

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210725-tokyo-olympic-games.html>

Tennis superstar Naomi Osaka has lit the flame to finally open the 2020 Olympic Games. After a tumultuous year, the Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony officially got under way, albeit a year late. Because of fears of a fifth wave of Covid-19 cases in Japan's capital, it has been touch and go as to whether or not the Summer Games would go ahead. The pandemic has already greatly impacted the event. It now takes place with no fans in attendance and several athletes having to withdraw after testing positive. Japan still hopes the Games will showcase its culture to the world. The Opening Ceremony drew to a close around midnight in Japan with a spectacular fireworks display illuminating Tokyo's night sky.

According to Tokyo 2020 organizers, 950 people attended the opening ceremony. This is in a venue with a capacity of 68,000. Attendees included Japan's Emperor Naruhito, the US First Lady Jill Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron. Emperor Naruhito declared the Games officially open. International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said: "It is very different from what all of us had imagined, but let us cherish this moment because finally we are all here together. Today is a moment of hope." Naomi Osaka later tweeted about her excitement at lighting the flame. She said it was: "Undoubtedly the greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life."

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/sports/2021/07/23/olympics/summer-olympics/tokyo-2020-opening-ceremony/>
<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/07/9c726a9b0904-tokyo-olympics-to-open-under-unprecedented-conditions-amid-pandemic.html>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/07/23/sport/tokyo-olympics-opening-ceremony-spt-intl/index.html>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. tumultuous | a. A sudden happening of or increase in a phenomenon, feeling, or emotion. |
| 2. officially | b. Confused, or disorderly. |
| 3. albeit | c. Although. |
| 4. wave | d. Put on display for people to see. |
| 5. touch and go | e. Lighting up. |
| 6. showcase | f. In a formal and public way. |
| 7. illuminating | g. Of an outcome, especially one that is possible but very uncertain. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. venue | h. Formally asserted or announced. |
| 9. capacity | i. Something regarded as a rare opportunity and bringing pride and pleasure; a privilege. |
| 10. attendee | j. Certainly. |
| 11. declared | k. A person who goes to a conference or other gathering. |
| 12. cherish | l. Protect and care for lovingly. |
| 13. undoubtedly | m. The place where something happens, especially an organized event such as a concert, conference, or sports event. |
| 14. honour | n. The maximum amount that something can contain. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210725-tokyo-olympic-games.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says the Games opened after a tremendous year. **T / F**
2. There are fears that a fifth covid-19 wave will break out in Tokyo. **T / F**
3. Only a few spectators are allowed in each of the Olympics venues. **T / F**
4. The Opening Ceremony ended around 12pm in Japan. **T / F**
5. Just over 1,000 people attended the Opening Ceremony. **T / F**
6. The First Lady of the USA was an attendee at the Opening Ceremony. **T / F**
7. Naomi Osaka declared the Games open. **T / F**
8. Ms Osaka said lighting the flames was one of the best things she's done. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. finally | a. proclaimed |
| 2. tumultuous | b. uncertain |
| 3. touch and go | c. size |
| 4. fans | d. unquestionably |
| 5. illuminating | e. spectators |
| 6. capacity | f. eventually |
| 7. declared | g. accomplishment |
| 8. cherish | h. roller-coaster |
| 9. undoubtedly | i. treasure |
| 10. achievement | j. lighting up |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. After a tumultuous | a. Tokyo's night sky |
| 2. officially got under way, | b. Games officially open |
| 3. It now takes place with no | c. year |
| 4. The Opening Ceremony drew to a | d. capacity of 68,000 |
| 5. a spectacular fireworks display illuminating | e. fans in attendance |
| 6. This is in a venue with a | f. achievement |
| 7. Emperor Naruhito declared the | g. of hope |
| 8. let us | h. close around midnight |
| 9. Today is a moment | i. cherish this moment |
| 10. the greatest athletic | j. albeit a year late |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210725-tokyo-olympic-games.html>

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|---|---|
| 1) How does the article describe the past year as being?
a) catastrophic
b) tumultuous
c) tremendous
d) calamitous | 6) How many people attended the Opening Ceremony?
a) 950
b) 1,050
c) none
d) 500 |
| 2) What does the article say there are fears of?
a) heatwaves
b) the Games being cancelled
c) a fifth Covid-19 wave
d) social unrest | 7) What is the capacity of the venue the Opening Ceremony took place in?
a) 78,000
b) 58,000
c) 88,000
d) 68,000 |
| 3) How many fans are allowed to attend the Games?
a) 1,000
b) 500
c) 100
d) none | 8) Who declared the Olympic Games open?
a) the USA's First Lady
b) the IOC President
c) Japan's Emperor Naruhito
d) Naomi Osaka |
| 4) What does Japan hope to showcase to the world?
a) athletics
b) its culture
c) medals
d) its athletes | 9) What did the IOC president say we needed to cherish?
a) Japanese culture
b) sport
c) each other
d) this moment |
| 5) What does the article say a fireworks display did to Tokyo's night sky?
a) illuminated it
b) colour it
c) paint it
d) create rings in it | 10) What did the IOC president say that day was a moment of?
a) history
b) hope
c) joy
d) celebration |

TOKYO OLYMPICS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Olympics'?
3. What do you think of the Olympics?
4. How do the Olympics bring the world together?
5. What do you think of the Olympics being in Tokyo?
6. What was the best Olympics ever?
7. What do you know about tennis superstar Naomi Osaka?
8. What do you think of there being no fans at the Olympics?
9. What aspects of Japanese culture should Tokyo showcase?
10. What do you think of fireworks displays?

Naomi Osaka lights flame to open Tokyo Olympics – 27th July, 2021
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TOKYO OLYMPICS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'flame'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How will your country do at the Olympics?
15. What message do you have for the athletes?
16. What advice do you have for the organizers?
17. At which Olympics event would you like to win a gold medal?
18. How important is it to cherish every moment in life?
19. What is the greatest achievement of your life?
20. What questions would you like to ask the Olympics organizers?