



TEACHER WORKSHEET

CYCLE 4 • LANGUAGE STUDIES: MODALS



A PASSION FOR SPORTS

OVERVIEW

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- Learn about the characteristics of an Olympic event.
- Understand the concept of modals to adopt a critical stance towards different types of speech based on specific intentions for communication.

SPECIFIC SKILLS:

- **Language studies:**
 - Analyze the properties of linguistic components.
 - Utilize linguistic knowledge to construct meaning within a text in reading and writing, and understand how it relates to different types of speech.
- **Reading:**
Read and understand a variety of texts on one's own.
- **Writing:**
Communicate a point of view in writing.
Use the written word to think and to learn.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS:

- **PE:**
 - Grasp, utilize, and know how to explain the principles of efficiency in technical moves (specifically in boxing).
 - Acquire the basics of reflection and critical thinking with regard to athletic events.
 - Respect, develop, and enforce rules and regulations.
 - Help classmates and try out different social roles (judge, referee, timekeeper, measurer, organizer, scorekeeper, etc.).

- Show team spirit with one's partners and respect for one's opponent(s) and the referee.
- Observe and co-referee.
- Accept the outcome and know how to objectively analyze the event.

SCHEDULE FOR SESSIONS:

- Introduce information and comprehension questions.
- Make observations.
- Define and utilize tools.
- Do exercises to retrieve information.
- Do writing exercises.

DURATION:

- 3 sessions (3 × 1 hour).

ORGANIZATION:

- Do individual exercises.
- Share with class and review methods.



OLYMPIC GAMES KEYWORDS:

**SELF-RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS •
SURPASSING ONESELF • COMPETITION •
ACHIEVEMENT • FAIRNESS • REFEREE •
SPORTS JOURNALISM**



CONCEPTS ADDRESSED

LANGUAGE COMPONENTS

• Speech acts

When a speaker addresses a listener, he or she wishes to convey information. In Cycle 4, students should understand how speakers may wish to interact with listeners, in order to encourage reflection, and to question or convince them.

• Objective/subjective

- Objective: Based on information, description, and explanation.
- Subjective: Reveals personal opinion and judgment.

• Modals

Modals introduce a degree of subjectivity in a statement, i.e. signal the speaker’s position through commentary (certainty, doubt, obligation, value judgment) that is known as “modality”.

Modals can be explicit (expressed in a clear, precise manner) or implicit (expressed indirectly or implied).

A PASSION FOR SPORTS

Because sports are a passion for so many, and because the Olympic Games highlight achievements and records, the texts that describe such events cannot be neutral. The person who reports on those events highlights the athletes’ hard work and shares his or her enthusiastic point of view.

That enthusiasm can be shouted or sung live. It can also be communicated through word choice (what is called a lexical item), or through sentence construction (a grammatical item), which teachers should help students identify and later use.

BOXING AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Boxing dates back to ancient times and evolved from *pankration*. Modern boxing was developed in the 19th century. Boxers compete within a specific weight class. Men’s boxing has 10 weight classes (including flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight, middleweight, heavyweight), and women’s boxing has three (flyweight, lightweight, and middleweight).

FUN FACT!

The youngest ever Olympic boxing champion was American athlete Jackie Fields, who won the gold medal in featherweight boxing at the age of 16!

FUN FACT!

SPORTS JOURNALISM AS A PROFESSION

Like all journalists, sports journalists must be rigorous, knowledgeable, and passionate about the subject matter.

“Personality really matters, because you have to be interested in the topic; you have to love information, get it, and communicate it; and you have to have a writer’s instinct. That can be hard, because being a sports journalist means you’re a journalist first and foremost. Young people often forget that it’s journalism,” explained Grégory Massart, a young French sports journalist who works for the channel Canal+. It’s a profession in which writers can pursue a passion for sports, and it also involves finding the right words to best convey information and hold the reader’s interest.



STUDENT WORKSHEET OVERVIEW

VOCABULARY:

Chauvinist, chauvinism, fairness, fair play, KO, bias, partial.

