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**Level 2 – 19th February 2026**

**Japan wins its first-ever Olympic pairs skating gold**

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[https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.html)

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.html>

Japan has won its first Olympic gold medal for pairs figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara wowed a very supportive crowd. They were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their dynamic performance set a world record. After the first round, the pair did not look like getting a medal. They knew they would have to do something magical to get a medal. And they did that. Their routine was an amazing display of athleticism, speed, and technique. The spectators at the Milano Ice Skating Arena gave the pair a standing ovation.

The couple seemed shocked after winning. An out-of-breath Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined to nail it." He added: "It's still unbelievable. I never thought we could win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have had so many experiences...and 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. Their connection really came through, and it was just pure magic."

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-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. pairs figure	a. crowd
2. wowed a very supportive	b. ovation
3. their dynamic performance	c. like getting a medal
4. after the first	d. set a world record
5. the pair did not look	e. of athleticism
6. they would have to do something	f. skating
7. an amazing display	g. magical
8. a standing	h. round

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

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

## LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.html>

Japan has won its first Olympic gold (1) \_\_\_\_\_ figure skating. Figure skaters Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara (2) \_\_\_\_\_ supportive crowd. They were first in the pairs free skate competition. Their dynamic performance (3) \_\_\_\_\_ record. After the first round, the pair did not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a medal. They knew they would have to do something magical to get a medal. And they did that. Their routine was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of athleticism, speed, and technique. The spectators at the Milano Ice Skating Arena gave the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ ovation.

The couple seemed shocked after winning. An (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Kihara told reporters: "We were determined (8) \_\_\_\_\_. " He added: "It's still unbelievable. I never (9) \_\_\_\_\_ win gold today." The couple first skated together in 2019. Ms Miura said: "We have had so many experiences...and 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 with their heart. Their (12) \_\_\_\_\_ through, and it was just pure magic."

## PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.html>

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# THE WINTER OLYMPICS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2602/260219-figure-skating-2.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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Japan wins its first-ever Olympic pairs skating gold – 19th February 2026*

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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-2.html>

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