



NYC MARATHON

- Wentworth: When I was younger, I was a real athlete. I used to run 3 times a week and take part in races.
- Sarah: Why are you using the past?
- Wentworth: Now I'm unable to. I can still run and enjoy the activity but it's hard. I guess I'm getting old...
- Sarah: When was the last time you ran a race?
- Wentworth: I ran the NYC marathon two years ago. I was second to last... It could be worse...
- Sarah: Second to last?! Haha. Still, this is one of the most famous sporting events and races. 42 kilometers is quite a long distance.
- Wentworth: True. However, it is very pleasurable. The marathon covers all five boroughs of New York City. It starts at Staten Island after crossing the bridge we get to Brooklyn, running up north to Queens where we cross the East River so that we can reach Manhattan then we briefly make a detour by the Bronx to finish by Central Park in Manhattan. Some people finish within 2 hours and 15 minutes or so. It is held on the first Sunday of November so a lot of people, not only athletes participate.
- Sarah: It must be quite long!
- Wentworth: Well, it is but it's quite entertaining. Along the way, you get to see street performances and entertainment, a lot of people cheering and orchestras playing jazz standards. Lots of brass!
- Sarah: Is there any problem? Doping? Cheating?
- Wentworth: I've never heard of it. I don't think anyone takes drugs. As far as cheating is concerned, there's a computer chip at the back of any runner's bib, the jersey you wear so it makes it very difficult to cheat. And what's the point, anyway?
- Sarah: Well, the prize money is \$100,000.
- Wentworth: I know. But if I had in mind the prize or the first place, I'd never run. It is just a way to challenge yourself and outdo yourself. Besides, New York is a beautiful city, and the different bridges, parks, streets and avenues you cross makes the course even more lively.
- Sarah: How do you register for the marathon?
- Wentworth: Months in advance, you must fill in a form and pay a fee. You are allowed to take part in the race through a selection.
- Sarah: How much is the fee?
- Wentworth: It depends but on average, people pay around \$300-350. It is definitely worth it.



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NYC MARATHON	Within + (duration)
Younger= comparative form of 'young'	'or so'
real	To hold/held/held
An athlete	Not only
Used to + verb= past habit	entertaining
To run/ran/run	'along the way'
(three) times <u>a week</u>	To get to + verb
To take part in	Street performances
A race	entertainment
To use	To cheer
(duration)+ ago	An orchestra
Unable (to)	Lots of =a lot of
still	brass
To enjoy	doping
To guess	cheating
'to get old'	'as far as X is concerned'

SECOND TO LAST	A (computer)chip
Worse = comparative form of 'bad'	At the back
Still= but =yet	A bib
The most	A jersey
Famous	To wear
A sporting event	To make (difficult)
quite	'what's the point?'
true	A prize money
However= but	To have in mind
Pleasurable	To challenge one's self
To cover	To outdo one's self
A borough	BESIDES
To cross (a bridge)	A course=a race
To get to= to reach	lively
Up north	To register (for)
So that...	To fill in (a form)
briefly	A fee
To make a detour	ON AVERAGE
	'It is worth it'



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Grammar: EQUIVALENTS OF CAN FOR PAST AND FUTURE TENSES

In English, we use the modal CAN at the present tense only.

To refer to capacity or permission, we use equivalents.

1/ CAPACITY

When we use CAN for capacity, we use BE ABLE TO for past and future tenses.

a) For the past, the pattern is **WAS/WERE ABLE TO** + verb

Example:

I was able to visit Tribeca.



b) For negative statements we have 2 options:

WAS/WERE **NOT** ABLE TO + verb or WAS/WERE **UNABLE** TO + verb

Example:

We were not able to sleep = we were unable to sleep

c) for the future, the pattern is WILL BE ABLE TO + verb

Example:

I will be able to relax when it is the weekend

Children won't be able to swim without swimming armbands

1/ PERMISSION

When we use CAN for permission, we use BE ALLOWED TO for past and future tenses.

a) For the past, the pattern is **WAS/WERE ALLOWED TO** + verb

Example:

I was allowed to access the secret area

The children were allowed to eat candy

b) For negative statements we have 2 options:

WAS/WERE **NOT** ALLOWED TO + verb or WAS/WERE **FORBIDDEN** TO + verb

Example:

We were not allowed to smoke = we were forbidden to smoke

c) for the future, the pattern is WILL BE ALLOWED TO + verb

Example:

My son will be allowed to use my car when he has his driving license

Children won't be allowed to swim as long as they don't wear swimming armbands