ACTIVITIES:

▶ ACTIVITY 1: BOXING JUDGE

Reading comprehension to learn about a sports profession

12–13 yr | 13–14 yr | 14–15 yr

Materials: – Text.

- Olympic oath for athletes.
- Olympic oath for officials.

Skills: Understand texts, documents, and images, and interpret them.

Read on one's own and search for information.

▶ ACTIVITY 2: BOXING CHAMPION

Language exercises to retrieve information

12–13 yr | 13–14 yr | 14–15 yr

Materials: – Texts.

- Excerpt from an article by Anthony Hernandez published on August 21, 2016 in the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

Skills: Analyze the properties of a linguistic component.

Utilize knowledge in spelling, syntax, and vocabulary to write texts in various contexts.

Utilize linguistic knowledge to construct meaning within a text in reading and writing, and understand how it relates to different types of speech and literary genres.



STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

▶ ACTIVITY 1: BOXING JUDGE

Reading comprehension to learn about a sports profession

12–13 yr | 13–14 yr | 14–15 yr

Check your reading skills

1) How did boxing originate and how long has it been an Olympic sport?

Boxing dates back to ancient times and evolved from *pankration*, an ultra-violent sport that combined boxing and wrestling. Men's boxing has been an Olympic sport since 1904, and women's boxing only since 2012.

2) What is a KO?

KO means knockout, i.e. when a boxer knocks down an opponent who is unable to get up and resume the fight after the referee's 10-second count, or if the injured opponent cannot continue the fight.

3) What are the four scoring criteria in boxing?

Clean punches, effective aggressiveness, ring generalship (i.e. strategy and tactics), and defense.

4) When are points awarded, and by whom?

Points are awarded by the judges at the end of each round and are recorded on a scorecard. The referee may give a warning or deduce points from one of the two competitors.

5) Can boxers be considered heroes?

Debate with students.



What do you think are the main qualities of a judge?

- Highly precise knowledge of the sport.
- Ability to observe and concentrate.
- Respect for the rules.
- Impartiality.

After noting the students' suggestions on the board, the teacher can discuss the officials' oath with them.

Since 1920, an athlete from the host country has taken an oath after the Olympic flame is lit, just like athletes in ancient times took an oath before Zeus.

The text was written by Pierre de Coubertin and has been slightly modified over the years.

"In the name of all the athletes, we promise to take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules and in the spirit of fair play. We all commit ourselves to sport without doping and cheating. We do this, for the glory of sport, for the honor of our teams."

Since 1972, judges and officials have also taken an oath.

"In the name of all the judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Olympic Games with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them in the true spirit of sportsmanship."

► ACTIVITY 2: BOXING CHAMPION

12–13 yr | 13–14 yr | 14–15 yr

1) In which statement does the speaker take a position on the facts?

Text 2.

2) Underline the terms that express personal opinion.

The next fight in women's boxing should give French boxer Estelle Mossely a win, which would be a fantastic birthday present, as tomorrow marks her 24th birthday. All French fans are behind the champion and hope that she will be able to defeat the Chinese boxer Yin Junhua, in the highly anticipated lightweight final. A win would make her—as many are hoping—the first French gold medalist in women's Olympic boxing!

► ACTIVITY 3: USE YOUR WORDS

12–13 yr | 13–14 yr | 14–15 yr

Language exercises

1) Underline the modals (verbs, adverbs, and adjectives) in the following sentences:

- We could write a book about the journey the sports star has made, which is certainly an achievement!
- We can only agree with the judges' decision.
- The event will probably give the French an opportunity to win another medal.
- He must beat his opponent by knockout in the next round to win.
- He is definitely one of the most famous boxers in the world—one could say that the way he moves in the ring, as light as a butterfly, has undoubtedly revolutionized heavyweight boxing.



2) Read the article from the French newspaper *Le Monde* published after the 2016 Olympic Games, and use two different colors to highlight **neutral information**, which is objective, and **modal language**, which reveals the journalist's subjective point of view and enthusiasm.

French boxers had a strong showing at the Olympic Games, winning six medals, and a second gold medal. The entire French delegation should thank those boxers for having made the greatest contribution to the total 42 medals—10 gold—awarded to French athletes in Rio.

