ability

They call him the fastest man on no legs. / He’s also known as the Blade Runner. / His real name is Oscar Pistorius, and he holds world records in the 100-, 200- and 400-metre events. / What’s special about Pistorius, though, is that he doesn’t have legs. He runs with the help of two carbon-fibre artificial legs.

Pistorius was born with a congenital disease / and had both legs amputated below the knee when he was almost a year old. / But by the age of 11 he was playing rugby, water polo and tennis. / In 2004, Pistorius began running in competitions in his home country of South Africa. / He never looked back.

He has won many Paralympic events, but Oscar Pistorius’ dream is to go to the Olympics. / His trainers say Pistorius has the ability to run against able-bodied athletes. / However, the International Association of Athletics Federations says that his artificial legs give him an unfair advantage as they make him less tired than runners with real legs. / Finally, after several appeals, Pistorius was allowed to qualify for the Olympics.

Oscar Pistorius plans to compete regularly against able-bodied athletes. / His sporting motto is: ‘You’re not disabled by the disabilities you have, you are able by the abilities you have.’

Note: ‘/’ indicates where the speaker should pause to allow students to catch up.