

Messi scores greatest World Cup win for Argentina

In a World Cup victory elusive to Argentina since 1986, Lionel Messi received the greatest possible glory for their win against France. Messi netted two goals and France's star player Kylian Mbappé scored a three goal hat-trick. But after 120 minutes in the most dramatic finale ever it was tied 3-3 and Argentina scored the winning penalty. Messi roared "Let's go, Argentina!" and held his first World Cup trophy aloft.

While Mbappé scored the first World Cup final hat-trick since 1966, Messi had the largest domination by far during the Qatari World Cup. This stakes his claim with fellow Argentine Diego Maradona as one of the best players ever. Having the World Cup title on his résumé puts Messi in the highest possible slot, above footballing counterparts like Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Argentina had the slowest momentum by far when they lost their first match 2-1 to Saudi Arabia. After this hottest controversy ever for Argentina, Messi played with his strongest aggression yet. Embracing his fans' passion, he became the first ever player to score in the group stage, the round of 16, the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and the final.

It was Mbappé though with eight goals who poached the Golden Boot trophy, awarded to the tournament's top scorer. Messi received the Golden Ball trophy for being the tournament's most skillful player by far. He scored seven goals throughout the tournament's span. As the win sparked the wildest celebrations yet, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said, "The match was completely insane".

Warm-up activities

What does it feel like to achieve a long-term goal? What does it feel like to not achieve one? For example, a personal goal, a sporting goal, or a professional goal?

Think of your favourite sport or game. Which is better – being a player or being a spectator?

Can you think of ten words in total to describe sport that begin with the letters *A*, *R*, and *G*?

Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- *fame* (paragraph 1) g...
- *prize* (paragraph 1) t...
- *marks* (paragraph 2) s...
- *welcoming* (paragraph 3) e...
- *crazy* (paragraph 4) i...

What does the italicised word below mean – *exclusive*, *unknown*, or *challenge*?

- *elusive* to Argentina since 1986

Comprehension questions

1. How many goals did Mbappé score in the final?
2. How was the final score settled?
3. Messi is likened to which famous footballer?
4. Which footballer is Messi statistically better than?
5. Where did Portugal finish in the World Cup?
6. After losing his first game, what did Messi improve?
7. Who scored in every round?
8. Who scored more goals in the World Cup – Messi or Mbappé?
9. Who is the Golden Ball trophy awarded to?
10. What was Scaloni's impression of the final?

- A. Maradona.
- B. Mbappé.
- C. On penalties.
- D. He loved it.
- E. His aggression.
- F. Three.
- G. Ronaldo.
- H. Messi.
- I. It doesn't say.
- J. The best player.

Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. most | A. possible |
| 2. win | B. trick |
| 3. hat- | C. his claim |
| 4. stakes | D. counterparts |
| 5. netted | E. skillful |
| 6. by | F. against |
| 7. highest | G. two goals |
| 8. semi- | H. finals |
| 9. tied | I. far |
| 10. footballing | J. 3-3 |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. roar | A. take |
| 2. counterpart | B. shout |
| 3. slot | C. get |
| 4. net | D. position |
| 5. poach | E. equal |

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. insane | A. agreement |
| 2. controversy | B. sane |
| 3. aggression | C. friendliness |

Missing grammar: superlatives

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A. hottest | F. highest |
| B. best | G. most dramatic |
| C. largest | H. strongest |
| D. greatest | I. wildest |
| E. most skillful | J. slowest |

In a World Cup victory elusive to Argentina since 1986, Lionel Messi received the 1._____ possible glory for their win against France. Messi netted two goals and France's star player Kylian Mbappé scored a three goal hat-trick. But after 120 minutes in the 2._____ finale ever it was tied 3-3 and Argentina scored the winning penalty. Messi roared "Let's go, Argentina!" and held his first World Cup trophy aloft.

While Mbappé scored the first World Cup final hat-trick since 1966, Messi had the 3._____ domination by far during the Qatari World Cup. This stakes his claim with fellow Argentine Diego Maradona as one of the 4._____ players ever. Having the World Cup title on his résumé puts Messi in the 5._____ possible slot, above footballing counterparts like Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Argentina had the 6._____ momentum by far when they lost their first match 2-1 to Saudi Arabia. After this 7._____ controversy ever for Argentina, Messi played with his 8._____ aggression yet. Embracing his fans' passion, he became the first ever player to score in the group stage, the round of 16, the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and the final.

It was Mbappé though with eight goals who poached the Golden Boot trophy, awarded to the tournament's top scorer. Messi received the Golden Ball trophy for being the tournament's 9._____ player by far. He scored seven goals throughout the tournament's span. As the win sparked the 10._____ celebrations yet, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said, "The match was completely insane".

Multiple choice vocabulary

In a World Cup victory elusive to Argentina since 1986, Lionel Messi received the greatest possible 1. _____ for their win against France. Messi netted two goals and France's star player Kylian Mbappé scored a three goal hat-trick. But after 120 minutes in the most dramatic finale ever it was tied 3-3 and Argentina scored the winning penalty. Messi roared "Let's go, Argentina!" and held his first World Cup 2. _____ aloft.

While Mbappé scored the first World Cup final hat-trick since 1966, Messi had the largest 3. _____ by far during the Qatari World Cup. This 4. _____ his claim with fellow Argentine Diego Maradona as one of the best players ever. Having the World Cup title on his résumé puts Messi in the highest possible slot, above footballing 5. _____ like Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Argentina had the slowest momentum by far when they lost their first match 2-1 to Saudi Arabia. After this hottest 6. _____ ever for Argentina, Messi played with his strongest 7. _____ yet. 8. _____ his fans' passion, he became the first ever player to score in the group stage, the round of 16, the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and the final.