Tony Yoka, like his partner, the incredible boxer Estelle Mossely, stood on the podium as an Olympic gold medalist. The reigning world champion competed at Rio in the super-heavyweight division, for those weighing in at over 91 kg. On Sunday, August 21, at Riocentro Pavilion 6, he won the final against British boxer Joseph Joyce, a notoriously tough puncher. In the semifinals, the French front runner had beaten Croatian boxer Filip Hrgović.

The entire French team was in attendance, with Estelle Mossely and Teddy Riner—a friend and equally famous heavyweight judo champion—to see Tony Yoka masterfully handle his last fight. Yoka clearly established his precision and dominance in the ring against an unwieldy opponent.

Le Monde, 08/21/2016

http://www.lemonde.fr/jeux-olympiques-rio-2016/article/2016/08/21/jo-2016-boxe-tony-yoka-rejoint-estelle-mossely-au-rang-des-champions-olympiques-francais_4985832_4910444.html

3) Give it a try!

– Write a newspaper article about an athlete's achievement at the Olympic Games. Exchange your texts with another student and follow the instructions from Exercise 2.

– Write a newspaper article to report on other students' efforts and achievements during your last P.E. class. Exchange your texts with another student and follow the instructions from Exercise 2.

Further concepts (for writing exercises)

Professional guidelines for writing a newspaper article

"The reader may not always want to read the article. So you have to take charge. You have to be concrete. You have to reel the reader in [...] give specific figures, and you always have to start and end with the right phrasing. The article should follow a common thread and develop a single idea. A bad article is all over the place."

Franz-Olivier Giesbert, *Le Figaro*



FIND OUT MORE

CNOSF EDUCATIONAL FILES

English: The art of being a (s)wordsmith

Math: Dimensions and statistics in basketball

Math: Performance in swimming

Geography: Tokyo: A global metropolis and host city of the 1964 and 2020 Olympic Games

French: Competing in the Olympics despite all opposition: ski jumping

Moral and civic education: The Olympic flame, torchbearers, and values

Information and media literacy: The 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin: propaganda and journalism

Interdisciplinary practical education: Sports and the fight against doping

Interdisciplinary practical education: Developing a symbolic view of the Olympic Games

DIGITAL RESOURCES

About boxing history and current events, with video clips:

<https://www.olympic.org/boxing>

About gear, weight classes, technique, etc.:

<http://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/divers/boxe/28478>

Learn about Estelle Mossely's and Tony Yoka's wins: quotes, images, and video clips.

<https://www.olympic.org/news/mossely-boxes-her-way-to-birthday-gold>

<https://www.olympic.org/news/rio-2016-boxing-programme-ends-on-a-golden-high>

Learn more about Mohamed Ali:

<http://muhammadali.com>

Learn about the tragic story of Marcel Cerdan:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Cerdan

Visit the Musée de la Boxe (Boxing Museum) in Sannois, France:

<https://www.valdoise-tourisme.com/fiches/musee-de-la-boxe/>

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Rocky, written by and starring Sylvester Stallone

Million Dollar Baby, directed by Clint Eastwood

Cinderella Man, directed by Ron Howard

FURTHER READING FOR STUDENTS

The Game, by Jack London, Bison Books, 2001

Histoire de la boxe, by Alexis Philonenko, Éditions Bartillat, 2002

Boxe, by Jacques Henric (Prix Médicis literary award recipient), Le Seuil, 2016



STUDENT WORKSHEET

CYCLE 4 • LANGUAGE STUDIES: MODALS

A PASSION FOR SPORTS

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VOCABULARY



CHAUVINIST, CHAUVINISM: Having or displaying blind, uncompromising, or aggressive patriotism, and more generally, having any kind of excessive bigotry or bias. According to legend, a soldier named Nicolas Chauvin is said to have enthusiastically served under the First French Empire to defend his country.

FAIRNESS: Impartial and fair treatment or behavior.

FAIR PLAY: The act of playing a sport while respecting the rules, the spirit of the game, and one's opponent.

