

1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.



# The Boston Marathon

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

**Listening Questions 1**

1. How old is the Boston Marathon?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What makes it special?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How many runners participated in the 2018 race?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. How much money did the top 3 finishers win in the 2018 race?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. In what year were women first allowed to enter the Boston Marathon?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

**Listening Questions 2**

1. What happened in the 1980 edition of the marathon?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How many people were injured as a result of the 2013 bombings?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What happened to runners who couldn't finish the 2013 race?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. In total (both male and female) how many Japanese runners have won the Boston Marathon?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. When did a Japanese male runner first win the race?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

**Discussion Questions**

1. What benefits do prestigious marathons provide in terms of the economy and society?
2. Do you think famous sporting events are at risk from outside attack?

#### 4. CHECK ANSWERS

□

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

#### 5. CHECK VOCABULARY

□

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

#### 6. READ ALOUD

□

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

#### 7. SHADOWING

□

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

#### TRANSCRIPT 1

One of the most famous and **prestigious** marathons in the world is the Boston Marathon, which is held every year in April. The first time the Boston Marathon was held was in 1897 and according to the Boston Athletic Association it is the world's oldest **annual** marathon.

In its very first year just 18 people entered the race, but the numbers have grown **dramatically** over the course of its long history and in 2018 there were just over 30,000 entrants.

The first time money was awarded was in 1986. Men and women receive the same amount and in 2018 the top prize in the 'Open' division was \$150,000. Second and third place finishers received \$75,000 and \$40,000 respectively.

The first Boston Marathon where women were officially allowed to enter was the 1972 race. That year 9 women entered, 8 started, and 8 completed the course. Prior to 1972, some women did actually run the race and the first to finish the whole course was Roberta Gibb in 1966. Gibb also ran in 1967 and 1968.

Annual	Dramatically	Disqualify	Prestigious	Unusual
<b>Fill-in the blanks with the appropriate word above:</b>				
1. The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the most _____ awards in the world.				
2. There has been a lot of _____ weather due to fluctuations in temperature.				
3. He was _____ from driving due to having too many infractions.				
4. The company introduced the _____ event to celebrate their employees' achievements.				
5. Sales of the company's new beverage have increased _____ in the last few years.				

#### TRANSCRIPT 2

In 1980 an **unusual** event took place. The first person to cross the line in the women's category didn't actually run the entire distance. In fact, it was eventually discovered that she had only run the last mile or so. The woman was **disqualified** and Jacqueline Gareau from Canada was awarded the victory.

The 2013 edition of the Boston Marathon was severely impacted by two explosions that happened close to the finish line, killing 3 people and injuring several hundred. The Boston Athletic Association explains that more than 5,000 runners were given projected finishing times as they were not able to complete the course due to the incident.

When it comes to the winners of the famous race, runners from Kenya have enjoyed a considerable amount of success. Take for example 1991-2000, when Kenyans won 10 races in a row. As for Japan, Japanese men have won a total of 9 times, the first time in 1951 and the most recent in 2018. As of the 2018 race, no Japanese woman has ever won the Boston Marathon.