

Market Leader Intermediate Assignment 12.1

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Starting Up – Parts A - B

Consider the question in Part A and try to think of a few stories or examples that show your level of competitiveness. Prepare to discuss all of the questions Part B by taking notes on your opinions. Be ready to discuss your ideas with reasons and examples in class with your teacher.

Vocabulary – Parts A - F

Complete the vocabulary exercises and highlight any difficult ones that you are not sure about. In class your teacher can help you with those ones. Then be ready to discuss Part D. Try to think of specific examples of experiences that you have had or have heard of that you can describe to your teacher in class.

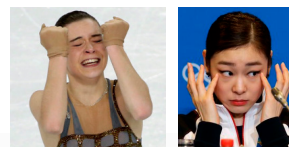
Vocabulary Continued & Supplemental Reading

Read the following article, then prepare to discuss your opinions about the questions by applying the Competition Idioms from the book.

The New York Post: Sochi scandal as Putin blamed for bias judging

South Koreans blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin and biased judging at the Sochi Games after their top skater Kim Yuna was denied back-to-back Olympic golds by Russia's Adelina Sotnikova. In her final Winter Olympics, 23-year-old Kim was beaten by 5.48 points by Sotnikova, who secured Russia's first ladies singles gold, despite a flawless performance from South Korea's most loved and best-known athlete. Many in this country of 50 million people stayed up until the early hours of Friday expecting to see "Queen Yuna" join Germany's Katerina Witt and Norway's Sonja Henie as the only women to win successive Olympic figure skating golds.

Instead they were left shocked and angry, and by early afternoon on Friday [more than 1.7 million people](#) had signed an online petition demanding an inquiry into Kim's final placing. Adding to the controversy was the revelation that one of the



nine members of the judges panel was Alla Shekhovtseva, who is the wife of Valentin Piseev. He is the president and general director of the Russian Skating Federation.

A shot of Sotnikova's score sheet shows that one of the panel members (circled in red below via [The Atlantic Wire](#)) was particularly kind to her. The sheet does not indicate which judge was responsible for particular marks. Despite missing out on a gold medal in Sochi, the phrase "Thank you, Yuna" topped the most searched keyword on the nation's biggest Internet portals Naver and Daum throughout Friday morning.

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-2	-1	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1
2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	2
2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2
2	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	2
2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2

Sotnikova's score sheet.

1. What do you remember about the ice skating controversy in Sochi between Yuna and Sotnikova?
2. Do you think Yuna would be **"flogging a dead horse"** if she tried to fight this decision?
3. Do you think it is true that Russian judges **"moved the goal posts"**?
4. Do the countries that host the Olympics have an **"uneven playing field"** that allows them to be **"ahead of the game"**?
5. Do you think these competitions create more animosity than friendship between countries?