KO: An abbreviation for the term knockout, as in a boxing match. It is one of the conditions for winning in boxing, and is called a "KO victory", when one's opponent is unable to get back up after a 10-second count. The term knockout is also informally used to describe an impressive person or thing.

BIAS: Preconceived ideas or prejudice for or against a person, group, or subject.

PARTIAL/IMPARTIAL: The act of favoring one person or opinion over another or judging without concern for objectivity; biased / Not favoring one side over the other but treating all sides equally; unbiased.



TIPS & TRICKS



When you take notes, **abbreviations** (like IOC for International Olympic Committee) help you **save time**. But remember—they should never be used in a **written assignment**, even in science and mathematics (except for **symbols**, **equations**, and **units of measurement**). And don't use abbreviations that are hard to remember.



ACTIVITIES

▶ ACTIVITY 1: BOXING JUDGE

Text 1

At the Olympic Games

Boxing dates back to ancient times. Ancient boxing was an ultra-violent sport. The specific rules are unknown, but boxers sometimes fought using studded leather gloves. The sport was deemed too dangerous and was removed from the games, only to reappear in 1904, with new regulations. Boxing was long reserved for men. Women's competitions were held at the 2012 Games in London.



In practice

Boxing is a combat sport in which two opponents of similar weight face off in a ring wearing padded gloves to exchange punches to the face and torso.

There are 2 to 12 rounds. At the end of the fight, the boxer with the most points is declared the winner. A win can also be scored through a knockout, i.e. if a boxer knocks down an opponent who is unable to get up and resume the fight after the referee's 10-second count, or if the injured opponent cannot continue the fight.

Scoring system

Points are awarded by the judges (there are 5 judges in Olympic boxing). Today boxing fights are scored according to a 10-point system; the more dominant competitor in the round receives ten points, and the other, nine (or fewer, as appropriate). If a round is deemed even, both boxers receive ten points, but judges generally avoid ruling a draw and almost always choose a winner.

Each round is judged based on four criteria:

- Clean punches.
- Effective aggressiveness.
- Ring generalship.
- Defense.

Points are awarded at the end of each round and are recorded on a scorecard.

Once a round is called, the judges' decisions cannot be changed. Moreover, judges are not allowed to communicate with each other.

The referee may give a warning or deduce points from one of the two competitors.

The total score is calculated at the end of the fight, and the winner is the one who has the most points.

Check your reading skills

1) How did boxing originate and how long has it been an Olympic sport?

.....

2) What is a KO?

.....

3) What are the four scoring criteria in boxing?

.....

4) When are points awarded, and by whom?

.....

5) Can boxers be considered heroes? Justify your answer.

.....



Text 2

The role of judges

In athletic competitions and Olympic events, a winner can be determined without any intermediary, because the opponent is on the ground, the ball is in the goal, or one competitor has run faster or jumped further than the others. But a win can also be determined through judging, i.e. by a number of points awarded by the judges. That is the case in boxing, unless one of the boxers remains down for more than 10 seconds.

The role of the judge is therefore essential.

What do you think are the main qualities of a judge?

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▶ ACTIVITY 2: BOXING CHAMPION

Text 1:

“The next fight in women’s boxing will see France’s Estelle Mossely and China’s Yin Junhua compete in the lightweight category final. The fight will take place tomorrow afternoon and will be broadcast in full on our channel.”

Text 2:

“The next fight in women’s boxing should give French boxer Estelle Mossely a win, which would be a fantastic birthday present, as tomorrow marks her 24th birthday. All French fans are behind the champion and hope that she will be able to defeat the Chinese boxer Yin Junhua, in the highly anticipated lightweight final. A win would make her—as many are hoping—the first French gold medalist in women’s Olympic boxing!”



© Philippe Millereau / KMSP

1) In which statement does the speaker take a position on the facts?

.....

2) Underline the terms that express personal opinion.

FUN FACT! Since the 1948 Games, weight classes in boxing have been determined using kilograms. Lightweight in men’s boxing means a weight range between 56 and 60 kg.



