Reading

Lionel Messi – football hero

Lionel Messi is an Argentinian footballer. Many people say he's the best player in the world today. He was born on 24 June 1987 in Rosario, Argentina. He has two brothers, Rodrigo and Matías, and a sister, María Sol. Messi started playing football when he was five. He started playing with the local first-division team, Newell's Old Boys, when he was only eight. Three years later, doctors found out that he was ill. The medical treatment in Argentina was very expensive and his parents didn't have enough money to pay for it.

The family decided to move to Europe, and Messi's father arranged a trial with the famous football team FC Barcelona. When the directors of Barcelona saw Messi play, they signed the young player right away! The club paid for his treatment, and Messi started playing for the team. He played his first game for the senior team in October 2004 and he scored his first goal on 1 May 2005. He was only seventeen years old. In his first six years, he scored more than a hundred goals for FC Barcelona, and helped them win the championship trophy four times, and the European Champions League twice.

Messi played in the 2006 and 2010 World Cups for Argentina, but without much success. He helped his national team win the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

In 2007, he started a children's charity to help them with their education and healthcare. He said in an interview 'Being a bit famous now gives me the opportunity to help people who really need it, especially children.' To recognize his work with the charity, UNICEF made Messi its goodwill ambassador for children's rights in 2010.

1 Read the article. Write true (T) or false (F).

1 Lionel Messi says he's the best footballer in the world. F
2 His parents have a daughter and two sons. ___
3 He wasn't ten when he started playing for Newell's Old Boys football team. ___
4 Doctors discovered his medical problem when he was eleven. ___
5 FC Barcelona thought Messi played football very well. ___
6 He scored his first goal for FC Barcelona in 2005. ___
7 He scored a hundred goals for Barcelona before he was 21 years old. ___
8 Argentina won a World Cup with Messi. ___
9 He's an Olympic champion. ___
10 His charity helps poor children play football professionally. ___
11 He started working for UNICEF in 2007. ___

2 Match the underlined words to the definitions.

1 learning	education	4 chance, possibility	_____
2 test	_____	5 unwell	_____
3 prize	_____	6 adult	_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS