

2020 Tokyo Paralympics under way

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The 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games began on Tuesday night with the opening ceremony at Japan's National Stadium. The twelve-day sporting celebration includes a total of 539 events in 22 para sports. The International Paralympic Committee

(IPC) said a total of 161 countries and 4,500 para athletes are taking part in the Games. This includes the Refugee Paralympic Team. The opening ceremony took place in an empty stadium. Japan's Emperor Naruhito opened the Games. He said: "I would like to join you in wishing all athletes the very best." The IPC president said: "The Paralympics are not just fantastic to watch, they also have the ability to transform society like no other sports event on this planet."

The Games should have taken place last year but were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The IPC president Andrew Parsons spoke about his happiness at the event finally happening. He said: "I cannot believe we are finally here. Many people doubted this day would happen. Many thought it was impossible. But, thanks to the efforts of many, the most transformative sport event on Earth is about to begin." A 14-year-old Ugandan swimmer, Husnah Kukundakwe, summed up her excitement about being at the Games. She said: "I feel like I'm meeting movie stars." She added: "Since it's the Paralympics and everybody else is disabled, I feel really comfortable."

Sources: the-japan-news.com / asahi.com / kyodonews.com

Writing

The Paralympics are the most transformative event on Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Tokyo / opening ceremony / stadium / celebration / athletes / ability / sports / planet / last year / coronavirus / pandemic / happiness / swimmer / movie stars / disabled

True / False

- 1) The Paralympics opening ceremony was at the Tokyo City stadium. T / F
- 2) There will be over 500 events at the Paralympics. T / F
- 3) The stadium at the opening ceremony was half empty. T / F
- 4) The Paralympics president said the Games could change society. T / F
- 5) The coronavirus pandemic delayed the 2020 Paralympics. T / F
- 6) The Paralympics president could not believe the Games went ahead. T / F
- 7) A teenage swimmer said she felt like a movie star. T / F
- 8) The teenage swimmer said she felt comfortable at the Paralympics. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. began | a. joy |
| 2. celebration | b. occurred |
| 3. taking part | c. delayed |
| 4. took place | d. occasion |
| 5. transform | e. questioned |
| 6. postponed | f. relaxed |
| 7. happiness | g. started |
| 8. doubted | h. elation |
| 9. excitement | i. change |
| 10. comfortable | j. participating |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the Paralympics?
- b) What are your favourite Paralympic sports?
- c) Was it right that the stadium was empty?
- d) Who are your country's best Paralympians?
- e) What do you think being in the Paralympics village is like?
- f) What do you think the training is like to be a Paralympian?
- g) What advice do you have for the Paralympians?
- h) How can the Paralympics transform society?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. The twelve-day sporting | a. in an empty stadium |
| 2. 4,500 para athletes | b. day would happen |
| 3. The opening ceremony took place | c. meeting movie stars |
| 4. I would like to join you in wishing all athletes | d. are taking part |
| 5. the ability to transform society like | e. up her excitement |
| 6. The Games should have | f. of many |
| 7. Many people doubted this | g. no other sports event |
| 8. thanks to the efforts | h. celebration |
| 9. summed | i. the very best |
| 10. I feel like I'm | j. taken place last year |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Tokyo?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Should the Games be happening during a pandemic?
- Should the Paralympics and Olympics be combined?
- Would you like to attend the events in Tokyo?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- In what ways are the Paralympics better than the Olympics?
- What questions would you like to ask the Paralympians?

Spelling

- the opening eremocny
- took place in an empty tdasium
- wishing all thletaes the very best
- atfsantic to watch
- the ability to transform icoesty
- other sports event on this Inapet
- the coronavirus andempic
- people obudted this day would happen
- thanks to the foferts of many
- summed up her etmenteicx
- everybody else is ldsiebda
- I feel really coebfotmlar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. c	7. a	8. e	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Cycling

You think cycling is the best Paralympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as enjoyable. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): wheelchair tennis, 5-a-side football or goalball.

Role B – Wheelchair Tennis

You think wheelchair tennis is the best Paralympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as enjoyable. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): goalball, 5-a-side football or cycling.

Role C – 5-a-side Football

You think 5-a-side football is the best Paralympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as enjoyable. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): wheelchair tennis, goalball or cycling.

Role D – Goalball

You think goalball is the best Paralympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as enjoyable. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): wheelchair tennis, 5-a-side football or cycling.

Speaking – Events

Rank these with your partner. Put the best Paralympics events at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| • Cycling | • Wheelchair rugby |
| • Swimming | • Wheelchair tennis |
| • Goalball | • 5-a-side football |
| • Archery | • Athletics |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.