

* The first recorded Olympic Games was in 776 BCE (but they had been taking place for many years before that). The first modern Olympic Games was held in 1896, in Athens (Greece).
* The first female to compete was Hélène de Pourtalès, in 1900. She took part in sailing, tennis & golf.
* The first black athlete competed in 1900. He played rugby and represented France. The first Asian athlete was Japanese and competed in 1912.
* The first disabled athlete to compete in the Olympics was George Eyser, in 1904. He was an American gymnast with a prosthetic leg. The first Paralympics was held in Rome in 1960.
* The first known gay Olympian was Otto Peltzer, a German athlete who competed in 1928 but was later sent to prison for his homosexuality. There were 23 openly gay competitors at the 2012 Olympics, but the real number was probably closer to 1,000. 10% of the population is lesbian, gay or bisexual, but sportspeople fear coming out because of homophobic abuse and discrimination.
* The first transgender athletes may compete in 2016. Several Olympic winners, like Caitlyn Jenner, changed gender after they competed.

