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Level 6 – 21st June, 2018

Ex-US soccer player criticized for supporting Mexico

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A former U.S. soccer player has justified his support of rivals Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA national team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is widely regarded as the best American player ever. However, his calls for fellow Americans to back rivals Mexico at the World Cup have landed him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for accepting payment from the company Wells Fargo in exchange for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors to the south are. So join me...to cheer on our other team - Mexico."

Donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks fluent Spanish. He said: "My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question my allegiance to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose passion...inspired me at a very young age....I always have had a strong connection and respect for our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is doing this. Actually, I do - money." A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans love to hate. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

Sources: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/soccer/2018/06/18/landon-donovan-mexico-world-cup/710759002/>
<http://tv5.espn.com/football/united-states/story/3531891/landon-donovan-clarifies-supporting-mexico-in-world-cup-ad-campaign>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-44528016>

WARM-UPS

1. RUSSIA WORLD CUP: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Russia World Cup. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

former / support / rivals / national team / goals / hot water / criticized / neighbors / cheer / fluent / question / allegiance / teammates / connection / respect / money / fan

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TOURNAMENT: Students A **strongly** believe the soccer World Cup is the world's greatest sporting event; Students B **strongly** believe disagree. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. FOOTBALL: How can you make the game of football better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Bad Points Now	Improvements
Referee		
Goal posts		
Stadium		
Equality		
Penalties		
Technology		

5. RIVAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rival". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SOCCER: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about soccer at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- goals
- penalties
- the fans
- the World Cup
- Saturday afternoons
- rivalries
- the skills
- the passion

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. former | a. A series of contests between a number of competitors, who compete for an overall prize. |
| 2. justified | b. Showed or proven to be right or reasonable. |
| 3. rivals | c. Considered or thought of someone or something in a particular way. |
| 4. regarded | d. Having previously filled a particular role or been a particular thing. |
| 5. in hot water | e. Shout for joy or in praise or encouragement for someone or for a team (to win). |
| 6. tournament | f. A person, team or thing competing with another for the same aim or for superiority in the same field of activity. |
| 7. cheer | g. In a difficult situation or in trouble. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. fluent | h. A very, very, very strong desire or enthusiasm for something. |
| 9. bleeds | i. Loyalty or commitment of to a leader, group, team or cause. |
| 10. allegiance | j. A relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else. |
| 11. passion | k. Able to speak or write a particular foreign language easily and accurately. |
| 12. inspired | l. When blood comes out of a human or animal. |
| 13. connection | m. A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. |
| 14. respect | n. Fill someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Landon Donovan scored over 150 international goals. **T / F**
- b. Donovan's fellow Americans poured hot water over him. **T / F**
- c. Donovan was paid to wear a Mexico football shirt. **T / F**
- d. Donovan wanted other Americans to join him in his support for Mexico. **T / F**
- e. Donovan is very proficient in speaking Spanish. **T / F**
- f. Donovan said his heart bleeds the green and white of Mexico's flag. **T / F**
- g. A current U.S. player said Donovan wasn't doing it for the money. **T / F**
- h. A Mexican fan said Mexico fans love Landon Donovan. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. former | a. motivated |
| 2. justify | b. attacked |
| 3. regarded | c. enthusiasm |
| 4. criticized | d. explain |
| 5. cheer on | e. loyalty |
| 6. allegiance | f. link |
| 7. passion | g. ex- |
| 8. inspired | h. supporters |
| 9. connection | i. considered |
| 10. fans | j. encourage |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. justified his support of | a. to back rivals Mexico |
| 2. widely regarded | b. love to hate |
| 3. calls for fellow Americans | c. on our other team |
| 4. landed him | d. question my allegiance |
| 5. join me to cheer | e. as the best American player |
| 6. He grew up in California and | f. passion inspired me |
| 7. one should ever | g. rivals |
| 8. teammates whose | h. connection and respect |
| 9. I always have had a strong | i. in hot water |
| 10. two guys that Mexico fans | j. speaks fluent Spanish |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A former U.S. soccer player has justified his (1) _____ of rivals Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA national team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is (2) _____ regarded as the best American player (3) _____. However, his calls for fellow Americans to back (4) _____ Mexico at the World Cup have landed him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for accepting (5) _____ from the company Wells Fargo in (6) _____ for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The (7) _____ is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our (8) _____ to the south are. So join me...to cheer on our other team - Mexico."

