# Приложение 1. Olympic Sports

**Start thinking.** *1. How many Olympic sports can you name? (make a list).*

*2. What is equestrian?*

*3. Which Olympic sports involve more than one type of activity?*

*4. Has squash ever been played at the Olympics?*

**1. Quickly read the article to check your answers.**

Since the Olympic Games were revived in the late 1800’s, the number of sports included has increased greatly. In the 1896 Athens Olympics only 9 sports were included; athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. But in the 2012 London Olympics, 26 sports are included: aquatics (swimming and diving), archery, athletics (or “track and field”), badminton, basketball, boxing, canoe and kayak, cycling, equestrian, fencing, football, gymnastics, handball, hockey, judo, pentathlon, rowing, sailing, shooting, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling.

Most of these sports are well-known, but one of the less well-known is equestrian, in which riders on horseback compete in three different events; dressage, show jumping and cross-country. Equestrian is the only Olympic sport in which men and women compete against each other as equals. Another less well-known sport is pentathlon, in which athletes compete in several events: swimming, fencing, equestrian (show jumping only), pistol shooting and cross-country running. Pentathlon originated as a way of testing some of the skills needed by late 19th-century soldiers in Europe. Another Olympic sport that involves more than one type of activity is the triathlon, in which competitors complete a 1.5km swim, then a 40km bicycle ride, followed by a 10km run. Unlike the pentathlon, in which points are scored in each event, the triathlon is a race to the finish line, with athletes starting the next activity as soon as they finish a previous one.

The list of sports included in the Olympic Games has often been changed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), with members regularly voting on whether to include or exclude particular sports. For example, while baseball and softball were part of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, they are not being included this time. And while golf and rugby are not included this time, they will be included in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Squash has never been played at the Olympics, but there’s a good chance it will be included in the 2020 Olympics for the first time, and while cricket has only been played once at the Olympics, in Paris in 1900, fans and players are hoping that it, too, will be included again in the near future.

**2. Answer the questions.**

*1. How often is the list of sports included in the Olympic Games changed?*

*2. What is the difference in choosing a champion in the pentathlon vs. triathlon?*

*3. Which sports are going to be included at the Olympics in the near future?*

***dressage*** (noun): a set of controlled movements that a horse and rider perform;  
***show jumping*** (noun): a sport in which a horse and rider jump over a set of fences;   
***cross-country*** (noun): is the sport of running, riding, or skiing across open countryside rather than along roads or around a running track;  
***eventing***(noun): equestrian sport that includes dressage, cross-country and show jumping.