FOOTBALL AND THE WORLD CUP

1. Warm-up

Do you like watching the World Cup? Why or why not?

2. The World Cup in numbers

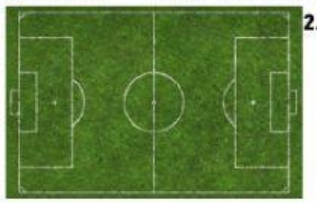
Choose the best answer for each statement below. Then listen to the audio to check your answers.

1. The year the first World Cup was held: 1925 / 1930 / 1935
2. The number of teams at the first World Cup: 13 / 17 / 20
3. The number of people who watched the 2014 World Cup: 1.2 bn / 2.1 bn / 3.2 bn
4. The number of teams that will play at the 2026 tournament: 32 / 40 / 48
5. The average attendance at matches in 2014: 49,500 / 53,600 / 61,200
6. The age of the oldest person to score a goal at a World Cup: 42 / 46 / 50
7. The most goals that one player scored in a World Cup match: 4 / 5 / 6

3. Football nouns

Match the words to the pictures.

a whistle **a football stadium** **a trophy** **a corner flag** **a football pitch** **the goal**


2.

3.

4.

1.

5.

6.

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4. Football and people

Match the people to what they do.

1.	the captain	a.	is in charge of the game and makes sure the players obey the rules
2.	the coach	b.	leads the team
3.	a defender	c.	passes the ball to the strikers so they can score but also defends
4.	the goalkeeper	d.	scores goals
5.	a midfielder	e.	stands in the team's goal to stop the ball going in
6.	a striker	f.	trains and organises the team
7.	the referee	g.	tries to stop the other team from scoring goals

5. Playing the game

Complete the sentences below with the correct words.

a corner	a goal kick	a penalty
a red card	a throw-in	a yellow card

1. If a defender kicks the ball behind the goal, the other team get_____.
2. If a defender touches the ball with their hand in the goal area, the other team get _____ .
3. If a player punches another player, they get_____.
4. If a player kicks the ball over the line at the side of the pitch, the other team get_____.
5. If a player fouls several others, they get_____.
6. If an attacker kicks the ball behind the goal, the other team get_____.

6. Football verbs

Complete the sentences below with the correct verbs.

dribble	head	mark	pass
score	shoot	~~kick~~	tackle

1. Oliver didn't kick the ball hard enough so it went straight to another player.
2. We need to_____another goal in the second half.
3. To get the ball from another player you have to_____them.
4. To_____the ball, players often have to jump in the air.
5. The team's striker is very fast and can easily_____past defenders.
6. Andy,_____the captain of the team closely to keep him out of the game.
7. It's unlikely you will score if you_____from the middle of the pitch.
8. Decide who you want to_____to before you kick the ball.

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