
The 2010 World Cup

WORKSHEET A

The 2010 soccer World Cup came to an end on Sunday, July 11, with the final between Spain and Holland in Johannesburg. Spain won 1-0, the winning goal coming four minutes before the end of overtime.

Spain had never won the World Cup before, and it was also the first time a European country had won the tournament when it took place outside Europe. However, some other European teams did much worse than expected – especially England, France, and Italy, who were all knocked out before the quarterfinals – and for a while it seemed the South American countries would dominate, with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay all playing well. In the end, however, Uruguay was the only South American team to reach the semifinals, where they lost to Holland.

There was widespread agreement that Spain, who played in a very skillful way, deserved to be champions. There was also praise in the media for Germany (who thrashed England 4-1, and Argentina 4-0), Uruguay (whose forward Diego Forlán was voted the best player in the tournament), and Ghana (the only African team to get through the first stage, and who only just failed to reach the semifinals).

There seems to be a consensus that the World Cup was positive for South Africa, and indeed for Africa in general. It was the first time Africa had hosted one of the world's two biggest sporting events (the other being the Olympic Games®), and in terms of organization, and the enthusiasm of the local fans, it was definitely a success.

For the hundreds of millions of people watching on TV, one of the longest-lasting memories of the 2010 World Cup might be the *vuvuzelas* – the plastic horns that many of the fans inside the stadiums seemed to blow nonstop during the games. Some people thought it added to the atmosphere; some just found it irritating.

As for the biggest star of the tournament, that was perhaps not a soccer player, nor even a human being, but instead Paul the octopus, a resident of an aquarium in the city of Oberhausen in Germany, who became famous worldwide for what seemed to be his ability to predict the results of games. On eight occasions, two mussels that were marked with the flags of the two countries in an upcoming game were put into boxes in Paul's tank – and every time, Paul chose to eat the mussel next to the flag of the country that went on to win. When Paul chose the “Spanish” mussel before the Germany vs. Spain semifinal, many German fans suddenly became slightly less optimistic – and when Germany lost, there were even some unkind suggestions in German newspapers and websites about the best way Paul could be cooked and eaten.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the blanks.

1. **__ d _ s _ r __** (adjective): happening or existing in many places
2. An event that is **_ p __ mi __** (adjective) is going to happen soon.
3. **t _ _ _ _ h** (verb): to defeat an opponent very easily in a game or competition
4. **_ _ _ _ _ am _ _ _** (noun): a series of games in which the winner of each game plays in the next game, until there is only one player or team left
5. **_ r _ d _ _ _** (verb): to say what you think will happen in the future
6. When there is a **_ _ ns _ _ su _** (noun) about something, there is agreement among all or most of the people involved.
7. **_ _ o _** (verb): to push out air through your mouth, or to make a sound by pushing air from your mouth through another object
8. **h _ _ _** (verb): to arrange an event and provide the place(s) , equipment. and services necessary for it to take place
9. **_ o _ w _ _ _** (noun): a player in a game such as soccer or hockey whose job is to attack the other team and score
10. **_ _ o _ _ _ _ t** (phrasal verb): to make someone leave a competition by defeating them
11. **_ _ _ rt _ _ _** (noun): an extra period of time that can be added to a game, for example in soccer, if neither team has won yet
12. **_ o _ e _ _ _ _ e _ d** (phrase): to finish
13. Someone who lives in a particular place is a **_ es _ _ _ _ t** (noun) there.
14. **d _ _ in _ _ _** (verb): to play much better than your opponents in a game or sport
15. When someone expresses **p _ _ i _ e** (noun) for someone or something, they are saying they like, admire, or approve of that person or thing.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

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

The 2010 soccer World Cup came to an end on Sunday, July 11, with the final

(1) **between** Spain and Holland in Johannesburg. Spain won 1-0, the winning (2) **gol** coming four minutes before the end of overtime.

Spain had never won the World Cup before, and it was also the first time a European country had won the tournament when it took place outside Europe.

(3) **Ever**, some other European teams did much (4) **worst** than expected – especially England, France, and Italy, who were all knocked (5) **out** before the (6) **fourfinals** – and for a while it seemed the South American countries would dominate, with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay all playing well. In the end, however, Uruguay was the only South American team to reach the semifinals, where they lost (7) **on** Holland.

There was widespread (8) **agreed** that Spain, who played in a very (9) **skilfull** way, (10) **deserved** to be (11) **campions**. There was also praise in the (12) **midia** for Germany (who thrashed England 4-1, and Argentina 4-0), Uruguay (whose forward Diego Forlán was (13) **voted** the best player in the tournament), and Ghana (the only African team to get through the first (14) **sage**, and who only just failed to reach the semifinals).

There seems to be a (15) **sensus** that the World Cup was positive for South Africa, and indeed for Africa in general. It was the first time Africa had hosted one of the world's two biggest sporting events (the other being the Olympic Games), and in terms of organization, and the (16) **thusiasm** of the local fans, it was definitely a success.

For the hundreds of millions of people watching on TV, one of the longest-lasting memories of the 2010 World Cup might be the *vuvuzelas* – the plastic (17) **hons** that many of the fans inside the stadiums seemed to blow (18) **nostop** during the games. Some people thought it added to the (19) **atmosphera**; some just found it (20) **irritating**.

As for the biggest star of the tournament, that was perhaps not a soccer player, nor even a human being, but instead Paul the octopus, a resident of an (21) **aqua-room** in the city of Oberhausen in Germany, who became famous worldwide for what seemed to be his ability to (22) **predicate** the results of games. On eight occasions, two mussels that were marked with the flags

of the two countries in an (23) **upcome** game were put into boxes in Paul's tank – and every time, Paul chose to eat the mussel next to the flag of the country that went on to win. When Paul chose the “Spanish” mussel before the Germany vs. Spain semifinal, many German fans suddenly became slightly less (24) **optimist** – and when Germany lost, there were even some unkind suggestions in German newspapers and websites about the best way Paul could be cooked and (25) **ate**.