exchange

rivals

widely

neighbors

support

payment

ever

tournament

Donovan explained why he wanted people to (9) _____ for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks (10) _____ Spanish. He said: "My heart (11) _____ red, white and blue and no one should ever question my (12) _____ to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose (13) _____...inspired me at a very young age....I always have had a strong connection and (14) _____ for our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is doing this. Actually, I do - money." A Mexican (15) _____ said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans love to (16) _____. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

passion

bleeds

fan

cheer

hate

fluent

respect

allegiance

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

- 1) A former U.S. soccer player has justified his _____ Mexico
 - a. support of rivalries
 - b. support of libels
 - c. support of rivals
 - d. support of revels
- 2) He is widely regarded as the best American _____
 - a. players ever
 - b. player even
 - c. player ever
 - d. player never
- 3) calls for fellow Americans to back rivals Mexico at the World Cup have landed him _____
 - a. in hot water
 - b. in hot watery
 - c. on hot water
 - d. in heated water
- 4) Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for _____
 - a. accept in payment
 - b. accept tin payment
 - c. accept any payment
 - d. accepting payment
- 5) our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors to _____
 - a. the souths are
 - b. the southern are
 - c. the southerly are
 - d. the south are
- 6) He grew up in California and speaks _____
 - a. fluent Spanish
 - b. fluently Spanish
 - c. fluency Spanish
 - d. flue Spanish
- 7) My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question _____
 - a. my allegiance
 - b. my allegories
 - c. my alliance
 - d. my grievance
- 8) having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose _____
 - a. passionate respired me
 - b. passion inspired me
 - c. passion expired me
 - d. passion aspired me
- 9) I always have had a strong connection and respect _____
 - a. for our neighbor
 - b. at our neighbor
 - c. on our neighbor
 - d. in our neighbor
- 10) A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans _____"
 - a. love to hatred
 - b. love to hate
 - c. love to hates
 - d. love to hater

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A former U.S. soccer player has justified his (1) _____ Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA national team 157 times, (2) _____. He is widely regarded as the best American player ever. However, his calls for fellow Americans (3) _____ Mexico at the World Cup have landed him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized (4) _____ payment from the company Wells Fargo in exchange for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "(5) _____ is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors to the south are. So join me... (6) _____ our other team - Mexico."

Donovan explained why he wanted people (7) _____ Mexico. He grew up in California (8) _____ Spanish. He said: "My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question my allegiance to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, (9) _____ east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose passion...inspired me at a very young age....I always have had a strong connection (10) _____ our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he (11) _____. Actually, I do - money." A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans (12) _____. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

1. How many times did Landon Donovan play for the USA?
2. What has Mr Donovan landed in because of his calls to support Mexico?
3. Who criticized him for wearing a Mexico football shirt?
4. What did Landon Donovan have in a photograph he tweeted?
5. What did Landon Donovan say was not in Russia?
6. Where did Landon Donovan grow up?
7. What does Landon Donovan's heart bleed?
8. Who did Landon Donovan play with in east Los Angeles?
9. What did Claudia Soto say Landon Donovan was doing this for?
10. How many people did a Mexican fan say other fans love to hate?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

- 1) How many times did Landon Donovan play for the USA?
 - a) 135
 - b) 35
 - c) 157
 - d) 57
- 2) What has Mr Donovan landed in because of his calls to support Mexico?
 - a) hot water
 - b) cold water
 - c) deep water
 - d) shallow water
- 3) Who criticized him for wearing a Mexico football shirt?
 - a) Mexico's players
 - b) the media
 - c) referees
 - d) ex-teammates
- 4) What did Landon Donovan have in a photograph he tweeted?
 - a) a World Cup trophy
 - b) a scarf
 - c) a football
 - d) a Mexico mascot
- 5) What did Landon Donovan say was not in Russia?
 - a) a scarf
 - b) his dream
 - c) the USA team
 - d) the World Cup trophy
- 6) Where did Landon Donovan grow up?
 - a) New Mexico
 - b) California
 - c) Texas
 - d) New York
- 7) What does Landon Donovan's heart bleed?
 - a) emotions
 - b) tears
 - c) football
 - d) red, white and blue
- 8) Who did Landon Donovan play with east of Los Angeles?
 - a) the L.A. Dodgers
 - b) his Mexican teammates
 - c) Lionel Messi
 - d) a basketball team
- 9) What did Claudia Soto say Landon Donovan was doing this for?
 - a) money
 - b) fun
 - c) passion
 - d) his friends
- 10) How many people did a Mexican fan say other fans love to hate?
 - a) 5
 - b) 4
 - c) 3
 - d) 2

