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Level 1 – 19th February 2026

Japan wins its first-ever Olympic pairs skating gold

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their performance set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would need some magic. Their routine was an amazing display of speed and technique. The crowd at the ice skating arena gave the pair a standing ovation.

The couple were shocked after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "I never thought we could win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach praised them. He said: "I think today they were able to create magic. They skated with their heart."

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/olympics/2026/02/17/miura-kihara-gold-pairs/>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carolineprice/2026/02/16/olympic-pairs-figure-skating-results-miura-and-kihara-break-world-record-for-historic-gold/>
<https://www.nbcolympics.com/news/how-riku-miura-and-ryuichi-kihara-pulled-tear-filled-comeback-win-olympic-gold>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. first in the pairs free | a. some magic |
| 2. Their performance set a | b. round |
| 3. after the first | c. ice skating arena |
| 4. the pair did not look like | d. world record |
| 5. They knew they would need | e. ovation |
| 6. an amazing display of speed | f. getting a medal |
| 7. The crowd at the | g. and technique |
| 8. a standing | h. skate competition |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The couple were shocked after | a. to nail it |
| 2. An out-of- | b. praised them |
| 3. We were determined | c. breath Mr Kihara |
| 4. I never thought we could | d. together in 2019 |
| 5. The couple first skated | e. magic |
| 6. We have grown | f. winning |
| 7. Their coach | g. win gold |
| 8. they were able to create | h. a lot |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

Japan has (1) _____ Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara (2) _____ the pairs free skate competition. Their performance set (3) _____. After the first round, the pair did not look like (4) _____. They knew they would need some magic. Their routine was an amazing (5) _____ and technique. The crowd at the ice skating arena gave the pair (6) _____.

The (7) _____ after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined (8) _____." He added: "I never thought we (9) _____ today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have (10) _____, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach praised them. He said: "I think today they were able (11) _____. They skated (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their performance set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would need some magic. Their routine was an amazing display of speed and technique. The crowd at the ice skating arena gave the pair a standing ovation. The couple were shocked after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "I never thought we could win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have grown a lot, so I think that is the reason why we managed to win the gold medal." Their coach praised them. He said: "I think today they were able to create magic. They skated with their heart."

THE WINTER OLYMPICS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Winter Olympics in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html>

Write about **the Winter Olympics** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]