



Tokyo Olympics Postponed - Holiday Assignment 5

ESL HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT FOR FBI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (Listening Comprehension, Vocabulary & Reading Skills)

1. Warm up



- Do you enjoy watching the Olympics?
- Did your country win any **medals** in the 2016 Olympics in Rio?
- The Tokyo Olympics have been in the news recently. Do you know why?

2. Watch for main idea

You are going to watch a "By the Numbers" report on the Tokyo Olympics from ABC News. Before you watch, predict what these numbers from the report (1-6) mean by completing the matching exercise. One option (A-G) is extra. Then watch the report to check your ideas and find out more details.

(Click the link to watch the video - <https://youtu.be/fP05z9volqM>)

1. 2021
2. 11,000
3. 200
4. 2
5. 1944 & 1940
6. 12,000,000,000

- a. the cost of organising the Tokyo Olympics
- b. the number of countries who plan to attend
- c. the number of people who watch the Olympics on TV
- d. when the Tokyo Olympic games will take place
- e. the number of countries who first said they would not attend
- f. years when the Olympics did not happen
- g. the number of athletes who plan to attend

Can you remember any more information about these numbers from the report?



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3. Vocabulary

Explain the relationship between these pairs of key words from the report.

1. scheduling and cancelling an event
2. delaying and postponing an event
3. athletes and competition

(Make sure that you can pronounce these words – stressed syllables are underlined.)

4. Watch for detail

You are going to watch the report again. Before you watch, look through the sentences below and choose the best option for each underlined gap. Then watch again to check your answers.

The 2020 Summer Olympics now the latest major sports 1) cancelled / cancelling / cancellation caused by the global Covid 19 pandemic.

So let's take a look by the numbers: the summer of 2021, that's when the 2020 Summer Olympics will now be held in Tokyo after Japanese officials in the International Olympic Committee announced today the games would be 2) postponed / postponing / postponement.

Some 11,000 3) athletics / athletes / athleticism from more than 200 countries were expected to 4) compete / competition / competed in the Summer Games but the global pandemic halted training and would likely make travel in the coming months virtually impossible, and after two nations, Canada and Australia, announced that they would not send their athletes to Tokyo if the games went on, followed by the US swimming and track and field teams camp calling for postponement, **the writing ... (on)... was on the wall** for a 5) delayer / delay / delaying.

The Olympics have not been postponed in recent years but they were last cancelled in 1944 as well as 1940 due to World War Two with the 1940 Games originally 6) scheduling / rescheduled / scheduled for Tokyo as well.

Japan has reportedly spent more than 12 billion dollars to organise this year's Olympics meaning postponing it will likely be **a costly move** but hopefully the games will indeed go on next summer **without a hitch**.

Glossary:

- pandemic = when a disease has spread across a very large area
- halted = stopped



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5. Language in context

Choose the best meaning for these expressions in bold from the news report, using the context to help you.

1. the writing ... was on the wall

- a. there was a problem with graffiti in Tokyo
- b. lots of athletes signed a letter to the Olympic Committee
- c. there were clear signs that the Olympics would not happen

2. a costly move

- a. a change of location
- b. an expensive decision
- c. a difficult plan

3. without a hitch

- a. without any difficulties
- b. without extra costs
- c. without anyone getting sick

6. Discuss

What different effects does the decision to postpone the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have on these groups of people?

- athletes
- games organisers
- the people of Tokyo
- sports fans

Think of both positive and negative effects for each group.

7. Extension/ Application

Imagine that you are one of the people in the list above. Write a Tweet explaining how you feel about the postponement of the games. You can write 144 characters or ~ 30 words. Use vocabulary from the lesson.