

Task 1 – Long Reading: Fanny Blankers-Koen

At a glance

Level: ISE Foundation

Focus: Task 1 – Long reading

Aims: To develop reading strategies by reading a short article about Fanny Blankers-Koen and answer three sets of questions

Objectives: To scan the article for gist by answering the question 'What is special about Fanny Blankers-Koen?', to skim the article and answer True/False questions and to skim the article to complete sentences with information from the text

Skill: Skimming and scanning

Topic: Sports

Language functions: Giving personal information about past circumstances and asking for information

Lexis: Sport and Olympic games

Materials needed: Whiteboard, pens, blank paper, one student worksheet per student, dictionaries

Timing: Approximately one hour

Procedure

Preparation

Print one worksheet per student.

In class

1. Explain to the class that they will be doing a reading activity and that this will help them to prepare for Task 1 – Long reading of the ISE Foundation Reading & Writing exam.
2. Tell the class they are going to learn about a very special Olympic athlete. Put the students in groups of four. Give each group a blank piece of paper. Tell them that they have to choose one person who is going to write and that they have one minute to write down as many Olympic sports as possible. Tell them to wait until you say 'Start'.

3. After one minute, tell the students to put their pens down and count the sports they have. Go over the answers and put the different sports on the board. The group with the most sports is the winner.

4. Put the following words on the board:

Holland, nickname, housewife, autograph, gold medal, training ground, bicycle

Tell the students that these words are in a text about an Olympic athlete they are going to read. Tell the students to discuss the meaning of each word in pairs. Let them look up any unknown words in a dictionary, if possible.

5. Go over the answers. Ask concept-check questions for one or two more challenging words. Examples of concept-check questions:

Is a nickname someone's real name or not?

Does a housewife stay at home or go to work every day?

6. Tell the students they are going to read about an athlete called Fanny Blankers-Koen. Write her name on the board. Give each student a copy of the worksheet and tell them they have two minutes to read the article. Tell the students they need to answer the question '*What is special about her?*' (see A). Stop the students after two minutes and let them write down a few key ideas. Then let the students compare answers in pairs.

7. Go over the answer together as a class.

Answer Key:

She is quite old for an athlete (30) and she is a mother of two young children.

8. Tell the students they are going to read the article again but now they have more time. Tell them that there are five statements and that they need to say whether each statement is True or False (see B). Tell them they need to write the line number where the answer can be found. Check the students' understanding of True and False. Give the students the five statements.

9. After four to five minutes, ask the students to compare their answers in pairs. Let five students come to the board and ask them to each write down one answer with the line number.

Answer Key:

1. False (line 5)

2. True (line 8-9)

3. False (line 13)

4. *False (line 17)*

5. *True (line 19)*

10. Go over the answers together as a class.

11. Tell the class to complete the sentences at the bottom of the page (see C) by looking for the information in the text. Ask the students to compare answers once they have finished.

Answer Key:

1. *The Flying Housewife*

2. *autograph*

3. *1943, 1946*

4. *orange*

5. *relay*

6. *bicycle*

Go over the answers and put them up on the board.

12. Write the following six questions on the board:

1. *When were you born?*

2. *Where were your first Olympic games?*

3. *When did you get married?*

4. *How many children do you have and what are their names?*

5. *How many medals did you win in London?*

6. *What gift did you get from the people of Amsterdam?*

Ask the students to work in pairs. One student is a journalist and the other student is Fanny Blankers-Koen. The journalist asks the six questions and the athlete answers with information from the text. Model an example of what you want the students to do in open-class.

Extension activity

Let the stronger students look up other new words from the reading in a dictionary. Then ask the students to write sentences using them.

Further support activity

Ask the weaker students to complete just three of the questions from set B and C.

After class

Ask the students to look online or in a book for five facts about Wilma Rudolph, another Olympic athlete. Ask the students to report back in the next class.

Student Worksheet

Task 1 – Long Reading:
Fanny Blankers-Koen

Fanny Blankers-Koen won four gold medals at the 1948 Olympic Games in London. She was already 30 and a mother of two. She became very popular and Fanny Blankers-Koen's nickname was 'The Flying Housewife'.

She was born in 1918 in Holland. At the age of 16 she joined an athletics club in Amsterdam. Blankers-Koen's first Olympic Games were the 1936 Games in Berlin. She didn't win any medals but she met her hero Jesse Owens. She even asked the gold medal winner for his autograph. In 1940 she married her coach, Jan Blankers. In 1943, she gave birth to her son Jantje and in 1946 to her daughter Fanneke. She trained twice a week. Together with her two young children she would travel to the training ground by bicycle.

Not everybody thought it was a good idea for her to travel to London in 1948 but she went anyway. She was sure that she was not too old to run. She would show the world. The weather was rainy and windy for her first event the 100m. In white and orange, the colours of the national team, she won with ease.

She missed her children though and wanted to go home. After a good night's sleep Fanny Blankers-Koen changed her mind. The next day she won the 80m hurdles race. She was not too old after all. Then she won the Olympics 200m final. The next morning she went shopping and almost missed the final relay race. She helped her team win the gold medal.

Two days later she went home to the capital city Amsterdam with the four gold medals. The people of Amsterdam were so proud of the strong woman that they gave her a new bicycle.

A. Read the text quickly. What is special about Fanny Blankers-Koen?

B. Read the text again. Are the statements True or False?

Statements	True or False?	Line number
1. She won a medal in her first Olympic games.		
2. She went to the race track by bicycle.		
3. The first race in London was difficult for her.		
4. Her 3 rd gold medal was for the relay race.		
5. She received a gift from the people of Amsterdam.		

C. Complete the sentences with information from the text.

1. Fanny Blankers-Koen had as nickname.....
2. She asked Olympic medal winner Jesse Owens for an
3. She gave birth to her two children in and
4. The colours of the national team are white and
5. The last race was the race.
6. She received a as a gift upon return.

Answer Key:

- A. She is quite old for an athlete (30) and she is a mother of two young children.
- B. 1. False (line 5)
2. True (line 8-9)
3. False (line 13)
4. False (line 17)
5. True (line 19)
- C. 1. *The Flying Housewife*
2. *autograph*
3. *1943, 1946*
4. *orange*
5. *relay*
6. *bicycle*

Original source:

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2012/jan/18/fanny-blankers-koen-olympic-moments>