





Topic: Winter Olympics (Competition)

Keyword – Competition means a test of skill or ability. People compete in the Olympics, ice-skating, Mah Jong, cooking, a writing contest, soccer, and so on. They may compete for a job position, entrance into college, high test scores at school or an engineering contract. If you are “in competition”, you are a “competitor”.

Icebreaker / Mixer

Interview 3 people about competition. Ask them to explain their answers.

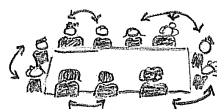
“Do you compete”

Name	in games? 	with family? 	at work? 	at school? 

Group Talk - Share something you learned in the interviews.

Group Check-in - If you wish, share something about what’s been happening in your life. Share results from the ‘Keep Talking’ activity and Presentations.

Discuss in pairs or in groups of three:



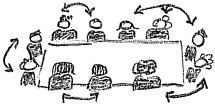
Do you like to compete? Why or why not?

Tell about a serious competition (for a job? in war?) you experienced.

Tell about a fun competition (a game? a contest?) you experienced.

Story: Meri and Molly have a school break. They are home and looking for things to do. First, they play badminton. Meri is good, but Molly is better. Molly wins several games. Meri throws her racket on the ground and says, “I’m no good at this! I don’t want to play anymore.” Then, their mom suggests that they play a card game. Molly is good, but Meri is better. Meri wins several games. Meri dances around the table saying, “I’m winning! I’m winning!” Molly sighs and says, “What’s your strategy?” Meri smiles and says nothing. Molly says, “Come on, help me with this card game and I’ll help you play better badminton. Otherwise, we’ll have nothing we can play together!”

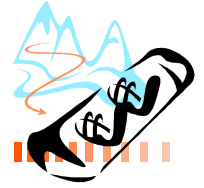
Group Talk - What do you think of this story? What do you think about the competitors’ attitudes towards winning or losing?



In pairs or groups of three, discuss one or more of these questions. Change partners and discuss more.

Win/Lose– When you play a game, do you want everyone to win (even if it’s not possible?)

What is a good loser? What is a good winner? In your home culture: What is a “poor sport?” What is a “good sport?”



Sports - Did you play sports as a child? Talk about your sports interest. If you didn’t play sports, what did you enjoy doing as a child?

Did you or someone you know ever want to be a champion athlete? Explain.

Do Olympic athletes inspire you in sports or in life? Explain.



Olympics - Choose one or more of these questions to talk about:

Do you think it’s good, bad or neutral that

- children train for the Olympics from age 5 or 6? Why do you feel that way?
- there are so many good athletes but so few winners? Explain
- some athletes use drugs to make themselves stronger? Explain.

Do you think

- the judges at the Olympics are fair? Why or why not?
- there are too many sports in the Olympics? Why or why not?



Role Play: Make a role play for **one** scenario – then do it again for a different culture, to show the differences between them. Practice in pairs or groups and then present the role play to the group.

<p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> Children are competing in a contest.</p>	<p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> Two athletes compete in the Olympics. One wins gold, the other wins nothing.</p>	<p><i>Make your own scenario:</i></p>
---	---	---------------------------------------

(For Beginning speakers: Practice a conversation script.)



Presentation - One or two students can prepare a 2-3 minute talk and present it in one or two weeks.

Keep Talking - Ask a coworker, friend or store clerk in English or your native language: “Are you watching the Olympics?” Write down the answers and share them at Talk Time.

Internet: Preparing for the Olympics: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIIdCpgtfRK4>

Vocabulary: (Write down new words in this space)