Naim Süleymanoğlu

Seviye A2–B1 · Okuma · Konuşma

Warm-up

- What is the heaviest thing you can lift?
- Do you know any Turkish Olympic champions?

Reading

Naim Süleymanoğlu was born on 23 January 1967 in Bulgaria, in a Turkish family. He was a very short man, only about 1.47 metres tall, but he was one of the strongest athletes in the world. His nickname was “Pocket Hercules” (Cep Herkülü).

Naim started weightlifting when he was a child, and he broke his first world record as a teenager. In 1986, he moved to Türkiye, and people welcomed him like a hero.

At the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, he lifted 190 kilograms. That was more than three times heavier than his own body! He won the gold medal. Then he won gold again in Barcelona in 1992 and in Atlanta in 1996. He was the first weightlifter in history to win gold medals at three Olympic Games.

Naim Süleymanoğlu died on 18 November 2017 in Istanbul. For many people in Türkiye, he is still the greatest sportsman of all time.

Vocabulary

English	Türkçe	Example
weightlifting	halter	*Weightlifting is a very hard sport.*
lift	kaldırmak	*Can you lift this box?*
athlete	sporcu, atlet	*The athletes trained every day.*
gold medal	altın madalya	*She won a gold medal in swimming.*

strong	güçlü	*My dad is very strong.*
break a record	rekor kırmak	*He broke the school record.*
hero	kahraman	*Firefighters are real heroes.*

Language focus

Kalıp	Örnek
Comparatives	short → shorter / heavy → heavier / strong → stronger than …
Superlatives	the strongest / the greatest / the first … to win
… times + comparative	The weight was three times heavier than his body.

Discussion

1. Is it more important to be strong or to work hard? Why?
2. Who is the greatest Turkish athlete, in your opinion?
3. Which Olympic sport would you like to try?

Tasks

Choose the correct answer. *(Doğru seçeneği işaretleyin.)*

1. What was Naim Süleymanoğlu's nickname?

a) Little Lion
b) Golden Arm
c) Pocket Hercules
d) Iron Man

Fill in the blanks. *(Boşlukları doldurun.)*

2. He was one of the _____ (strong) athletes in the world.

3. The weight was three times _____ (heavy) than his body.

Write True (T) or False (F). *(Doğru mu yanlış mı?)*

4. He won gold medals at three Olympic Games. ( )

5. He was a very tall man. ( )

Match the items. *(Eşleştirin.)*

6. Match the Olympic Games and the years.

1. Seoul ( )
2. Barcelona ( )
3. Atlanta ( )

a) 1992
b) 1988
c) 1996

Put the parts in the correct order. *(Doğru sıraya koyun.)*

7. Put the words in order.

Olympic / golds. / weightlifter / He / win / the / was / three / to / first

Speaking tasks. *(Konuşma görevleri: sınıfta sözlü yapın.)*

8. Compare two athletes you know. Use one comparative and one superlative.