

Activity Type

Reading, Vocabulary and Speaking Activity: matching, guided discussion, freer and communicative practice (group work)

Focus

Discussion skills

Discussion practice

Aim

To learn topic based vocabulary and discuss questions on the topic of the World Cup.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging World Cup discussion activity, students learn topic-based vocabulary and discuss questions on the topic of the World Cup.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

To begin, students read a text about the World Cup and then match topic-based words in bold from the text to their definitions.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. f 2. e 3. a 4. b 5. h 6. g 7. c 8. d

Afterwards, in groups of three, students discuss five questions about the World Cup, with each group member leading the discussion for at least one question.

A. Read the text about the World Cup and then match the words in bold to their definitions.

The World Cup of football is a (a) **quadrennial** tournament of 32 national teams that is organized by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The (b) **tournament** is played to decide the sport's world champion. It is the most popular sporting event in the world that attracts billions of television viewers across the entire globe.

Prior to the World Cup's (c) **inauguration**, the most (d) **prestigious** football tournament was the one included as part of the Summer Olympics. However, in the 1920s, the game was transitioning to become a professional sport. This meant the best footballers could not compete at the Olympics, which was only open to (e) **amateurs**. Therefore, FIFA decided to organize its own tournament, the World Cup. The decision to hold the first (f) **edition** was officially made on May 26, 1928.



The first official World Cup was hosted by Uruguay in 1930, and since then the tournament has been held every four years. The only (g) **exception** was when this schedule was interrupted because of the Second World War.

Brazil has won the World Cup five times and is the only team to have played in every tournament. The other winners are Germany and Italy, with four titles each; Argentina, France, and inaugural winner Uruguay, with two titles each; and England and Spain, with one (h) **title** each.

1. One of a series of repeated events.
2. People competing in a sporting event, who do not receive money to participate.
3. Describing something that happens every four years.
4. A competition in which a series of games is played, and the winners of each game play against each other until only one winner is left.
5. The position you get by beating all other competitors in a sports competition.
6. To not happen in the usual or expected way.
7. The act of an event officially starting to be held.
8. Very respected and admired because of its importance or high quality.

B. In groups of three, discuss the questions about the World Cup below.

1. Do you enjoy watching major sporting events such as the World Cup? Why? Why not?
2. Why are sporting events such as the World Cup so popular?
3. What are some of the benefits and drawbacks for countries that host the World Cup?
4. Are penalty shootouts the best way to decide important matches? Why? Why not?
5. Would you agree that the World Cup is more prestigious than the Olympics? Why? Why not?