the poem. He could not remember the last sentence. Time was up, and the judges announced the results. The winner was Group B, which got 70 points; Hung's group got 65; and Group C got 60. Thu felt a bit disappointed. Hung apologised for not being able to complete the poem. But Nga made it better by saying "For me the most important thing was our participation in the competition and the enjoyment we had from it".

 **Task 1.** Match the words or phrases on the left with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. representative | a. without problems or difficulties |
| 2. annual | b. enthusiasm and energy |
| 3. stimulate | c. altogether or as a total |
| 4. in all | d. a person chosen or appointed on behalf of another person or a group |
| 5. spirit | e. encourage or make something more active |
| 6. smoothly | f. happening or done once every year |

 **Task 2.** Answer the questions.

1. Who took part in the annual final English Competition last Saturday?
2. What was the aim of the competition?
3. Who sponsored the competition?
4. What did each group of students have to do during the contest?
5. What did the judges have to do to choose the winner of the competition?
6. What would be awarded to the winner?

 **Task 3.** Read paragraph 3 again and complete the sentences.

1. In Activity 5, Hung was unable _____.
2. Having achieved the highest score, Group B _____.
3. Group C lost the game because they just got _____.
4. Nga encouraged her group by saying _____.

After you read

This is the poem Hung recited at the annual final English Competition. Read and translate it into Vietnamese.

<i>Do you like the sky at night</i>	<i>What I like is the morning sun</i>
<i>When the stars are shining bright?</i>	<i>Shining on me when I run.</i>
<i>Do you like it in the day</i>	<i>And I also like the rain</i>
<i>When the clouds all go away?</i>	<i>Pattering on my windowpane.</i>

B. SPEAKING

Task 1. Which of the competitions/contests below do you like or dislike? Put a tick (✓) in the right column. Then compare your answers with a partner's.

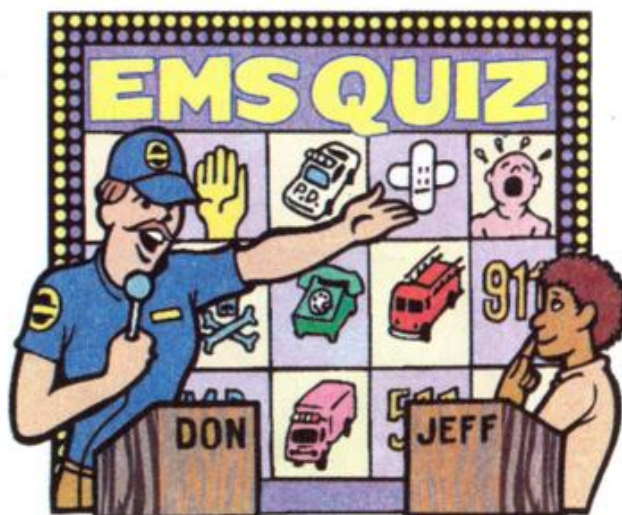
Type of competition/ contest	Like	Dislike
General Knowledge Quiz		
English Competition		
Art Competition (Painting, Drawing, Sculpture ...)		
Poetry Reading /Reciting Competition		
Singing Contest		
Athletics Meeting (Running, Jumping...)		

Task 2. *Work in pairs.* Ask your partner how he/ she feels about each type of the competitions/ contests in Task 1.


Example:

A: What do you think of the General Knowledge Quiz?

B: Oh, it's great. It's an opportunity to test my general knowledge.



Useful language	
great	– opportunity to test my general knowledge
interesting	– good time to practise my English
good fun	– opportunity for my creative activities
boring	– makes me feel sleepy
wonderful	– makes me cheerful/feel happy
exciting	– good chance for my physical training

 **Task 3. Work in groups.** Talk about a competition or contest you have recently joined or seen. Use the suggestions below.