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Role A – Goals

You think goals are the best thing about football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): fans, rivalries or penalties.

Role B – Fans

You think fans are the best thing about football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): goals, rivalries or penalties.

Role C – Rivalries

You think rivalries are the best thing about football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): fans, goals or penalties.

Role D – Penalties

You think penalties are the best thing about football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): fans, rivalries or goals.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'soccer' and 'player'.

soccer	player
---------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• former• widely• fellow• further• scarf• south	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• why• bleeds• question• current• money• love
--	--

RUSSIA WORLD CUP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Russia World Cup in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

RUSSIA WORLD CUP DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'soccer'?
3. What do you think of the World Cup?
4. What good does the World Cup do?
5. What's wrong with supporting a rival team?
6. What do you think of your country's biggest rival?
7. Do you understand why people are angry with Landon Donovan?
8. What's wrong with getting paid to wear a soccer jersey?
9. Should Mr Donovan be applauded for encouraging good relations?
10. What advice do you have for Landon Donovan?

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RUSSIA WORLD CUP DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'rival'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Who do you think will win the 2018 World Cup, and why?
15. Isn't it better to cheer for many teams?
16. How much allegiance do you have towards your country?
17. Whose passion has inspired you?
18. Who do you love to hate?
19. Which is the better word - "soccer" or "football"?
20. What questions would you like to ask Landon Donovan?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A (1) ____ U.S. soccer player has justified his support of rivals Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA (2) ____ team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is (3) ____ regarded as the best American player ever. However, his calls for fellow Americans to (4) ____ rivals Mexico at the World Cup have landed him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for accepting payment from the company Wells Fargo (5) ____ exchange for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors to the south are. So join me...to cheer (6) ____ our other team - Mexico."

Donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks (7) ____ Spanish. He said: "My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question my (8) ____ to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates (9) ____ passion...inspired me at a very young age....I always have had a strong connection and respect (10) ____ our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is doing this. (11) ____, I do - money." A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans (12) ____ to hate. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) farmer | (b) former | (c) framer | (d) firmer |
| 2. | (a) nationality | (b) nationally | (c) nationals | (d) national |
| 3. | (a) wide | (b) widely | (c) widen | (d) width |
| 4. | (a) front | (b) side | (c) back | (d) bottom |
| 5. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) on | (b) up | (c) at | (d) of |
| 7. | (a) influence | (b) fluently | (c) fluency | (d) fluent |
| 8. | (a) allegiance | (b) scrutiny | (c) adversity | (d) minimal |
| 9. | (a) what | (b) whose | (c) that | (d) from |
| 10. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) for | (d) on |
| 11. | (a) Actuary | (b) Archery | (c) Actually | (d) Actuality |
| 12. | (a) affectionately | (b) love | (c) passion | (d) fond |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Paragraph 1

1. tiisfjeud his support of rivals Mexico
2. widely egdeardr as the best
3. teammates have further cizriidect him
4. iangctpec payment
5. in egacxnhe for
6. The rotmuatenn is here

Paragraph 2

7. speaks fnteul Spanish
8. no one should ever question my ceelinagla
9. irpdisen me at a very young age
10. a strong nonecntico
11. ercepts for our neighbor
12. entrucr U.S. player

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in Russia, but our neighbors to the south are. So join me...to cheer on our other team - Mexico."
- () for the USA national team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is widely regarded as the best American player
- () of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be
- () fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans love to hate. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."
- () Donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks
- () player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is doing this. Actually, I do - money." A Mexican
- () fluent Spanish. He said: "My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question my
- () age....I always have had a strong connection and respect for our neighbor." Current U.S.
- () payment from the company Wells Fargo in exchange for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph
- () him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for accepting
- () allegiance to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, having grown up
- () ever. However, his calls for fellow Americans to back rivals Mexico at the World Cup have landed
- (**1**) A former U.S. soccer player has justified his support of rivals Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played
- () east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose passion...inspired me at a very young

