

## Year 5

# Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 1

## Vocabulary 2a

Throughout history, men founded most sports. Most of the participants in those sports were men, and most of the people running the sports were men. So it is no surprise that men's sports tend to be more popular than women's sports. But women's sports are catching up.

Men's sports have been a major part of society for generations. People have grown up watching football since the mid-1800s. Women's sports only began to grow rapidly around the 1970s. Before then, women were sometimes barred from playing. Other times they were severely limited. This sexism was simply part of the culture.

For many years, people did not want to see women athletes. In the past, sports were seen as an activity for men. Women were not supposed to be aggressive or athletic. Some people also claimed sports could be harmful to women. They worried that sports could hurt women's bodies, which they believed were more fragile than men's bodies.

Some women began to challenge these sexist beliefs by the late 1890s, and women's sports slowly grew over the next several years. The beginning of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 was a milestone for all sports. But the Olympics have been particularly important for women's sports. Men have always had many opportunities to play sports at a high level. For women, the Olympic Games have been the one constant world-class competition.

Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics, some of which still continue. The first obstacle to overcome was participation. A Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin, the Baron de Coubertin, founded the modern Olympics. He wanted to maintain many of the traditions from the ancient Greek Olympics. One of those traditions was that participation was limited to men.

The IOC barred women from the first Olympic Games, in 1896, but relaxed its ban after that. In the 1900 Games, women competed in tennis and golf. More women's sports were added to the Games that followed. However, the women's programme was always much smaller than the men's programme, and women were generally limited to sports that were thought to be less physically demanding.

## Questions

1 'Throughout history, men **founded** most sports.'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**founded**'?

Tick **one**.

played

established

liked

won

2 Look at the second paragraph.

**Find and copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'banned'.

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3 Look at the third paragraph.

**Find and copy a phrase (group of words)** that suggests sports could hurt women.

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4 Look at paragraph 4. For women's sports, the modern Olympics were...

Tick **two**.

difficult

dangerous

significant

crucial

5 Underline **a phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that shows Pierre de Fredey did not want women to compete in the Olympics.

*'A Frenchman, Pierre de Fredey, the Baron de Coubertin, founded the modern Olympics. He wanted to maintain many of the traditions from the ancient Greek Olympics. One of those traditions was that participation was limited to men.'*

- 6 Look at paragraph 5 which starts with ‘Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics...’

**Find** and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to ‘barrier’.

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- 7 ‘Some women began to challenge these sexist beliefs by the late 1890s, and women’s sports slowly grew over the next several years. The beginning of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 was a **milestone** for all sports.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘**milestone**’?

Tick **one**.

turning point

rock

difficulty

unimportant

- 8 Look at the last paragraph at how the word ‘demanding’ is used:

*‘However, the women’s programme was always much smaller than the men’s programme, and women were generally limited to sports that were thought to be less physically **demanding**.’*

a) What does the word ‘**demanding**’ mean when it is used in the last paragraph?

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b) What is another meaning of the word ‘**demanding**’?

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# Answers

1 'Throughout history, men **founded** most sports.'

Which of the following is closest in meaning to '**founded**'?

Tick **one**.

played

established

liked

won

2 Look at the second paragraph.

**Find** and **copy one word** that is closest in meaning to 'banned'.

**Barred.**

3 Look at the third paragraph.

**Find** and **copy a phrase (group of words)** that suggests sports could hurt women.

**(Claimed) sports could be harmful (to women).**

4 Look at paragraph 4. For women's sports, the modern Olympics were...

Tick **two**.

difficult

dangerous

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5 Underline **a phrase (a group of words)** in the quotation below that shows Pierre de Fredey did not want women to compete in the Olympics.

*'A Frenchman, Pierre de Fredey, the Baron de Coubertin, founded the modern Olympics. He wanted to maintain many of the traditions from the ancient Greek Olympics. One of those traditions was that participation was limited to men.'*

- 6 Look at paragraph 5 which starts with ‘Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics...’

Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to ‘barrier’.

**Obstacle.**

- 7 ‘Some women began to challenge these sexist beliefs by the late 1890s, and women’s sports slowly grew over the next several years. The beginning of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 was a **milestone** for all sports.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘**milestone**’?

Tick **one**.



turning point



rock



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- 8 Look at the last paragraph at how the word ‘demanding’ is used:

‘However, the women’s programme was always much smaller than the men’s programme, and women were generally limited to sports that were thought to be less physically **demanding**.’

- a) What does the word ‘**demanding**’ mean when it is used in the last paragraph?

**Difficult/tough/hard/challenging (or any other synonym).**

**Used as an adjective meaning tough.**

- b) What is another meaning of the word ‘**demanding**’?

**When someone commands/urges/insists/asks forcefully/demands that something is done.**

**When it is used as a verb. He was demanding that the class be quiet (or any other example using the word in context (demanding that someone does something)).**