

Iceman



The Skeleton race

“I have to push, dive on the sled, and navigate a mile of ice track at 80–90 mph with my chin three inches from the ice.”



Back to Africa

Aged 31, for the first time in 23 years, Akwasi returned to Ghana, ⁶ _____ *Bobsled and Skeleton Federation Ghana*. In a country with no snow or ice, he introduced fellow Ghanains to winter sports ⁷ _____! Back in The Netherlands, he trained for the Olympics with money ⁸ _____ door-to-door, and just managed to qualify for South Korea, entering the top 60 in the world.

Success of a sort

In a Hollywood movie, Akwasi would have won Olympic gold, but of course he had no chance against his competitors, ⁹ _____. He came last. ‘That is OK,’ he said. ‘For me, being at the Winter Olympics is about breaking barriers ... to show black people from warm countries can do this as well.’ But he now hopes to win the first Olympic gold medal for Ghana in the 2022 Winter Games, ¹⁰ _____.



4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What record did Akwasi Frimpong break in February 2018?
- 2 Why was he brought up by his grandmother?
- 3 Why did he tell his athletics coaches that he'd lost his passport?
- 4 Did he compete in the 2012 London Olympics?
- 5 Why was bobsled a good option for him?
- 6 Why did he decide to give up his sporting career?
- 7 What made him change his mind?
- 8 Why is the *Bobsled and Skeleton Federation Ghana* ‘improbable-sounding’?
- 9 What are Akwasi's aims for the future?

What do you think?

- What is Akwasi trying to prove? Why?
- Why do you think his helmet has a rabbit escaping from a lion's mouth on it?
- Which of these adjectives do you think best describe him?

**fearless determined childish gutsy
spirited passive resourceful daring
hot-headed enthusiastic brave inspiring**

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Relative clauses

Relative clauses are like adjectives. They give more information about nouns.

We have *a lovely neighbour who comes from Peru*.

1 Underline the relative clauses in these sentences.

- a I met a woman who works at the UN. (*defining*)
- b My sister, who lives in New York, works at the UN. (*non-defining*)
- c The house which we just passed is Lisa's. (*defining*)
- d Lisa's house, which cost over a million, was flooded last month. (*non-defining*)

2 Explain the use of commas in the sentences. Read them aloud. How do the commas affect the pronunciation?

3 In which sentence in 1 can the relative pronoun be omitted? Why?

Present and past participles

Underline the present and past participles in these sentences. Which are adjectives?

- 1 Who is that boring man standing at the bar?
- 2 The house sold for over £1m was demolished and rebuilt!
- 3 The owner has four houses, including a ruined castle in Scotland.

➔ Grammar reference 8.1–8.2 ➔ p160–161