



## **The Boston Marathon: Boston Strong**

### **Listening Questions 1:**

1. When is the Boston Marathon held?
2. When was the first Marathon run and where does it rank in terms of age with other marathons around the world?
3. How much money did the Top 3 finishers win in the 2016 race?
4. What year were women first allowed to enter the Boston Marathon?

### **Listening Questions 2:**

1. In what years were the three participants mentioned in the listening disqualified?
2. How many people were killed and injured as a result of the 2013 bombings?
3. Which entrants were given automatic entry in the 2014 race?
4. In total (both male and female), how many Japanese runners have won the Boston Marathon?

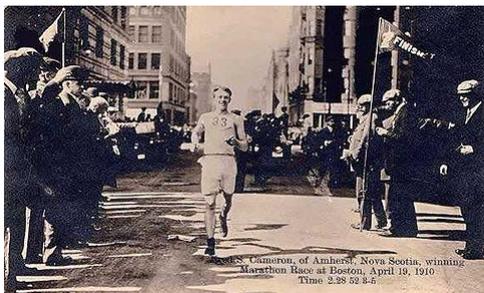
## Transcript 1:

The Boston Marathon is held annually on Patriots' Day, the third Monday of April. The first Boston Marathon was run in 1897 and is the oldest annual marathon in the world and also one of the most prestigious.

The race attracts runners from all over the world. In its first year the race had 18 participants, but the number has grown and in 2016 there were approximately 30,000 entrants. Roughly half a million spectators watch the race.

In 1986 the first cash prizes for winning the marathon were awarded. In 2016, the winners in the men's and women's categories won \$150,000, while second and third place finishers won \$75,000 and \$40,000 respectively.

It wasn't until 1972 that the Boston Marathon officially permitted women to register, but that didn't stop some women from trying to participate in the race. In 1966 Roberta Gibb entered without a race number and is the first women to run the entire course. The following year Kathrine Switzer, who had entered with her initials K. V. Switzer, was the first woman to run with a registered race number.



## Transcript 2:

In the 1980 edition of the marathon it looked like Rosie Ruiz had won the race in the female category. However, several factors lead officials to investigate and it was determined that Ruiz had only joined the race about one mile (1.6 km) from the finish line. Ruiz was eventually disqualified and Jacqueline Gareau was declared the winner. In 1997 there was another incident in which two participants in the senior category were disqualified. One of the measures organizers use to track entrants is video taken at secret locations.

About three hours after the winners crossed the finish line of the 2013 race, two explosions took place near the finish line. In total, three spectators were killed and over 250 people were injured. Runners who were not able to finish the race on account of the bombings but had completed at least half of the course were automatically entered in 2014.

On a lighter note, Japanese male runners have won a total of 8 times, the last victory coming in 1987. No Japanese woman has ever won the Boston Marathon.