

ADJECTIVES & ATHLETES

This lesson will introduce students to nouns, verbs, and adjectives. While the emphasis of this lesson will be on adjectives, students will work with nouns and verbs.

CONTEXT

Adjectives are an important part of the English language. It is what helps create meaningful and expressive sentences. Without them, how we talk would be not as exciting! This activity will encourage students to explore adjectives and their meanings, read about famous and influential female Olympians, and match adjectives to the athletes.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Identify words as nouns, verbs, or adjectives.
2. Explain the function of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
3. Discuss why they selected a certain adjective as a descriptor for a person.

MATERIALS

Primary Sources:

Images from the LPOM Collection.

Secondary Sources:

The Primary Source Card that details what each object is.

PROCEDURE

- After teaching students about nouns, verbs, and adjectives, provide them with the different female Olympian write-ups that is included in this lesson plan.
- Having students work in groups or independently, assign one or more Olympian write-ups to students and instruct them to read through the information.
- If students are unsure of what each Olympic winter sport is, use the supplied resource sheet to go through each of the sports.
- After students read through the write-ups, explain that they will use the attached word bank to assign different adjectives to their Olympian. The word bank will contain a mix of nouns, verbs, and adjectives so students will have to correctly select the adjectives.
- Once completed, have students share what Olympian they read about and what adjectives they selected and their reasoning behind it.



EILEEN GU

Sport: Freestyle Skiing

Team: China

Olympics: 2022

Medals: 2 Gold, 1 Silver

About Me:

- I became the youngest Olympic champion in Freestyle Skiing.
- I am the first woman to land the Double Cork 1440 stunt.
- I am attending Stanford University for college.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



MIKAELA SHIFFRIN

Sport: Alpine Skiing

Team: USA

Olympics: 2014, 2018, 2022

Medals: 2 Gold, 1 Silver

About Me:

- I have won the most World Cup wins of any Alpine Skier in history.
- I work with the “Kindness Wins” foundation to help put an end to bullying.
- I became the youngest Slalom champion in Olympic Alpine Skiing history when I was 18 years-old.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



ELANA MEYERS TAYLOR

Sport: Bobsled

Team: USA

Olympics: 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022

Medals: 3 Silver, 2 Bronze

About Me:

- I have won the most medals as a Black athlete in the history of the Winter Olympics.
- I was the first silver medalist in the Monobob bobsled event.
- Before I became a bobsledder, I played softball in college.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



ERIN JACKSON

Sport: Speed Skating

Team: USA

Olympics: 2018, 2022

Medals: 1 Gold

About Me:

- I am the first Black woman to win an Olympic Winter gold medal in an individual sport.
- I have a degree in Materials Science & Engineering from the University of Florida.
- I competed in Roller Derby events in Florida.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



BRITTANY BOWE

Sport: Speed Skating

Team: USA

Olympics: 2014, 2018, 2022

Medals: 2 Bronze

About Me:

- When my good friend and teammate Erin Jackson slipped during a race at the 2022 USA Olympic Team trials, I gave up my spot in that race, even though I qualified, so that Erin could compete.
- I knew that Team USA's best chance at winning a gold medal in the 500-meter race at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games was only if Erin was racing.
- I am a two-time bronze medalist.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



CHLOE KIM

Sport: Snowboarding

Team: USA

Olympics: 2018, 2022

Medals: 2 Gold

About Me:

- I was the youngest woman to win an Olympic Snowboarding gold medal when I was 17 years-old.
- I became the first athlete ever to win all four major Snowboarding titles: the Olympics, Worlds, Youth Olympics, and X Games.
- I am attending Princeton University for college.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



VONETTA FLOWERS

Sport: Bobsled

Team: USA

Olympics: 2002, 2006

Medals: 1 Gold

About Me:

- I became the first Black athlete to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics.
- In college, I was a sprinter and long jumper for the University of Alabama-Birmingham.
- I started bobsledding when I was 26 years-old, showing the world you are never too old to learn something new.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



KRISTI YAMAGUCHI

Sport: Figure Skating

Team: USA

Olympics: 1992

Medals: 1 Gold

About Me:

- I became the first Asian American to win a gold medal in a Winter Olympic competition.
- In 2008, I won the 6th season of the television show “Dancing with the Stars.”
- I am a New York Times best-selling children’s books author.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



HILARY KNIGHT

Sport: Ice Hockey

Team: USA

Olympics: 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022

Medals: 1 Gold, 3 Silver

About Me:

- I lead all World Championship players with 61 goals.
- I was the first female hockey player to train with a NHL team - the Anaheim Ducks.
- My mom was my biggest role model growing up and helped me to stay focused on achieving my goals.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



ABBY ROQUE

Sport: Ice Hockey

Team: USA

Olympics: 2022

Medals: 1 Silver

About Me:

- I am the first Native American to play for the U.S. Women's National Ice Hockey team.
- I grew up playing hockey on a make-shift ice rink in my family's backyard.
- I am using my platform on the U.S. Women's National Team to represent and educate others about my Native American heritage.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



OKSANA BAIUL

Sport: Figure Skating

Team: Ukraine

Olympics: 1994

Medals: 1 Gold

About Me:

- I am the first and only skater representing Ukraine to win gold at the Olympic Winter Games.
- At the 1993 World Championships, I had a scary fall during training, but I picked myself up and performed a perfect routine.
- I went through many hard times during my childhood, but my love for figure skating is what kept me motivated.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



CARINA VOGT

Sport: Ski Jumping

Team: Germany

Olympics: 2014 & 2018

Medals: 1 Gold

About Me:

- I won the first Olympic gold medal ever awarded for women's ski jumping in 2014.
- My day job is a police officer.
- Over the course of my athletic career, I competed in 124 World Cups.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



NAOMI LANG

Sport: Figure Skating

Team: USA

Olympics: 2002

Medals: 0

About Me:

- I was the first Native American female athlete to participate in the Winter Games in 2002.
- When I coach, my goal is to inspire others to help make their dreams come true.
- Before skating, I was studying ballet at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



EMILY SWEENEY

Sport: Luge

Team: USA

Olympics: 2018, 2022

Medals: 0

About Me:

- My teammate Summer Britcher and I are competing in doubles luge - a first for women in this sport!
- After a scary crash at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, I continued on with luge.
- My goal for this season is to be consistent and continue to learn.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



ANDREA HENKEL-BURKE

Sport: Biathlon

Team: Germany

Olympics: 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014

Medals: 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

About Me:

- I am one of the most successful German biathletes.
- I am the first female biathlete to win world titles in all four individual events.
- Over my career, I won 46 World Cup races, obtained 38 second places, and was third 22 times.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



CHARLOTTE KALLA

Sport: Cross Country Skiing

Team: Sweden

Olympics: 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022

Medals: 3 Gold, 6 Silver

About Me:

- I am Sweden's most successful female cross-country skier.
- I was on the Swedish television version of "Dancing with the Stars."
- My motto is: "Do what you want and like what you do."

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



ASHLEY WALDEN

Sport: Luge

Team: USA

Olympics: 2002

About Me:

- I am the first women CEO of the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority.
- I was a 16-time member of the USA national luge team.
- I have a Master's degree in Project Management.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



VERA ZOZULA

Sport: Luge

Team: Soviet Union

Olympics: 1976, 1980, 1984

Medals: 3 Gold, 6 Silver

About Me:

- I am regarded as one of Russia's best female lugers.
- After I retired, I worked in coaching and coached the 1998 and 2002 Latvian Olympic teams.
- I joined the International Luge Federation's "Hall of Fame" in 2006.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



SONJA HENIE

Sport: Figure Skating

Team: Norway

Olympics: 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936

Medals: 3 Gold

About Me:

- I was 11 when I competed in my first Olympics.
- I won 10 consecutive World Championships, a record that still has not been broken.
- I became one of Hollywood's most famous movie stars.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



BETH HEIDEN

Sport: Speed Skating

Team: USA

Olympics: 1976, 1980

Medals: 1 Bronze

About Me:

- I became the first American to win the Women's World Championships by winning all four-speed skating events.
- I later competed in cycling and cross-country skiing.
- I have a Master's degree in Civil Engineering.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.



HANNI WENZEL

Sport: Alpine Skiing

Team: Liechtenstein

Olympics: 1976, 1980

Medals: 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

About Me:

- I am the first person to win a gold medal for my country, Liechtenstein, in any Olympic competition.
- I got to compete with my brother, Andi, at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.
- My daughter is carrying on my Olympic legacy when she competed in her first Winter Olympics in 2014.

What adjectives describe me?

Using the word bank, list at least **3 adjectives** you think describe this Olympian below.

THE OLYMPIC WORD BANK

1. The word bank below contains a mix of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
2. Working by yourself or as a group, circle all the adjectives.
3. Next, pick at least 3 adjectives that describe your Olympian and write them down on your worksheet.
4. If you don't recognize a word, make sure to ask your teacher what it means!

WORD BANK

Earth	Skating	Focused	Iconic	Coach	Selfless
Humble	Passionate	Jumping	Smart	Athletic	Accomplished
Teammate	Chasing	Grateful	Sleeping	Prize	Competitive
Proud	Artistic	Hill	Dedicated	Eating	Dr. Seuss
Teacher	Confident	Skilled	President	Gliding	Coachable
Elegant	Moose	Kind	Walking	Plant	Family Oriented
Sitting	Jumping	Picking	Brave	Versatile	Experienced
Running	Focused	Motivated	Medal	Podium	Strong
Persistent	Inspiring	Bucket	Dynamic	Pole	Confident