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

1. times . the played 157 for national USA Donovan team
2. the Widely best regarded ever . American as player
3. have his ex-teammates him . criticized Many of further
4. himself tweeted He a of with photograph a scarf .
5. other on cheer Join me to team . our
6. wanted Donovan he people explained to why cheer .
7. one No should question my allegiance . ever
8. Mexican me . inspired passion Playing with whose teammates
9. don't he why doing is understand this . I
10. to that Mexico fans hate . guys love Two

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A *former / firmer* U.S. soccer player has justified his support of *rivalries / rivals* Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA national team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is *widely / longing* regarded as the best American player ever. However, his *whispers / calls* for fellow Americans to back rivals Mexico at the World Cup have *landed / lauded* him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have *farther / further* criticized him for *accepting / accept* payment from the company Wells Fargo in *exchange / swap* for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors *to / at* the south are. So join me...to cheer *up / on* our other team - Mexico."

Donovan *explained / explanation* why he wanted people to cheer for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks *fluency / fluent* Spanish. He said: "My heart *bleeds / bloods* red, white and blue and no one should ever *question / questioning* my allegiance to and support *at / of* U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That *being / was* said, having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose *passionate / passion*...inspired me at a very young age....I always have had a *strong / strength* connection and respect for our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is *doing / done* this. Actually, I do - money." A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans love to *hate / hatred*. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A f_r m_r U . S . s_c c_r p l_y_r h_s j_s t_f__ d
h_s s_p p_r t _f r_v_l_s M_x_c__ t th_ R_s s__ W_r
l_d C_p . L_n d_n D_n_v_n , 3 5 , p l_y_d f_r th_
U S A n_t__ n_l t__ m 1 5 7 t_m_s , s c_r_n g 5 7
g__ l_s . H__ s w_d_l_y r_g_r d_d _s th_ b_s t A
m_r_c_n p l_y_r _v_r . H_w_v_r , h_s c_l_l_s f_r f_l
l_w A m_r_c_n s t_ b_c k r_v_l_s M_x_c__ t th_
W_r l_d C_p h_v_ l_n d_d h_m _n h_t w_t_r . M_n
y _f h_s _x - t__ m m_t_s h_v_ f_r t_h_r c_r_t_c_z_d
h_m f_r _c c_p_t_n g p_y m_n t f_r_m th_ c_m p_n y
W_l_l_s F_r g__ n _x c_h_n g_ f_r w__ r_n g _ M_x_c_
s_c c_r j_r s_y . H_ t w__ t_d _ p_h_t_g_r_p_h _f h_m
s_l_f w_t_h _ s_c_r_f t_h_t r__ d : " M_y _t_h_r t__
m _s M_x_c_ . Th_ t__ r_n_m_n t _s h_r_ . U S A
f_n s , __ r t__ m m_y n_t b__ n R_s s__ , b_t __
r n__ g h b_r s t_ th_ s__ th _r . S_ j__ n m . . .
t_ c h__ r _n __ r _t_h_r t__ m - M_x_c_ . "

D_n_v_n _x p_l__ n_d w_h_y h_ w_n t_d p__ p_l_ t_ c
h__ r f_r M_x_c_ . H_ g_r_w _p _n C_l_f_r n__ _n_d
s_p__ k_s f_l__ n_t S_p_n_s_h . H_ s__ d : " M_y h__
r_t b_l__ d_s r_d , w_h_t_ _n_d b_l__ _n_d n__ n_ s
h__ l_d _v_r q__ s_t__ n m_y _l_l_g__ n_c_ t_ _n_d s_p
p_r_t _f U . S . S_c c_r _n_d _t_s n_t__ n_l t__ m_s .
Th_t b__ n_g s__ d , h_v_n_g g_r_w_n _p __ s_t _f
L_s A_n_g_l_s p_l_y_n_g w_t_h M_x_c_n t__ m m_t_s
w_h_s_ p_s s__ n . . . n_s p_r_d m__ t _v_r y _y__ n_g
g . . . I _l_w_y_s h_v_ h_d _ s_t_r_n_g c_n n_c_t__ n
_n_d r_s p_c_t f_r __ r n__ g h b_r . " C_r_r_n_t U .
S . p_l_y_r C_l__ d__ S_t_ s__ d : " I d_n 't _n_d_r
s_t_n_d w_h_y h__ s d__ n_g t_h_s . A_c_t__ l_l_y , I
d_ - m_n_y . " A M_x_c_n f_n s__ d : " Th_r__ r_
t_w_ g_y_s t_h_t M_x_c_ f_n s l_v_ t_ h_t_ . D_n_l_d
T_r_m_p _n_d L_n_d_n D_n_v_n . "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

