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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/01/14

## Winter Olympics Sochi 2014

Today, let's talk about the Winter Olympic games that are being held in Sochi in February 2014. It will be the first time the Russian Federation will have hosted a winter games. Sochi, population 400,000 is situated in Krasnodar, which is in the third largest region in Russia.

Snow is already covering the mountains. There's lots of it down by the ski jump. February is the best time for snow in the resort. Metrologists have warned that rather than a lack of snow, avalanches and poor visibility are potential problems for the games that begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and end on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The winter games hit the headlines long before they even started and for all the wrong reasons. Certainly there has been a lot of controversy about them. Cost being one issue, redevelopment of buildings built on swamp land another.

There have been daily ominous security threats. Black-Widow suicide bombers could already be inside the "Ring of Steel" security perimeter. Several participating countries, including Britain and the USA, have received emails regarding security threats; raising further concerns about safety.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin has brought in a law against gay propaganda but will allow gay athletes to compete in Sochi. He also softened Russia's stance on political prisoners by releasing several before Christmas including members of the punk rock band Pussy Riot.

Winter sports at the games include Alpine skiing, the biathlon, the bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating. Meanwhile keep an eye on the Jamaican bobsleigh team!

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three Olympic winter sports. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Where is Sochi?
- 2) What are the dates of the winter Olympics?
- 3) Name three winter sports at Sochi.
- 4) What does "Ring of Steel" mean?
- 5) Who is Vladimir Putin?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is bobsleighbing?
- 2) What is cross country skiing?
- 3) What is Pussy Riot?
- 4) What is the population of Sochi?
- 5) Explain one controversy.

**Category: Sport / Olympic Games / Sochi 2014**  
**Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Winter Olympics Sochi 2014 - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Winter Olympics**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of ten Winter Olympic sports. Write them below. Talk about them.

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| 1) _____ | (6) _____  |
| 2) _____ | (7) _____  |
| 3) _____ | (8) _____  |
| 4) _____ | (9) _____  |
| 5) _____ | (10) _____ |

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs,* each chooses two winter sports. Explain to your partner about what each sport is, i.e. the rules, what to do etc... *5 mins.*

**The teacher** will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Which is your favourite winter Olympic sport? Why?
- 3) Which winter Olympic sports can you do?
- 4) Will you be going to Sochi?
- 5) Will you be watching the winter Olympics on TV?
- 6) Will your country be taking part in this year's winter Olympics?
- 7) Has Russia overspent on the event?
- 8) Is building the Olympic resort on marshland a good idea?
- 9) Why has there been so much controversy about Sochi?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *BBC Sochi* TV studio. Today's interview is: *Winter Olympics Sochi 2014. 10 mins.*

- 1) Vladimir Putin.
- 2) Someone from Sochi.
- 3) An athlete/a journalist
- 4) A tourist/a sports fan.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* One of you is in Sochi, Russia. The other is in your own country. (Imagine!) Start a telephone conversation about the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

<p><i>The Winter Olympics Sochi 2014</i> <i>A success or a waste of money?</i> <i>Give some examples!</i></p>
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**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What has Pussy Riot got to do with Sochi?
- 3) Why has there been a lot of fuss about Russia's 'anti-gay' law?
- 4) If you were a gay athlete would you go to Sochi? Explain.
- 5) Will the Jamaican bobsleigh team win?
- 6) Which nation will win the most medals?
- 7) Why is Sochi important for advertisers?
- 8) What other Olympic events will be held at Sochi in the future?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## Winter Olympics Sochi 2014 - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### GAP FILL: READING

#### Winter Olympics Sochi 2014

Today, let's talk about the Winter Olympic games that are being held in Sochi in February 2014. It will be the first time the Russian Federation will have hosted a winter games. Sochi, (1)\_\_\_ 400,000 is situated in Krasnodar, which is in the third largest region in Russia.

Snow is already covering the mountains. There's lots of it down by the ski jump. February is the best time for snow in the (2)\_\_. Metrologists have warned that rather than a (3)\_\_\_ snow, avalanches and poor (4)\_\_\_ are potential problems for the games that begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and end on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The winter games hit the headlines long before they even started and for all the wrong reasons. (5)\_\_\_ there has been a lot of (6)\_\_\_ about them. Cost being one issue, (7)\_\_\_ of buildings built on (8)\_\_\_ land another.

