



International Events

Task: The Olympics Games

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **the Olympic Games**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

The Olympic Games are responsible for bringing different countries, nationalities and cultures together with the common interest of competing with one another in an international sporting event. It entails both the Summer and Winter Olympics, which alternate every two years. Therefore, each set is held once every four years. **Don't you think it might be a remarkable experience to witness the event first handed?** On the flipside, have you ever contemplated what the economic impact is for a country holding the Olympics?

First of all, economists are quite hesitant that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. They have come to claim that these sort of mega-events have massive costs and **basically** the benefits don't neither counterbalance nor surpass the amount spent to hold such an event in the long run. **Apart from that**, there is a threat that the Olympics is facing due to these high costs. It is **completely** apprehensible why each time there are less and less cities that want to take on the Olympics. Some **certainly** can't afford it, even though they would love to be able to host such an event. For instance, we are able to see that unlike Paris, who is set to hold the Summer Olympics in 2024, and Los Angeles in 2028, most countries can not **make this move**, because they do not have existing and temporary facilities planned and in place that could help cut the cost as Paris and Los Angeles does. Another notable disadvantage that the Olympics causes is how it has **totally** displaced over two million people over the period of two decades. The worst thing about this is that it has been seen that it was affecting more groups that were disadvantaged. Then we also mustn't **turn a blind eye to** the fact that some countries may very well never recuperate their investment in hosting the Olympics. This very example can be seen in Sochi, Russia, where it cost \$50 billion U.S, in 2014. This did not prove to help boost their national economy, which was the outcome that was desired.

Undoubtedly, **dare should I say** that there are certainly some benefits too when it comes to the economic impact for that of a country. It goes without saying that there is an increase in the country's exports for hosting and bidding countries that desire to hold the Olympics in their country. **It stands to reason that** a country that wishes to hold the Olympics is also showing interest in trading with other countries. As it happens, there is also a strong positive effect from philanthropic contributions from corporations in the Summer Olympics in the host country. It is **noteworthy** to mention that this is **absolutely** benefiting the local nonprofit sector. Therefore, it starts to benefit the years prior and even the years after, although it will eventually stop benefiting from this. **It can not be denied that** by **having held** the Olympics,



these countries are also creating opportunities for themselves. As can be noted, the hosting cities influence local corporations to benefit the local nonprofit sector, along with civil society. Finally, we mustn't overlook that there is a sharp increase in improved services, which seemingly appears to attract more business and tourism in what is the future aftermath of the Olympics

So to make a long story short, I may be wrong but the time should be taken to create a beneficial economic plan for the Olympics. In this way, all countries that are wanting to participate could benefit from it, and not be limited only to those that can afford it.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the downsides and upsides of the economical impact the Olympic Games have.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the downsides and upsides of the economical impact the Olympic Games have. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● should create a beneficial economic plan for the Olympics that could benefit all countries wanting to participate, not only those that can afford it
Downsides of the economical impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Economists are hesitant: mega-events have massive cost and few benefits in the long run● Threat facing the Olympics; due to the high cost, less cities want to take on them.● Unlike Paris (2024) and Los Angeles (2028) Summer Olympics, most countries do not have existing and temporary facilities planned and placed.● the Olympics have displaced over two million people over two decades; affecting more groups that were disadvantaged● some countries may never recuperate their investment to host the Olympics; Sochi, Russia costing \$50 billion U.S. in 2014; not boost their national economy
Upsides of economical impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● increase in country's exports for hosting or bidding countries; country shows interest in trade with others

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• philanthropic contributions from corporations in the Summer Olympics in the host country have a strong positive effect, benefiting the local nonprofit sector. Starts to benefit the years prior and even the years after, but will eventually stop benefiting from it.• Create opportunities: cities influence local corporations to benefit local nonprofit sector and civil society• improved services can attract more business and tourism in the future
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Marks: +_ / +10



Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off