a former us soccer player has justified his support of rivals mexico at the russia world cup landon donovan 35 played for the usa national team 157 times scoring 57 goals he is widely regarded as the best american player ever however his calls for fellow americans to back rivals mexico at the world cup have landed him in hot water many of his ex teammates have further criticized him for accepting payment from the company wells fargo in exchange for wearing a mexico soccer jersey he tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read my other team is mexico the tournament is here usa fans our team may not be in russia but our neighbors to the south are so join meto cheer on our other team mexico

donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer for mexico he grew up in california and speaks fluent spanish he said my heart bleeds red white and blue and no one should ever question my allegiance to and support of us soccer and its national teams that being said having grown up east of los angeles playing with mexican teammates whose passion inspired me at a very young agei always have had a strong connection and respect for our neighbor current us player claudia soto said i dont understand why he is doing this actually i do money a mexican fan said there are two guys that mexico fans love to hate donald trump and landon donovan"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

A former U.S. soccer player has justified his support of rivals Mexico at the Russia World Cup. Landon Donovan, 35, played for the USA national team 157 times, scoring 57 goals. He is widely regarded as the best American player ever. However, his calls for fellow Americans to back rivals Mexico at the World Cup have landed him in hot water. Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him for accepting payment from the company Wells Fargo in exchange for wearing a Mexico soccer jersey. He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf that read: "My other team is Mexico. The tournament is here. USA fans, our team may not be in Russia, but our neighbors to the south are. So join me... to cheer on our other team - Mexico." Donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer for Mexico. He grew up in California and speaks fluent Spanish. He said: "My heart bleeds red, white and blue and no one should ever question my allegiance to and support of U.S. Soccer and its national teams. That being said, having grown up east of Los Angeles playing with Mexican teammates whose passion... inspired me at a very young age.... I always have had a strong connection and respect for our neighbor." Current U.S. player Claudia Soto said: "I don't understand why he is doing this. Actually, I do money." A Mexican fan said: "There are two guys that Mexico fans love to hate. Donald Trump and Landon Donovan."

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

Write about **Russia World Cup** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180621-russia-world-cup.html>

The FIFA World Cup is the greatest sporting event on Earth. Discuss.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. RUSSIA WORLD CUP: Make a poster about the Russia World Cup. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. UNITED: Write a magazine article about three countries (Canada, the USA and Mexico) hosting the 2026 World Cup together. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on Russia World Cup. Ask him/her three questions about the World Cup. Give him/her three of your ideas on how it can be improved. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c T d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. former | a. ex- |
| 2. justify | b. explain |
| 3. regarded | c. considered |
| 4. criticized | d. attacked |
| 5. cheer on | e. encourage |
| 6. allegiance | f. loyalty |
| 7. passion | g. enthusiasm |
| 8. inspired | h. motivated |
| 9. connection | i. link |
| 10. fans | j. supporters |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 157 times
- Hot water
- Ex-teammates
- A scarf
- The USA team
- California
- Read, white and blue
- Mexican teammates
- Money
- Two

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Donovan played for the USA national team 157 times.
- Widely regarded as the best American player ever.
- Many of his ex-teammates have further criticized him.
- He tweeted a photograph of himself with a scarf.
- Join me to cheer on our other team.
- Donovan explained why he wanted people to cheer.
- No one should ever question my allegiance.
- Playing with Mexican teammates whose passion inspired me.
- I don't understand why he is doing this.
- Two guys that Mexico fans love to hate.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)