

MONDAY
Money

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

World's fastest accountant sprints to victory

Can humans get any faster?
Eugene Amo-Dadzie, a 30-year-old sprinter, has smashed the 10-second barrier four years after taking up the sport at age 26.

Accountants are known for keeping records. But this one is out to break them!

Eugene Amo-Dadzie is a British **amateur** sprinter who calls himself the world's fastest accountant. Eugene might be **underselling** himself. As of last week he's also the fourth fastest British man of all time.

At Graz, Austria, he ran the 100m in an **astounding** 9.93 seconds. That's the fastest time in Europe this year.

It is not bad for someone who started athletics late, at 26, and still works **crunching numbers** by day.

Eugene decided to have a go at



Excelling: When not setting records, Eugene Amo-Dadzie spends his days with spreadsheets.

THE STORY SO FAR

Running the 100m in under 10 seconds is sometimes called breaking the 10-second barrier. The first sprinter to do so was Jim Hines in 1968. Since then only 170 men have managed this.

sprinting when he and a friend saw a **track meet** next to where they played football.

Watching them run, his friend, who had seen Eugene's speed on the pitch, said, "You could put a pair of **spikes** on and beat these guys. Why haven't you tried this properly before?"

Within a year he had made it to the British championship semi-finals.

His times got faster and faster. By 2022, he was regularly running the 100m in 10.05.

But in Austria, he reached the next level.

"I got into my upright running and I literally felt like I was flying," he says.

"I leaned towards the line, looked over, saw the time began with a nine and went crazy. I just went mad. God willing, I will run that many more times, but you only get the first one once. It was one of the best days of my life."

KEY WORDS

Accountants:

People who keep track of business spending

Amateur: Someone who does not run for a living

Underselling: Being modest

Astounding: Shocking and impressive

Crunching numbers:

Doing sums

Track meet: A race

Spikes: Special running shoes

Usain Bolt: The world record holder in the 100m sprint



YOU DECIDE

Can humans get any faster?

YES. People keep breaking the 10-second barrier. With improved training and tech there is no limit.

NO. There is a limit to how fast a body can go, and we're already close to it. No one will beat **Usain Bolt**.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Runner gives up medal to rival who went wrong way ☐

Runner apologises for using car ☐

Runner trips over armadillo and wins race anyway ☐

Usain Bolt is the world's fastest athlete, but what sport did he nearly choose instead of athletics?



- A) Football
- B) Cricket
- C) Bobsleigh
- D) Archery

TIME TO DESIGN!

The 10-second barrier is just a phrase, but what would it look like if it was real? Can you design a structure that symbolises incredible speed for athletes to smash through?

Step one:

Think about your design! What kind of things mean speed? A lighting bolt? A clock? How could you turn these into a barrier?

Step two:

Create your design! Draw someone smashing through your 10-second barrier.



Talking point

Should athletes all have to wear the same shoes and clothes, to ensure complete fairness?

Amaze someone

The women's 100m record is held by Florence Griffith-Joyner at 10.49 seconds. She was almost a foot shorter than the men's record holder, Usain Bolt.

Because the 100m is over so quickly, when a runner starts moving it is measured electronically, to ensure they are not starting milliseconds early.

THE EXTRA PAGE

The world's fastest accountant

It was first thing on Sunday morning that Eugene Amo-Dadzie — the self-styled world's fastest accountant — heard the knock on his front door.

Bleary-eyed having only returned from his life-changing trip to Austria late the night before, he excitedly jumped out of bed and hurried to welcome his early visitors.

"As soon as I saw their credentials I was buzzing," says Amo-Dadzie, of the UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) officers standing on his doorstep asking him to provide a urine sample. "It's validation of your achievement."

"They are not going to test someone who is running 10.8."

At 30, Amo-Dadzie is the oldest new kid on the block British sprinting has ever seen.

Despite only taking up athletics when he was 26, his astonishing 9.93-second performance in Graz, Austria, last week means he is now the quickest 100m runner in Europe this year. The time also places him fourth on the British all-time list.

Not bad for a full-time accountant with no sponsors or funding.

Amo-Dadzie's athletics story really begins in the summer of 2018 when he and his lifelong friend stumbled across a local track meeting.



On track: Eugene Amo-Dadzie hopes to make Britain's team for the World Athletics Championships.

Watching the 100m, his friend turned to Amo-Dadzie and bluntly said: "You could put a pair of spikes on and beat these guys. Why haven't you tried this properly before?"

Amo-Dadzie had no real answer. That afternoon, he decided to give it a shot.

Within a year of his first training session at Woodford Green Athletics Club, he reached the British Championships semi-finals.

Still, few outside his immediate circle had any inkling of what was to come in Graz last Friday evening, where he blitzed the field.

"I got into my upright running and I literally felt like I was flying," he says.

"I leaned towards the line, looked over, saw the time began with a nine and went crazy. I just went mad. God willing, I will run that many more times, but you only get the first one once. It was one of

the best days of my life."

Turning professional is surely inevitable, although this week he is back fitting training sessions around work as a senior management accountant.

One question remains — something more people are asking him with every giant leap he makes. Does he wonder what he might have achieved if he had taken athletics seriously 15 years or more ago?

"No. Easy answer," he says.

"I very much enjoy that I have a different story. I still refer to myself as an accountant that happens to operate in the world of track and field."

Surely, no longer. He is now a sprinter who happens to be an accountant. ■

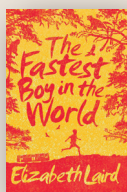
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Answers to the puzzles

Usain Bolt question

B) Cricket, it was while bowling his speed was spotted by a coach

Spot the fake

Runner trips over armadillo and wins race anyway