



WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE
SPORTS AND LEISURE: PARIS 2024
CAN PARIS BE ACCESSIBLE? (2:03 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 1 of 1/v31932)

PRE-INTERMEDIATE (A2 - B1) AND ABOVE

- ◇ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◇ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◇ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

The Summer 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games are accelerating plans to improve disabled access in and around the French capital. But plans for the Paris public transport network have sparked concern.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Video Script:

Narrator: Between the **pavements**, road works and other obstacles, it's an **olympic feat** to get around Paris in a **wheelchair**.

Serge Mabally, Vice President, France Disability: You need to be a bit sporty in Paris.

Narrator: **Fortunately** for him, Serge Mabally is one of the best wheelchair tennis players in France. The Paris 2024 organizers have promised **inclusive** and **accessible** games. But with less than a year to go, there's a lot still to do.

Mabally: this is the metro that I would have taken, but as you can see there are steps. I can't go down them in a wheelchair so it looks like I'll have to find a plan B.

Narrator: During next year's games much of the French Capital should be closed to traffic. Progress has been made, but getting to the future olympic **venues** on public transport requires some patience.

Mabally: Without my **handicap** this would have taken me 11 minutes but the route was a bit of a **nightmare** so it's taken 40 minutes. It requires a lot of planning time because you have to anticipate the journey. Let's just say we can't get around completely **carefree**.

Narrator: But the accessibility challenge doesn't lie **solely** in public transport.

Paris Olympics Infrastructure Official: We're expecting four or five thousand wheelchair users per day during the Olympics and Paralympic Games. **As it stands** we estimate that there is only accessible accommodation for 2, 900 visitors

Narrator: Last autumn **charities sounded an alarm** bell and are now **stakeholders** in Olympic Committee decisions. Nowhere does this show more than in the Olympic Village where a network of **ramps** and shuttles has been put in place.

Ludvine Munoz, Head of Paralympic Integration, Paris 2024: When we work now, we listen to charities because they represent the users. So once every three months we sit around the table with 115 charities.

Narrator: When it comes to changing attitudes on disability, it's the winning not the **taking part** that **counts**.

Paris Disabled Access

Many disabled travelers think Paris is not wheelchair friendly, but that isn't totally true. Nearly all of Paris' accessibility challenges can be overcome if you know how to get around the various barriers. Do your homework beforehand (with our help), and your [wheelchair accessible travel to Paris](#) will be a great trip!



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Discussion Questions:

- ◇ Do you think Paris or the city where you live is accessible to disabled people?
- ◇ Should improved handicapped accessibility be an infrastructure priority in your city?
- ◇ What are some of the measures that need to be taken to improve accessibility and better integrate differently abled people into society at large?

Vocabulary:

- **pavement** - a raised paved or asphalted path for pedestrians at the side of a road. North American term: sidewalk.
- **olympic feat** - a great accomplishment
- **wheelchair** - a chair fitted with wheels for use as a means of transport by a person who is unable to walk as a result of illness, injury, or disability
- **fortunate** - favored by or involving good luck; lucky
- **inclusive** - aiming to provide equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized such as the disabled
- **accessible** - (of a place) able to be reached or entered (often for disabled)
- **venue** - the place where something happens, especially an organized event such as a concert, conference, or sports competition
- **nightmare** - very unpleasant or frightening experience or prospect
- **carefree** - free from anxiety
- **solely** - only; not involving others
- **as it stands** - in the present condition or circumstances
- **charity** - organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need
- **sound an alarm** - warn of danger
- **stakeholder** - person with an interest or concern in something
- **taking part** - participating
- **counts** - matters; is actually important

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in your notebook.