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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](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-1.html)

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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>

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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)

d)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

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.