

The Comparative & Superlative Olympics

Level: Elementary

Objective: To practice and use comparatives and superlatives in an interactive and engaging way.
To revise country and sport vocabulary

Procedure: Ask students about the Olympics. In groups or as a class discuss if they watch them or not, their favorite sports to watch, if their country won any medals in the last Olympics, where the Olympics were last held, etc.

Put students into groups of 3 and assign each group a country. For review you can ask each group what their nationality is and what language they speak.

Tell the students that today they will be having their very own Olympics in the classroom. You can do whatever activities you want. I usually do arm wrestling, a race from one end of the class to the other, a paper airplane toss, a long jump, and a who can hold their breath the longest contest. You could also incorporate more language themed games like a spelling bee, a board race where you call out an irregular verb and the teams have to write all 3 forms, a who can say the alphabet the fastest contest, or whatever else you can think of.

I assign numbers to the countries the students chose and then, for any given activity, I have one student roll a die. The chosen countries can then choose which member of their group will participate in the competition. I usually give candy or a fake medal to the winning country in each contest.

After 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are decided for any given contest, the students need to call out sentences about the contest. For example, "Greece's athlete is stronger than China's." or "Japan's athlete is the strongest arm wrestler in the world." Sometimes I just use the student's names, so "Mehmet is stronger than Deniz, but weaker than Tolga." You should also have them ask each other questions as well. You can continue this with as many activities as you have time for. The students really enjoy it and the fact that they are actively doing things help them remember the grammar.

The last 5-10 minutes of class the groups should talk amongst themselves to recap the Olympics. Monitor for accuracy and put any common mistakes on the board to correct as a class later. Also, make sure the students are asking each other questions and not just saying the sentences.

Follow-up: The next day you can come in and have them write a report on what happened at the Olympics. This is a good way to get them to practice it in the past tense as well.

Medals

