

AFARINESH IELTS Radio- Podcast 12



Describe a competition (e.g. TV, college/work or sports competition) that you took part in.

You should say:

- what kind of competition it was and how you found out about it
- what you had to do
- what the prizes were

and explain why you chose to take part in this competition.

Actually, I guess I'm a competitor by nature. Since I was a kid I have always been taking part in a lot of competitions and I still do **(1) without miss**. When I **(2) came of age**, I started to feel like it was **(3) high time** I **(4) set out** to discover a new me. In fact, I never wanted to **(5) be a garden variety** school boy **(6) cramming** for my exams **(7) day in day out**. Well, Back in the day when I was in high school a competition was to be held and I was all about being a part of it. For once in my life I had found an **(8) outlet** and it was to find myself a **(9) spot** in the national mathematics competition. You know, Math was my **(10) forte** and I would always **(11) run rings around** my fellow classmates in that subject . When the date for registrations in the competition was announced, I was automatically skipped ahead of my classmates by the school's VP since everyone knew the rest of the school didn't stand chance to me when it came to math. I clearly remember the whole thing as if it was yesterday, I was **(12) summoned** to the VP's office and I was kinda **(13) briefed** on the event. I was actually promised a **(14) hefty** amount of money by the school alone if I could have ranked first in the competition. The main prize though was the **(15) endorsement** that the first would get to take part in the next round which was indeed at an international level I. I **(16) was beside myself with** joy to see that I was in the **(17) limelight**. You know how the kids are.... They **(18) crave** attention, so did I back in the day and that sort of was the **(19) impetus** for me to want to take part. Despite the fact that my family was against me putting myself under that much pressure, I did it and I'm happy about it cause if I hadn't, I would have regretted the missed opportunity for the rest of my whole life.

Collocations and useful phrases

1. **Without miss**
Without fail
2. **Come of age**
To reach the age when you are legally recognized as an adult and become old enough to vote
If something has come of age, it has reached its full successful development.
3. **If it is about time/high time that someone did something, it should have been done sooner or a long time ago**

It's about time (that) the school improved its meals service.

It is high time for Europe to take responsibility for its own defense.

4. Set out

To start an activity with a particular aim

She set out with the aim of becoming the youngest ever winner of the championship.

[+ to infinitive] They set out to discover a cure for cancer.

5. Garden variety

Ordinary, commonplace

6. Cram

To try to learn a lot very quickly before an examination

She's cramming for her history exam.

7. Day in day out(especially of something boring) done or happening every day for a long period of time

I have to do the same boring jobs day in day out.

8. Outlet

A way in which emotion or energy can be expressed or made use of

Her work provided no outlet for her energies and talents.

Writing poetry was his only form of emotional outlet.

9. Spot

A particular place

This looks like a nice spot for a picnic.

10. Forte

A strong ability, something that a person can do well

I'm afraid sewing isn't one of my fortes.

11. If someone runs rings around you, they are very much better, faster, or more successful at something than you are:

Our girls' hockey team have **run rings around** all their opponents this year.

12. Summon

To order someone to come to or be present at a particular place, or to officially arrange a meeting of people

General Rattigan summoned reinforcements to help resist the attack.

I'm afraid I'll have to go - I'm being summoned by my wife.

On July 20th, the council was summoned to hear an emergency report on its finances.

13. Brief

To give someone instructions or information about what they should do or say

We had already been briefed about/on what the job would entail.

14. Hefty

Large in amount, size, force, etc

A hefty bill/fine

Her salary will go up by a hefty 10%.

A hefty woman with dyed blond hair

15. Endorsement

When you make a statement of your approval or support for something or someone

The campaign hasn't received any political endorsements.

He hoped to secure quick endorsement of the plan from the President.

16. Be beside yourself

If you are beside yourself with a particular feeling or emotion, it is so strong that it makes you almost out of control

He was beside himself with grief when she died.

17. The limelight

Public attention and interest

She's been in the limelight recently, following the release of her controversial new film.

18. Crave

To have a strong or uncontrollable want for something

Many young children crave attention.

19. Impetus

Something which encourages a particular activity or makes that activity more energetic or effective

The recent publicity surrounding homelessness has given (a) fresh impetus to the cause.