

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

created

liked

2 Look at the extract below:

'Women's sports only began to grow rapidly around the 1970s. Before then, women were sometimes barred from playing.'

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

3 Look at the extract from the third paragraph.

'Women were not supposed to be aggressive or athletic. Some people also claimed sports could be harmful to women.'

Find and **copy one word** that suggests that suggests sports could hurt women.

4 Look at the extract:

'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.'

By the late 1890s, women's sports...

Tick **one**.

were fun

were dangerous

increased

- 5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that shows Pierre de Fredey wanted to keep the Olympics the same as the ancient Greek 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.'

- 6 Look at the extract below:

'Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics, some of which still continue. The first obstacle to overcome was participation.'

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

- 7 *'Some women began to challenge these sexist beliefs by the late 1890s, and women's sports slowly grew over the next **several** years.'*

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

Tick **one**.

few

seven

tough

Answers

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

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

Tick **one**.

played

created

liked

2 Look at the extract below:

'Women's sports only began to grow rapidly around the 1970s. Before then, women were sometimes barred from playing.'

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

Barred.

3 Look at the extract from the third paragraph.

'Women were not supposed to be aggressive or athletic. Some people also claimed sports could be harmful to women.'

Find and **copy one word** that suggests sports could hurt women.

Harmful.

4 Look at the extract:

'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.'

By the late 1890s, women's sports...

Tick **one**.

were fun

were dangerous

increased

- 5 Underline **one word** in the quotation below that shows Pierre de Fredy wanted to keep the Olympics the same as the ancient Greek Olympics.

'A Frenchman, Pierre de Fredy, the Baron de Coubertin, founded the modern Olympics. He wanted to maintain many of the traditions from the ancient Greek Olympics.'

- 6 Look at the extract below:

'Yet women have also faced many challenges within the Olympics, some of which still continue. The first obstacle to overcome was participation.'

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.'*

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

Tick **one**.



few



seven



tough