A FEW POINTS AND DEFINITIONS TO KNOW:

Modal language **expresses the speaker's point of view** in a statement.

The speaker's judgment may be:

- Clearly stated, i.e. **explicit**.
- Implied, without being clearly stated, i.e. **implicit**.

All of those **clues** mark the **presence of the speaker** through commentary.

- The comment may be about **probability**. It therefore determines the level of certainty in the statement: probable, mandatory, certain, possible... The information is more or less certain.
- The comment can be based on **assessment or emotion**. It therefore expresses the speaker's judgment, whether favorable or unfavorable, about the information he or she presents.

Because sports are a passion for so many, and because the Olympic Games highlight achievements and records, the texts that describe such events cannot be neutral. The content is specific, but it is also the speaker's judgment. The storyteller must communicate information while highlighting the athletes' hard work and sharing his or her enthusiasm.

That enthusiasm can also be communicated through word choice (what is called a lexical item), or through sentence construction (a grammatical item).

It's up to you to identify them and use them yourself!

DON'T FORGET!

Literary texts communicate a vision of the world.

Speech is intended to have an effect on the listener. That's the intrinsic power of language.

► ACTIVITY 3: USE YOUR WORDS

Language exercises

Use the infographic chart on modals to help you (p. 7)

- 1) Underline the modals (verbs, adverbs, and adjectives) in the following sentences:
 - a) We could write a book about the journey the sports star has made, which is certainly an achievement!
 - b) We can only agree with the judges' decision.
 - c) The event will probably give the French an opportunity to win another medal.
 - d) He must beat his opponent by knockout in the next round to win.
 - e) He is definitely one of the most famous boxers in the world—one could say that the way he moves in the ring, as light as a butterfly, has undoubtedly revolutionized heavyweight boxing.



2) Read the article from the French newspaper *Le Monde* published after the 2016 Olympic Games, and use two different colors to underline neutral information, which is objective, and modal language, which reveals the journalist's subjective point of view and enthusiasm.

//

French boxers had a strong showing at the Olympic Games, winning six medals and a second gold medal. The entire French delegation should thank those boxers for having made the greatest contribution to the total 42 medals—10 gold—awarded to French athletes in Rio.

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The entire French team was in attendance, with Estelle Mossely and Teddy Riner—a friend and equally famous heavyweight judo champion—to see Tony Yoka masterfully handle his last fight. Yoka clearly established his precision and dominance in the ring against an unwieldy opponent. //

Le Monde, 08/21/2016

Excerpt from an article by Anthony Hernandez published on August 21, 2016 in the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

3) Give it a try!

- Write a newspaper article about an athlete's achievement at the Olympic Games. Exchange your texts with another student and follow the instructions from Exercise 2.
- Write a newspaper article to report on other students' efforts and achievements during your last P.E. class. Exchange your texts with another student and follow the instructions from Exercise 2.



REVIEW

- Speech acts are never neutral.
- There are tools you can use to express your point of view.
- Sports are also an opportunity to express your enthusiasm.



NOW, TAKE ACTION!

- **Write an article about a sports event.** Try to report on a football game, for example, while remaining impartial, like the referee. It's a good exercise in journalistic writing.
- **Comment on a PE class.** Have some fun commenting on PE class to understand the difference between a written and an oral report. Intonation is key to capture the listener's attention.
- **Interview your classmates.** Not everyone shares the same opinion. You have to know how to share each person's enthusiasm, even if you don't agree with it.



KICK OFF THE DISCUSSION... GIVE YOUR OPINION

//

At the age of 24, the French boxer Tony Yoka competed in the Olympic Games for the second time and won his first medal—gold. In 2012 in London, the inexperienced young boxer had lost in the first round after a strong start. After that disappointing loss, he got a tattoo on his arm in French: ***'La chute n'est pas un échec, l'échec c'est de rester là où on est tombé'*** ('Falling isn't failure, failure is staying where you fell'). //

Le Monde, 08/21/2016

Excerpt from an article by Anthony Hernandez published on August 21, 2016 in the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A world and Olympic champion at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tony Yoka stayed true to the words he had tattooed on his body.



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MODALITY

