

Warm up your English for World Cup 2006

Worksheet

Introduction

Work in pairs and ask and answer these questions.

- Do you follow football?
- Which team or teams do you support and why?
- Who do you think will win the World Cup this year?
- How do you think your country will do in the World Cup? If your country didn't make it to the World Cup this year, what are the chances that it will take part in the next one?

Activity 1a The stages of the game

Match these collocations which describe different stages of a football match. When you are ready, check your answers in the dictionary.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| a half | draw |
| b the final | extra time |
| c the first | shoot-out |
| d go into | half |
| e come back | time |
| f a penalty | whistle |
| g a goalless | out |

Activity 1b

Now write the stages in the order in which they happen in a match.

- the first half*
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Dictionary skills tip
When you are checking the meaning of collocations in a dictionary, decide which of the words is less common and check that entry first. For example, you are more likely to find the meaning of *final whistle* under the entry for *whistle* than under the entry for *final* since *whistle* is the less common word.

Activity 2 Playing the game

Complete the sentences with the words **ball**, **goal** or **player**. Check the definitions of the words in *italics* in the dictionary.

- He *headed* the ball into the net.
- The _____ *was sent off* by the referee.
- They *conceded* a _____ and lost the match.
- He *dribbled* the _____ the whole length of the pitch.
- Who *scored* the second _____?
- Arsenal scored an *own* _____.
- They *took possession* of the _____.
- The _____ *went wide*.
- He was given a yellow card for fouling another _____.

Activity 3

Circle the odd word out and explain your choice.

- a striker a midfielder a header a goalie

- the field the pitch the ground the park

- score a hat trick hit the woodwork
put it away tap it in

- crossing following passing marking

Activity 4

Tell your partner about an exciting football match you have watched or played recently.

World Cup competition



World Cup COMPETITION

by Andrew Holmes

On Friday 9th June the opening game of the 18th World Cup kicks off in Germany. Brazil are the holders and will start favourites to win a sixth trophy but there will be fierce competition from traditionally powerful teams such as Italy, Argentina, England, France, and not forgetting the hosts Germany. Many of the world's top strikers will be on show at the finals although they will have a hard job to beat or even match the 13 goals scored by Just Fontaine in Sweden in 1958, a record that stands to this day.

QUESTION 1

For which country did Just Fontaine score 13 goals during the 1958 World Cup competition in Sweden?

World Cup COMPETITION

by Andrew Holmes

This year's World Cup will be the first time that the finals have been held on German soil since 1974. Then Germany was divided by the Cold War into two nations: the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). The collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 thankfully brought the Cold War to an end and a year later the two Germanies reunited. Germany's footballers have played as one team ever since, although the reunited team has yet to win the World Cup. As host nation this year, however, they will be one of the favourites to lift the trophy.



QUESTION 2

East Germany played West Germany in a group match at the 1974 World Cup finals. What was the score?

World Cup COMPETITION

by Andrew Holmes

Australia is one of the world's leading sporting nations. Success at individual sports is taken for granted, but it is team games at which the Aussies really excel. They are so far the only country to win the rugby union World Cup more than once and have also lifted cricket's equivalent a record three times. Football, however, is a poor relation and the national side have played in the World Cup finals only once. Australia will be in Germany this year, though. And they will certainly be hoping to improve on their last outing in 1974, also on German soil, when they failed to score a single goal in their three games.



QUESTION 3

According to the *Macmillan English Dictionary*, what is an informal name for the Australian national football team?

To enter this competition, go to the **Competition** page in the June 2006 edition of **MED Magazine** or visit our website: www.macmillandictionaries.com

The closing date is Monday 17th July 2006