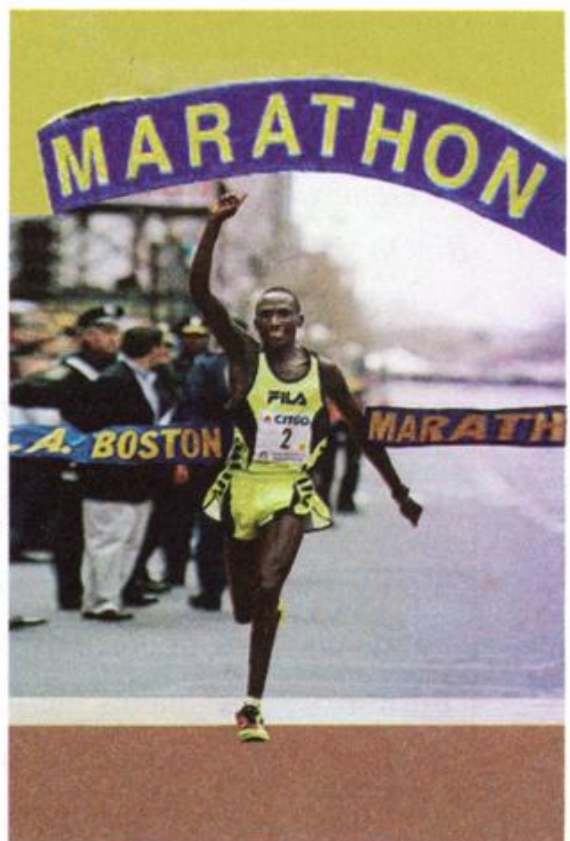
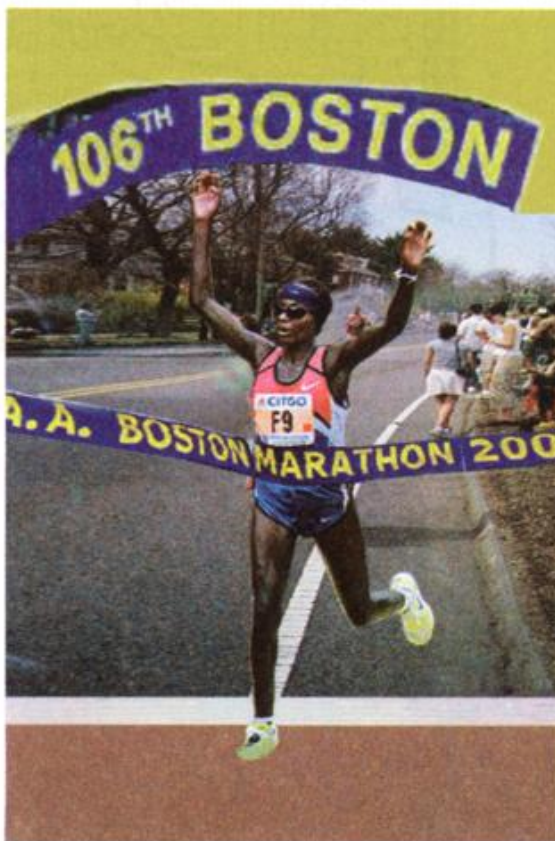
1. Where and when did you see or take part in it?
2. What type of competition or contest was it?
3. Who organized it?
4. Who participated in it?
5. Who won the competition/contest?
6. Did you enjoy it? Why/Why not?

C. LISTENING

Before you listen

Work in pairs. Ask and answer the following questions.


1. What is the Boston Marathon?
2. Who do you think can take part in the Boston race?




- *Listen and repeat.*

race	formally	female	McDermott
athletic	clock	association	Kuscsik

While you listen

 **Task 1.** Listen to the dialogue about the Boston Marathon and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Boston Marathon is held every year in the USA. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. It began in 1897. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. John McDermott clocked 2 hours 15 minutes and 10 seconds. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Women were officially allowed to participate in the races in 1957. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. In 1984, 34 countries took part in the marathon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. According to the race's rules, runners have to pass through the centre of Boston. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |


 **Task 2.** Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. Where did John McDermott come from?
2. When did Kuscsik become the first official female champion?
3. How many women started and finished the race in 1972?
4. How many runners joined the Boston Marathon in 1984?

