

WORLD CUP 2026 STARS

PART 7 · MULTIPLE MATCHING · LEVEL B1+

**WHAT TO DO.**

Read about four famous footballers (**A-D**) heading to the 2026 World Cup in the USA, Canada and Mexico. Then answer questions **1-10** by deciding which footballer each sentence describes. A footballer may be chosen **MORE THAN ONCE**. Circle your answers: A, B, C or D.

A**Lionel Messi**

ARGENTINA

6TH WORLD CUP

8× WORLD PLAYER

2022 CHAMPION

NOW PLAYS IN THE USA

Lionel Messi is one of the greatest football players in history, and at this World Cup he will captain Argentina once again. He first appeared at the competition in 2006, so 2026 will be his sixth time. Because he turns 39 during the tournament, many people believe this could be his final World Cup, and they want to enjoy every moment of it. In 2022, after years of trying, he finally won the trophy and was chosen as the best player of the whole competition. He has also been named the world's best player a remarkable eight times. Although he became famous in Europe, where he spent most of his career, he now plays his club football in the United States.

B**Cristiano Ronaldo**

PORTUGAL

AGE 41

6TH WORLD CUP

900+ CAREER GOALS

CAPTAIN

Cristiano Ronaldo, the captain of Portugal, is 41 years old, yet he is still playing at the very top level. His fitness and hard work are famous, and he looks after his body with great care. Like Messi, he is appearing at his sixth World Cup, and the two men first played at the competition in the same year, 2006. Ronaldo has scored more goals than any other player in the history of football — well over 900 in total — and he holds many records. However, there is one prize that has always escaped him: the World Cup itself. He has come close before but never quite reached the top. For this reason, the 2026 tournament means a great deal to him, because it is almost certainly his last chance to lift the trophy.



Kylian Mbappé

FRANCE

CAPTAIN

2018 CHAMPION

NOW PLAYS IN SPAIN

LIGHTNING PACE

Kylian Mbappé is the captain of France and one of the fastest players in the world. He grew up in a small town near Paris and became a star while he was still a teenager. In 2018, at the age of just 19, he helped France win the World Cup, scoring an important goal in the final. Four years later, his team reached the final again, although that time they lost. Today he plays for one of the most famous clubs in Spain. Mbappé has already scored many goals at World Cups, and he is now only a few goals away from a special record. If everything goes well, he could finish the 2026 tournament as the highest scorer in the whole history of the competition.



Lamine Yamal

SPAIN

AGE 18

FIRST WORLD CUP

BARCELONA

BEST YOUNG PLAYER

At only 18 years old, Lamine Yamal is by far the youngest of these four stars, and 2026 will be his very first World Cup. He plays for Barcelona, where he now wears the famous number 10 shirt that Messi himself once wore. Yamal first surprised the world at the European Championship in 2024, when he was just 16, playing without fear against much older and more experienced opponents. Since then, he has won several awards for the best young player on the planet, and many people believe he will be a star for many years to come. Unfortunately, he hurt his leg only a few weeks before the tournament. Because of this injury, fans are not completely sure whether he will be fully fit in time.

QUESTIONS

1 - 10

Which footballer... Circle **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** for each one.

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|----|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | is the oldest of the four players? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 2 | moved away from European football to play in another part of the world? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 3 | has been named the world's best player several times? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 4 | may not be fully fit when the tournament begins? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 5 | wears a shirt number that another of these players wore in the past? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 6 | won the World Cup while he was still very young? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 7 | has had a long career but has never won the World Cup? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 8 | is the youngest of the four players? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 9 | hopes to break a scoring record at this tournament? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |
| 10 | waited many years before he finally won the World Cup? | ☐ A | ☐ B | ☐ C | ☐ D |