

A vocabulary of famous athletes

Consecutive	One after the other.
Retirement	Leaving a job.
Paralympics	A sports event, like the Olympic Games, for people with disabilities.
Amassed	Gather together.
Gymnast	An athlete skilled in balance, strength and movement.
Apparatus	Equipment designed for a specific purpose.
Pursue	To take part in an activity or follow something.
Records	In sport, the best (or worse) achievements.
Professional	An athlete who earns money from their sport.
Amateur	An athlete who does not earn money from their sport.
Neurologist	A scientist who studies the brain.
Historic	Important or famous in history.



Related idioms

Jump the gun	Start too early, like a runner who starts a race before the sound of the starting pistol.
Front runner	The person or thing that is expected to win.

How fast is Usain Bolt over 100m?



Famous Athletes

Some athletes become well known for their great sporting achievements, such as winning Olympic medals or breaking world records.

We believe that for pupils to flourish they need to be able to draw upon a wide body of general knowledge that extends beyond the limits of the National Curriculum. Learn more at www.curriculumandbeyond.co.uk/worldlywise



Usain Bolt

Usain St. Leo Bolt won gold medals in the 100-metre and 200-metre races in three **consecutive** Olympic Games.



Usain Bolt became 'the fastest man alive' after winning three gold medals at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. He became the first man in Olympic history to win both the 100 and 200-metre races in record times.

In August 2017, following the World Athletics Championships, Bolt announced his **retirement** from track and field.

Mo Farah

Sir Mohamed Muktar Jama Farah, CBE is a British long-distance runner. He won Olympic gold in both the 5,000 and 10,000 metre races.



Born in Somalia, Mo came to Britain at the age of eight. He arrived with no knowledge of English but with a love for football, which he expected to **pursue**. Instead, his sports teacher recognised his ability as a runner and drove him to club training sessions. Mo is now one of the most successful athletes in British athletics history, setting European and world **records** in many long-distance races.

Ellie Simmonds

Eleanor Simmonds, OBE is a British Paralympian swimmer who won two gold medals for Great Britain in the 2008 Summer **Paralympics**.

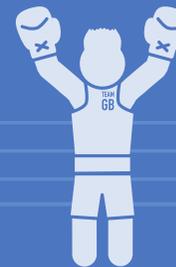


Ellie started swimming at the age of five. Her disability proved no barrier to her and by the age of eight she was competing against able-bodied children.

Simmonds has **amassed** eight medals across four events at three Paralympic Games, including five golds - as well as 17 medals at the World Para Swimming Championships.

Nicola Adams

Nicola Adams, OBE was the first British boxer to become a double Olympic champion. She turned **professional** in 2017 and retired in 2019.



As an **amateur**, Nicola made history as the first female boxer to represent England in 2001 and the first to win a European medal in 2007. Nicola Adams became the first woman to win an Olympic boxing gold medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games. In 2016 she won a gold medal at the Olympics in Rio, Brazil. In 2017 she turned professional. She retired after two years undefeated as a professional boxer.

Simone Biles

Simone Arianne Biles is an American artistic **gymnast** who has won 30 Olympic and World Championship medals.



Simone became interested in gymnastics at the age of six during a field trip to a gymnastics school. At the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, she became the first female U.S. gymnast to win four gold medals at a single Games. She was also the first gymnast to win three consecutive world all-around titles. An 'all-arounder' is a gymnast who competes on every type of **apparatus**.

Sir Roger Bannister

Sir Roger Gilbert Bannister CBE was an English **neurologist** who became the first athlete to run a mile in less than four minutes.



While a student at the University of Oxford and at Medical School in London, Roger Bannister proved himself to be a great middle-distance runner. On May 6, 1954 in Oxford he ran a mile in 3 minutes 59.4 seconds. This **historic** event was the first time that anyone had run a mile in less than four minutes. Bannister is said to have achieved this through scientific training methods.