

SPORT: LISTENING

Technology at the Winter Olympics

The 2014 Winter Olympics is taking place in Sochi, Russia. It's the most expensive Olympic Games ever. For world-class athletes it's a chance to perform to the best of their ability and win that gold medal for their country. And many of them are choosing new technology to help them improve their speed. Rob and Finn discuss the role of new technology at the Sochi Olympics and explain some sports-related vocabulary.

Before you listen, make sure that you know the vocabulary.

Vocabulary and definitions

go for gold	to try to get the best result possible
athletes	people who are good at sport and particularly take part in sporting competitions
give (someone) a helping hand	help someone
modelling	designing and planning (here, using a computer programme)
personal best	the best result you have ever achieved
an advantage	something that makes one person more likely to succeed than another
durability	staying in good condition for a long time despite constant use
slalom	a race, in which people move around a series of poles, turning first one way and then the other (usually skiing)
snow-plough	(here) a type of turn or move done when skiing
freestyle	using any type of move you want to
moguls	piles of snow you jump over when skiing
artificial	made by people and used instead of something natural (for example: fake snow)
hurtle	move very quickly without much control

The main question: Listen to the programme to find out the answer.

One winter sport event in this Olympics is the biathlon. It involves competitors doing two things but what are they? Are they:

- a) Cross-country skiing and rifle shooting
- b) Downhill skiing and rifle shooting
- c) Cross-country skiing and swimming

Listen to the programme and decide whether the statements below are True or False. If False, try to make the statement sound correct.

1. The 22nd Winter Games are to take place but these ones are the most expensive ever – they are reported to have cost around £32 billion. – **T / F**
2. It was quite a surprise when the Games were awarded to Sochi back in 2008 because the city is better known for palm trees than for ski slopes. – **T / F**
3. Finn is a fan of the Winter Olympics. – **T / F**
4. Behind the scenes, computer modelling helps to design the best snow-resistant bobsleighs. – **T / F**
5. In speed skating where there's less than a second between gold and silver medal, clothing can make a big difference. – **T / F**
6. Materials used in the design of sportswear can give competitors an advantage. – **T / F**
7. Broad and light skis are used for cross-country skiing. – **T / F**
8. Ski design is constantly evolving which makes ski events some of the most varied and exciting of the Winter Games. – **T / F**
9. Sochi is known for its subtropical climate, that's why using natural snow is a little bit unreliable. So, loads of man-made snow is being made. – **T / F**
10. They say that the snowmaking system in Sochi could empty an Olympic-sized swimming pool in less than two hours. – **T / F**
11. Male biathlon athletes typically produce 4 litres of perspiration in the 20km race. – **T / F**