**controversy / lack of / visibility / population / swamp / certainly / redevelopment / resort**

There have been daily ominous security threats. Black-Widow (1)\_\_\_ could already be inside the "Ring of Steel" security (2)\_\_. Several participating countries, including Britain and the USA, have received emails regarding security threats; raising further concerns about (3)\_\_. The Russian President Vladimir Putin has brought in a law against gay (4)\_\_\_ but will allow gay athletes to (5)\_\_\_ in Sochi. He also softened Russia's (6)\_\_\_ on political prisoners by releasing several before Christmas including members of the (7)\_\_\_ band Pussy Riot. Winter sports at the games include Alpine skiing, the biathlon, the bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating. Meanwhile keep an eye on the Jamaican (8)\_\_\_ team!

**bobsleigh / punk rock / safety / perimeter / suicide bombers / stance / compete / propaganda**

### GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

#### Winter Olympics Sochi 2014

Today, let's talk about the Winter Olympic games that are being held in Sochi in February 2014. It will be the first time the Russian Federation will have hosted a winter games. Sochi, population 400,000 is situated in Krasnodar, (1)\_\_\_ is in the third largest region in Russia.

Snow is already covering the mountains. (2)\_\_\_'s lots of it down by the ski jump. February is the best time for snow in the resort. Metrologists have warned (3)\_\_\_ (4)\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_ a lack of snow, avalanches and poor visibility are potential problems for the games that begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and end on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The winter games hit the headlines long before they (6)\_\_\_ started and for all the wrong reasons. Certainly there has been a lot of controversy about (7)\_\_. Cost being one issue, redevelopment of buildings built on swamp land (8)\_\_\_.

**even / them / than / that / which / there / another / rather**

There have been daily ominous security threats. Black-Widow suicide bombers could already be inside the "Ring of Steel" security perimeter. Several participating countries, including Britain and the USA, have received emails regarding security threats; raising further concerns about safety.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin has brought in a law against gay propaganda (1)\_\_\_ will allow gay athletes to compete (2)\_\_\_ Sochi. (3)\_\_\_ also softened Russia's stance on political prisoners by releasing several before Christmas including members (4)\_\_\_ the punk rock band Pussy Riot.

Winter sports at the games include Alpine skiing, (5)\_\_\_ biathlon, the bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding, (6)\_\_\_ speed skating. Meanwhile keep (7)\_\_\_ eye (8)\_\_\_ the Jamaican bobsleigh team!

**in / on / an / of / he / and / but / the /**

## Winter Olympics Sochi 2014 - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### Winter Olympics Sochi 2014

Today, let's talk about the Winter Olympic games \_\_\_\_\_ in Sochi in February 2014. It will be the first time the Russian Federation will have hosted a winter games. Sochi, population 400,000 is situated in Krasnodar, which is in the third largest region in Russia.

Snow is already \_\_\_\_\_. There's lots of it down by the ski jump. February is the best time for snow in the resort. Metrologists have warned that rather than a lack of snow, avalanches and poor visibility are \_\_\_\_\_ for the games that begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and end on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The winter games \_\_\_\_\_ long before they even started and for all the wrong reasons. Certainly there has been a lot of controversy about them. Cost being one issue, redevelopment of buildings built on \_\_\_\_\_.

There have been daily \_\_\_\_\_. Black-Widow suicide bombers could already be inside the "Ring of Steel" security perimeter. Several participating countries including Britain and the USA, have received emails regarding \_\_\_\_\_; raising further concerns about safety.

The Russian President Vladimir Putin has brought in a law against \_\_\_\_\_ will allow gay athletes to compete in Sochi. He also softened Russia's stance on political prisoners by releasing several before Christmas including members of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Winter sports at the games include Alpine skiing, the biathlon, the bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, short track speed skating, ski jumping, snowboarding, and speed skating. Meanwhile keep an eye on the \_\_\_\_\_ team!

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs, as a class* - write down 20 things you know about Sochi. Talk about them! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Sochi 2014 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The winter games \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) My favourite winter sport \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Winter Olympics Sochi 2014**. Your email can be read out in class.

#### GAP FILL READING

- 1) population
- 2) resort
- 3) lack of
- 4) visibility
- 5) certainly
- 6) controversy
- 7) redevelopment
- 8) swamp

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) population
- 2) already
- 3) February
- 4) rather
- 5) lack of
- 6) avalanches
- 7) visibility
- 8) controversy
- 9) redevelopment
- 10) headlines

#### ANSWERS

- 1) suicide
- 2) perimeter
- 3) safety
- 4) propaganda
- 5) compete
- 6) stance
- 7) punk rock
- 8) bobsleigh

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) swamp land
- 12) ominous
- 13) security
- 14) suicide
- 15) could
- 16) perimeter
- 17) participating
- 18) further
- 19) stance
- 20) Jamaican

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