It was Mbappé though with eight goals who 9. _____ the Golden Boot trophy, awarded to the tournament's top scorer. Messi received the Golden Ball trophy for being the tournament's most skillful player by far. He scored seven goals throughout the tournament's span. As the win 10. _____ the wildest celebrations yet, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said, "The match was completely insane".

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. A. goalie | B. game | C. glory | D. grand |
| 2. A. sponsor | B. trophy | C. medal | D. manager |
| 3. A. power | B. dominate | C. powerful | D. domination |
| 4. A. takes | B. strikes | C. stakes | D. fakes |
| 5. A. fellowship | B. counterparts | C. colleagues | D. foremost |
| 6. A. controversy | B. controller | C. remake | D. rematch |
| 7. A. aggressive | B. aggression | C. aggressor | D. aggressively |
| 8. A. Approaching | B. Appealing | C. Embarking | D. Embracing |
| 9. A. poached | B. walked | C. kicked | D. headed |
| 10. A. sparked | B. scored | C. sounded | D. swapped |

Spelling

Spell the words from the text correctly.

1. received the greatest possible **l y o g r** g...
2. Messi **o r a d r e** "Let's go, Argentina!" r...
3. held his first World Cup **y t p r o h** aloft t...
4. footballing **u n o t e t a r s c r p** like Ronaldo c...
5. Argentina had the slowest **t m o m n e m u** m...
6. hottest **n r t c y o r e s o v** ever for Argentina c...
7. **n a m i r b c e g** his fans' passion e...
8. throughout the tournament's **p s n a** s...
9. the win **p d r s k a e** the wildest celebrations s...
10. the match was completely **n s i e a n** i...

Fill-in first letters

_n _orld _up _ictory _lusive _o _rgentina _ince 1986, _ionel _essi _eceived _he _reatest _ossible _lory _or _heir _in _gainst _rance. _essi _etted _wo _oals _nd _rance's _tar _layer _ylian _bappé _cored _ _hree _oal _at-_rick. _ut _fter 120 _inutes _n _he _ost _ramatic _inale _ver _t _as _ied 3-3 _nd _rgentina _cored _he _inning _enalty. _essi _oared " _et's _o, _rgentina!" _nd _eld _is _irst _orld _up _rophy _loft.

_hile _bappé _cored _he _irst _orld _up _inal _at-_rick _ince 1966, _essi _ad _he _argest _omination _y _ar _uring _he _atari _orld _up. _his _takes _is _laim _ith _ellow _rgentine _iego _aradona _s _ne _f _he _est _layers _ver. _aving _he _orld _up _tle _n _is _ésumé _uts _essi _n _he _ighest _ossible _lot, _bove _ootballing _ounterparts _ike _ortugal's _ristiano _onaldo.

_rgentina _ad _he _lowest _omentum _y _ar _hen _hey _ost _heir _irst _atch 2-1 _o _audi _rabia. _fter _his _ottest _ontroversy _ver _or _rgentina, _essi _layed _ith _is _trongest _ggression _et. _mbracing _is _ans' _assion, _e _ecame _he _irst _ver _layer _o _core _n _he _roup _tage, _he _ound _f 16, _he _uarter-_inals _nd _emi-_inals, _nd _he _inal.

_t _as _bappé _hough _ith _ight _oals _ho _oached _he _olden _oot _rophy, _warded _o _he _ournament's _op _corer. _essi _eceived _he _olden _all _rophy _or _eing _he _ournament's _ost _killful _layer _y _ar. _e _cored _even _oals _hroughout _he _ournament's _pan. _s _he _in _parked _he _ildest _elebrations _et, _rgentina _oach _ionel _caloni _aid, " _he _atch _as _ompletely _nsane".

Cool-down activities

Discussion questions:

- Have you ever been to a live sporting event? Did your favourite team or player win?
- What are the highs and lows of the football World Cup?
- What is sportsmanship?
- Can you explain the rules of your favourite sport?
- What can people learn from losing?

CEFR C1 10 keywords revision list:

aggression controversy counterpart dominate embrace

glory poach spark stake trophy

Scattergories. In the table below, add one word to each box that matches both the beginning letter and the category, e.g. a sport or game beginning with *G* is *golf*.

	G	O	A	L
A sport or game				
A sporting term or item				
A fun job				
Something on a résumé				
A famous sportsperson				

Answers

Page 2 Warm-up activities

fame / glory

prize / trophy

marks / stakes

welcoming / embracing

crazy / insane

elusive / unknown

Page 3 Comprehension questions

1F, 2C, 3A, 4G, 5I, 6E, 7H, 8B, 9J, 10D

Page 4 Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Phrases 1E, 2F, 3B, 4C, 5G, 6I, 7A, 8H, 9J, 10D

Synonyms 1B, 2E, 3D, 4C, 5A

Antonyms 1B, 2A, 3C

Page 5 Missing grammar: superlatives

1D, 2G, 3C, 4B, 5F, 6J, 7A, 8H, 9E, 10I

Page 6 Multiple choice vocabulary

1C, 2B, 3D, 4C, 5B, 6A, 7B, 8D, 9A, 10A

Page 7 Spelling

GLORY, ROARED, TROPHY, COUNTERPARTS, MOMENTUM,
CONTROVERSY, EMBRACING, SPAN, SPARKED, INSANE

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20230108-world-cup>

Thanks for using this lesson!