After you listen

Work in groups. Name some famous runners in Vietnam and say what is special about them.

D. WRITING

 **Task 1.** Read the letter and find out the information required for the English Speaking Competition.




140 Kham Thien St, Dong Da District
Hanoi, Vietnam
17th October, 2006

Dear Sir / Madam,

I read the information about the English Speaking Competition on your Language Centre's website. I am interested in practising English with native speakers and I want to get some information about the competition. Could you please send me details of the competition, the number of participants, entry procedures, venue, date and time? Please provide me with your phone number and e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,
Thu Trang



 **Task 2.** Imagine you are Kate Johnson, secretary of the English Speaking Competition. Write a letter to respond to Thu Trang, using the details below.

- number of participants: 25
- venue: 106 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi
- date: 25th November
- arrival time: 7:00 p.m.; starting time: 8:00 p.m.
- phone number: (04) 9838188
- e-mail: Englishclub06@yahoo.com

E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

- **Pronunciation:** /tr/ - /dr/ - /tw/
- **Grammar:**
Reported speech with gerund

Pronunciation

- *Listen and repeat.*

/ tr /	/ dr /	/ tw /
traffic	drive	twelve
troops	dreadful	twenty
trousers	drink	twin
tropical	dress	twinkle

- *Practise reading aloud these sentences.*

1. John always enjoys travelling by train.
2. Jane's teeth are troubling her.
3. George is driving dangerously.
4. Her new dress is an absolute dream.
5. She has an amusing twinkle in her eyes.
6. Think twice before doing something.

Grammar

Exercise 1. Change direct speech into reported speech. Begin each of the sentences in the way shown.

Example:

“It was nice of you to help me. Thank you very much,” Tom said to you.
– Tom thanked *me* for *helping him*.

1. “I hear you passed your exams. Congratulations!” John said to us.
John congratulated _____ on _____.
2. “I’m sorry I didn’t phone you earlier,” Mary said.
Mary apologised for _____.
3. “I’ll drive you to the station. I insist,” Peter said to Linda.
Peter insisted on _____.
4. “You didn’t pay attention to what I said,” the teacher said to the boy.
The teacher accused _____ of _____.
5. “I’ve always wanted to be rich,” Bob said.
Bob has always dreamed of _____.
6. “Don’t stay at the hotel near the airport,” I said to Ann.
I warned _____ against _____.
7. “Stay here! I can’t let you go out tonight,” her mother said to Jane.
Her mother prevented _____ from _____.
8. “It was nice of you to visit me. Thank you,” Miss White said to Jack.
Miss White thanked _____ for _____.

Exercise 2. Rewrite the dialogues in reported speech, using gerund.

Example:

Teacher: Come in, Peter!

Peter: I'm sorry I'm late.

*Peter apologised for **being late**.*

1. Linda: Let me pay for the meal.

Tom: Certainly not! I'll pay.

Tom insisted on _____.

2. Mr. Smith: I feel like meeting our children soon.

Mrs. Smith: I think so.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith looked forward to _____.

3. Woman: Hey! You've broken the window of my house!

Boy: Oh ... no, I've just arrived here. I don't know anything about it.

The boy denied _____.

4. Policeman: You mustn't leave the shop!

Customer: What's that?

Policeman: Stay here! You mustn't leave the shop!

The policeman stopped the customer (from) _____.

5. Detective: You have stolen Mrs. Brown's car!

The thief: Yes...! But...

The thief admitted _____.

6. Mary: What shall we do on Saturday?

Ann: What about having a party?

Ann suggested _____.

7. John's wife: The house is very nice! We'll certainly buy it!

John: I think so.

John and his wife were thinking of _____.

TEST YOURSELF B

I. Listening (2.5 points)

Listen and choose the best answer A, B, C or D.

1. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - A. Winners placed the olive wreaths on their own heads.
 - B. The games were held in Greece every four years.
 - C. Battles were interrupted so that athletes could participate in the games.
 - D. Poems glorified the winners in songs.
2. Why were the Olympic Games held at the foot of Mount Olympus?
 - A. to stop wars
 - B. to honor Zeus
 - C. to crown the best athletes
 - D. to sing songs about athletes
3. When were the first Olympic Games held at the foot of Mount Olympus?
 - A. 676 B.C.
 - B. 766 B.C.
 - C. 786 B.C.
 - D. 776 B.C.
4. Which of the following contests was NOT mentioned?
 - A. discus throwing
 - B. boxing
 - C. skating
 - D. running
5. What conclusion can we draw about the ancient Greeks?
 - A. They liked to fight.
 - B. They were very athletic.
 - C. They liked a lot of ceremonies.
 - D. They could not count, so they used "Olympiads" for dates.

II. Reading (2.5 points)

Read the passage and answer the questions.

The most important championship in international football competition for women is the Women's World Cup. Organised by FIFA – the sport's largest governing body – its first tournament was held in 1991, sixty-one years after the first one for men.

Although established not long ago, the Women's World Cup is **growing in popularity**. Its first championship was hosted in China with 12 teams sent to represent their countries. Eight years later, over 650,000 spectators attended the finals, and nearly a billion viewers from 70 countries watched them on TV. And by the fourth tournament in 2003, the number of finalists had increased to 16. As FIFA estimates, the current 40 million girls and women playing football around the world will equal the number of men by 2010.

The FIFA Women's World Cup 2007 was decided to be held in China. Originally, China was to host the 2003 Women's World Cup, but due to the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in that country, **the event** was moved to the United States. Having hosted the 1999 version of the World Cup, it was thought to be the only nation that could organise the tournament in such a short time.



1. What is the passage mainly about?
 - A. The World Cup tournament
 - B. The organisation of FIFA
 - C. The FIFA women's football championship
 - D. The FIFA Women's World Cup 2007
2. What could best replace the phrase **growing in popularity**?
 - A. not liked any more
 - B. liked by more people
 - C. increased in number
 - D. played by adult women
3. How often is the Women's World Cup organised?
 - A. Every eight years.
 - B. Every four years.
 - C. Sixty-one years after the men's.
 - D. Every sixteen years.
4. What does **the event** refer to?
 - A. China
 - B. the outbreak of SARS
 - C. the 2003 Women's World Cup
 - D. the 2007 Women's World Cup
5. What is NOT true about the Women's World Cup?
 - A. The number of girls and women playing football has equalled that of men.
 - B. Almost one billion people watched the 1999 Women's World Cup finals on TV.
 - C. The first Women's World Cup tournament was held in China.
 - D. The 2003 championship finals were hosted by the United States.

III. Pronunciation and Grammar (2.5 points)

a) Listen and put a tick (✓) in the right box, paying attention to the pronunciation of the underlined part of the word.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> pray | <input type="checkbox"/> play |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> bright | <input type="checkbox"/> drive |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> twice | <input type="checkbox"/> wise |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> proud | <input type="checkbox"/> blouse |

b) Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR A "NEW" YOU

Try these two fabulous ideas from our new beauty editor.

Fitter

You'll look good if you decide (do) to do more exercise. Don't spend time (1. talk) _____. Join a gym and make sure you manage (2. go) _____ there regularly.

Fresher

Think of the money you'll save if you give up (3. smoke) _____. Don't just keep on (4. say) _____ you are going to give up, but really (5. do) _____ it. It's easier if you avoid (6. go) _____ to the places where other people smoke.

IV. Writing (2.5 points)

Write about one of the competitions for secondary school students on TV. You may use the following guidelines:

- time and the channel on TV
- length of the show, parts of the show
- number of the competitors
- content of the questions
- the feeling you have for it