

The 2010 World Cup

Exercise 1

1. A total of 32 **national / country / selection** teams will take part in the World Cup in South Africa.
2. The country where the World Cup takes place is called the **house / hotel / host** country, and its team always takes part.
3. If there is a country that most people think is going to win, that country is called the **best / favourite / probable**.
4. Most countries in the world, of course, will not be at the World Cup: only those countries that did well in their **eliminatoryies / qualifying games / little games** can take part.
5. No one chooses which teams will play each other in the first stage of the World Cup: instead it is decided by chance. Small balls with the names of the countries on them are put inside a pot so that no one can see the names, then someone pulls them out. This is called a **sorting / lucky hand / draw**. However, it's not *completely* by chance. No one wants the best teams to play each other too early in the competition, so these teams are kept separate. These teams are called **keys / seeds / favourites** (or we can say they are **keyed / seeded / favoured**).
6. In the World Cup (and many other sports competitions), a game in which the winner immediately goes on to the next stage and the loser immediately goes out of the competition is called a **knock-out / killer / life-and-death** game.
7. We often say footballers play in one of four positions: goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, or **forward / advanced / fronter**.
8. What wins football matches, of course, is **marking / scoring / making** goals.

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WORKSHEET B

The football World Cup, which takes place every four years, begins in South Africa on 11th June.

The first match will take place in the city of Johannesburg at the Soccer City stadium, which can hold around 95,000 people. Nine other stadiums around the country will also be used, all of them with a capacity of at least 40,000.

Thirty-two national teams will take part: thirteen from Europe, eight from the Americas (including five from South America), six from Africa, three from Asia, and two from Oceania. Thirty-one of them had to do well in qualifying games, between 2007 and 2009, in order to play in the competition; only the hosts, South Africa, qualified automatically.

In a draw that took place in December 2009, the countries were put into eight groups of four for the first stage of the tournament. (Eight teams – South Africa, as hosts, plus the seven considered to be the best: Argentina, Brazil, England, Germany, Holland, Italy and Spain – were seeded, making it impossible for them to play each other in the first stage.) In the group stage, each team plays every other team once – i.e. three games for every team. The top two teams in each group – sixteen in total – go on to the next stage, which is where the knock-out matches begin: from this point the winner of every match goes through to the next round and the loser goes home. After the second round, the quarter-finals and the semi-finals, the tournament will end with the final, at the Soccer City stadium, on 11th July.

There seems to be no strong favourite to win the tournament. Many people think Brazil (who have won the World Cup five times – more than any other country) and Spain are the two strongest teams, but that some other countries – such as England, Argentina and Holland – have a chance.

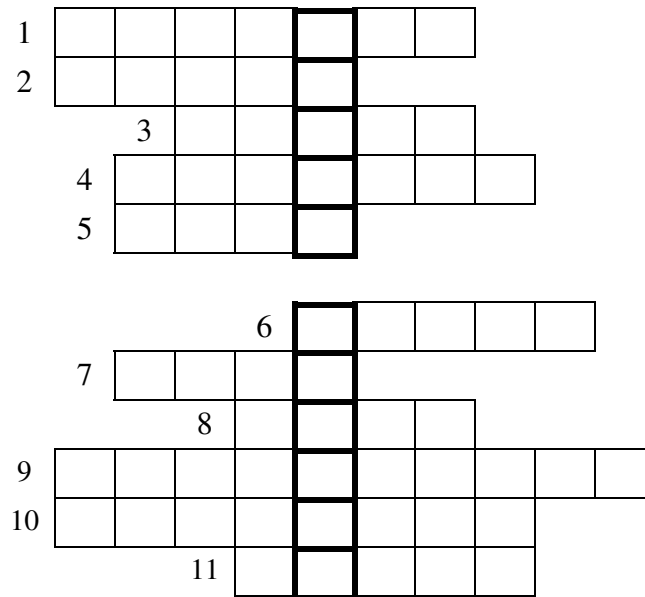
This is the first time the World Cup has taken place in Africa, so many fans will be particularly interested to see how well the African countries do. Ivory Coast is perhaps the best of the six, but in the first stage they are in a difficult group with Brazil and Portugal.

Most World Cups have a surprise team that does better than most people expected (one of the African countries this year?), and a player who scores vital goals in not just one but two, three or four matches (a forward such as Argentina's Lionel Messi, Spain's Fernando Torres, or England's Wayne Rooney?). Only one thing is certain, however: there will be millions of shouts of joy around the world, and millions of tears, before the tournament ends.

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Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the names of the two countries that reached the final of the last World Cup, in 2006, will read from top to bottom.



1. Soccer City is a _____ in Johannesburg.
2. A total of _____ teams will play in the quarter-finals.
3. Many people think Brazil and _____ will be the best teams.
4. Because they are the host country, South Africa didn't have to play any games to _____ for the competition.
5. Ivory Coast is not in an _____ group in the first stage.
6. The _____ will take place on 11th July.
7. There will be _____ teams in each group in the first stage.
8. Thirty-two national teams will take _____.
9. The _____ will last about four weeks.
10. Soccer City has a _____ of around 95,000.
11. England was one of the _____ when the draw was made in December 2009.

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WORKSHEET D

Exercise 3

Most of the text from Worksheet B has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

The football World Cup, which (1) **gives** place every four years, begins in South Africa (2) **in** 11th June.

The first match will take place in the city of Johannesburg at the Soccer City stadium, which can hold around 95,000 people. Nine other stadiums around the country will also be used, all of them with a (3) **capacity** of at least 40,000.

Thirty-two national teams will take part: thirteen from Europe, eight from the (4) **Americas** (including five from South America), six from Africa, three from Asia, and two from (5) **Ocean**. Thirty-one of them had to (6) **make** well in qualifying games, between 2007 and 2009, in order to play in the competition; only the (7) **hots**, South Africa, qualified (8) **automatic**.

In a draw that took place (9) **on** December 2009, the countries were put into eight groups of four for the first stage of the tournament. (Eight teams – South Africa, as hosts, plus the seven considered to be the best: Argentina, Brazil, England, (10) **German**, Holland, Italy and Spain – were seeded, making it impossible for them to play each other in the first stage.) In the group stage, each team plays every other team once – i.e. three games for every team. The top two teams in each group – sixteen in total – go on to the next stage, which is where the (11) **knock-on** matches begin: from this point the winner of every match goes through to the next round and the loser goes (12) **house**. After the second round, the (13) **four**-finals and the (14) **demi**-finals, the tournament will end with the final, at the Soccer City stadium, on 11th July.

There seems (15) **be** no strong (16) **favour** to win the tournament. Many people think Brazil (who have won the World Cup five times – more than any other country) and Spain are the two (17) **strongest** teams, but that some other countries – such as England, Argentina and Holland – have (18) **chance**.

This is the first time the World Cup has taken place in Africa, so many (19) **fas** will be particularly interested to see how well the African countries do. Ivory Coast are perhaps the best of the six, but in the first stage they are in a difficult group with Brazil and Portugal.

Most World Cups have a surprise team that does better than most people expected (one of the African countries this year?), and a player who (20) **make** (21) **viral** goals in not just one but two, three or four matches (a (22) **forward** such as Argentina's Lionel Messi, Spain's Fernando Torres, or England's Wayne Rooney?). Only one thing is (23) **certain**, however: there will be millions of shouts of (24) **boy** around the world, and millions of (25) **trees**, before the tournament ends.