

MARATHON SEASON

B2 CAMBRIDGE FIRST CERTIFICATE



APRIL 2026

Marathon Quiz

Work with a partner. **How much do you know about marathons?**

Try to answer the questions. Then check with your teacher



1. How long is an official marathon?

- A 40 km
- B 42.195 km
- C 45 km

2. The Boston Marathon began in which year?

- A 1897
- B 1924
- C 1955

3. Which famous London landmark do runners cross during the London Marathon?

- A Tower Bridge
- B Big Ben Bridge
- C Westminster Bridge

4. Which famous Olympic athlete won the Boston Marathon twice in the 1960s?

- A Abebe Bikila
- B Eliud Kipchoge
- C Mo Farah

5. Around how many runners usually participate in the London Marathon?

- A about 5,000
- B about 20,000
- C more than 40,000

6. Women weren't allowed to participate in a marathon in the Olympics until...

- A. 1964
- B 1974
- C 1984



Marathon Fun Fact

The Marathon du Médoc in France is known for its wine and cheese stations along the course, offering runners a unique culinary experience

Vocabulary Challenge

Match the **marathon words** with their meanings.

| Word | Meaning |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 endurance | A someone who watches an event |
| 2 spectator | B meeting a required standard to enter a competition |
| 3 fundraising | C collecting money for a charity |
| 4 qualification | D ability to continue doing something difficult for a long time |
| 5 stamina | E physical strength for long activity |
| 6 route | F the path the runners follow |

Vocabulary Speaking Practice



Ask and answer with a partner.

1. Which sports require the most **endurance**?
2. Do you enjoy being a **spectator**, or do you prefer playing sports?
3. Have you ever done **fundraising** for a charity?
4. What kinds of competitions require **qualifications**?
5. What activities help people improve their **stamina**?
6. What famous **race routes** do you know?

Pre-Listening Prediction

You will hear an interview with **two runners preparing for marathons in April**. One is running in **Boston**, the other in **London**.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think these marathons are held in **April**?
2. What problems might a marathon cause for a city?
3. What might motivate people to run one?



Write **two predictions**. What will these runners talk about?

Prediction 1:

Prediction 2:



FCE Listening Part 4

Boston and London Marathons (April Races)

You will hear an interviewer talking with two runners, Megan and Daniel, who will take part in the Boston and London Marathons.

You can listen here: [▶ Marathon Listening](#)



For questions **1–6**, choose the correct answer **A, B or C**

Questions

1. Why did Megan decide to run the Boston Marathon?

- A. Her coach encouraged her to enter.
- B. She finally achieved the time needed to qualify.
- C. She wanted to run the race with her friends.

2. What difficulty does Megan mention about the Boston course?

- A. Runners must climb a steep hill near the end.
- B. The weather is often very hot.
- C. Runners must stay close together for most of the race.

3. Why is the Boston Marathon held on Patriots' Day?

- A. The race celebrates an important historical event.
- B. It is part of a traditional city celebration.
- C. The holiday allows professional runners to travel.

4. What does Daniel say makes the London Marathon unique?

- A. The route passes famous landmarks.
- B. Many runners participate to raise money for charity.
- C. The race has a faster course than Boston.

5. Why are many marathons organised in April?

- A. The weather conditions are usually suitable for long-distance running.
- B. Professional runners prefer racing early in the year.
- C. Cities organise races before the tourist season begins.

6. What does Daniel say about his preparation?

- A. He trains mainly with a coach.
- B. He trains mostly alone to focus better..
- C. He trains with a running group that supports the same charity

Post-Listening Speaking (Exam Style)

Discussion

Work in pairs. Talk about the different reasons that people have for running marathons.

- raising money for charity
- meeting new people
- social media / personal achievement



Why do people run marathons?



- improving health
- personal challenge
- travelling to famous cities

Then decide which is the most important reason.

London Marathon Costume Challenge

The London race is famous for **crazy costumes**. Finish the sentence below, and draw a picture of your costume!

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>If I ran the London Marathon, I would run dressed as...</p> | <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● a dinosaur● a giant pizza● a superhero |
|--|---|

Answer Key

Marathon Quiz

- 1 → **B** (42.195 km)
- 2 → **A** (1897)
- 3 → **A** (Tower Bridge)
- 4 → **A** (Abebe Bikila)
- 5 → **C** (more than 40,000 runners)
- 6 → **C** (1984)

Vocabulary

- 1. **endurance** → **D** (ability to continue doing something difficult for a long time)
- 2. **spectator** → **A** (someone who watches an event)
- 3. **fundraising** → **C** (collecting money for a charity)
- 4. **qualification** → **B** (meeting a required standard to enter a competition)
- 5. **stamina** → **E** (physical strength for long activity)
- 6. **route** → **F** (the path the runners follow)

Listening Part 4 Answers

- 1. **B** – She qualified with 3:22 at Pittsburgh.
- 2. **A** – Heartbreak Hill near the end
- 3. **B** – Part of the celebration is the marathon
- 4. **B** – London is famous for charity fundraising.
- 5. **A** – Good weather conditions.
- 6. **C** – He trains with a running group raising money

Listening Script with Answer Evidence

The **key answer evidence**:

Megan:

“Well, Boston is a very special race. It’s actually the oldest annual marathon in the world. Another thing that makes it unique is that **you have to qualify with a fast time in another race before you’re allowed to enter**. So when I finally ran the Pittsburgh Marathon in three hours and twenty-two minutes, I knew I had to apply.”

Megan:

“Because Boston has a famous hill called Heartbreak Hill near the end of the course. **By that point you’re already exhausted, so climbing a hill can feel impossible.**”

Megan:

“The race is always on Patriots’ Day, which is a public holiday in Massachusetts. **Because it’s a holiday, the streets are full of spectators and the whole city comes out to watch.**”

Daniel:

“Well, London is famous for its atmosphere. You run past incredible landmarks like Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace, but **what makes it really different is how much money it raises for charity.** Thousands of runners take part specifically to collect donations.”

Megan:

“Marathon runners actually prefer cool weather. **If it’s too hot, it becomes much harder to run long distances safely. April temperatures are usually perfect.**”

Daniel:

“I have a great running group, and we do all the long runs together. **In fact, we’re raising money for the same charity for cancer research.**”