

Argentina's football coach loses his job

Elementary

1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers.

1. Argentina is in **South / North** America.
2. The capital of Argentina is **Rio de Janeiro / Buenos Aires**.
3. Lionel Messi plays for **Brazil / Argentina**.
4. The most successful World Cup football team is **Brazil / Italy**.
5. The next World Cup will be in **Russia / Spain**.

Grammar note: Sports teams usually take a plural verb: *Brazil are a good football team.*

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

coach

draw

fan

referee

worried

1. A _____ is someone who likes a sport or a sports team a lot. (para 2)
2. If you are _____, you feel unhappy because you are thinking about something bad that could happen. (para 2)
3. A _____ is someone who trains a sports team. (para 3)
4. In football, a _____ is a match where both teams score the same number of goals, for example, 1–1. (para 3)
5. A football _____ is someone who makes sure that the players follow the rules. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. When did Argentina first win the World Cup?
2. What was the score in the 1986 World Cup final?
3. Which team is first in the South America group?
4. How many teams play in the South America group?
5. How many of Edgardo Bauza's games as coach did Argentina win?
6. Which country will probably win the Oceania group?

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Argentina's football coach loses his job 4 May, 2017

- 1 Argentina are one of the most successful national football teams in the world. They have won the World Cup twice: they beat Holland 3–1 in 1978 and West Germany 3–2 in 1986. They have also played in two more World Cup finals. In 1990, Argentina lost to West Germany and in 2014, in Brazil, they lost to Germany.
- 2 But now, football fans in Argentina are very worried. It is possible that their team will not be at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Argentina play in the South America group, which contains ten teams, including Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Peru and Colombia. Only the top four teams will play in Russia in 2018.
- 3 After six matches, Argentina are fifth in the group. Brazil are first, Colombia second, Uruguay third and Chile fourth. Argentina lost their sixth game 2–0 in Bolivia and after the game, their coach, Edgardo Bauza, lost his job. He became coach in August, 2016 and was only in the job for eight matches. Argentina won only three of those eight matches. They lost three and the other two were draws.
- 4 Many people believe that Argentinian player Lionel Messi is the best footballer in the world. But there is a problem. He used bad language when he was very angry with an assistant referee in the match against Chile. FIFA (the International Federation of Association Football) decided that Messi could not play against Bolivia and he will not play in the next three matches.
- 5 But there is some hope for Argentina. The team that finishes fifth in the South America group will play a match against the winner of the Oceania group, which will probably be New Zealand. If they win the match, Argentina will play at the World Cup in Russia after all.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Argentina have ... | a. ... he used bad language when he was angry with an assistant referee. |
| 2. Only the top four teams in the South America group ... | b. ... they will play a match against the winner of the Oceania group. |
| 3. After six matches, Argentina ... | c. ... won the World Cup twice. |
| 4. Lionel Messi can't play in the next three matches because ... | d. ... are fifth in the South America group. |
| 5. If Argentina finish fifth in the South America group, ... | e. ... probably win the Oceania group. |
| 6. New Zealand will ... | f. ... will play at the World Cup in Russia in 2018. |

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5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. most of one the teams successful
2. the world best in footballer the
3. some there is hope
4. the matches in three next
5. they in fifth are group the
6. there but a problem is

6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. football | a. language |
| 2. bad | b. referee |
| 3. assistant | c. cup |
| 4. world | d. team |

7 Word stress

Write the names of the countries from the text next to their stress patterns.

Brazil

Uruguay

Chile

Argentina

1. 0 o o
2. o o 0 o
3. o 0
4. 0 o

8 Discussion

- Which team will win the 2018 World Cup? Why?
- Who is the best footballer in the world? Why?

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. South
2. Buenos Aires
3. Argentina
4. Brazil
5. Russia

2 Key words

1. fan
2. worried
3. coach
4. draw
5. referee

3 Find the information

1. 1978
2. 3–2
3. Brazil
4. ten
5. three
6. New Zealand

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. d
4. a
5. b
6. e

5 Chunks

1. one of the most successful teams
2. the best footballer in the world
3. there is some hope
4. in the next three matches
5. they are fifth in the group
6. but there is a problem

6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

7 Word stress

1. Uruguay
2. Argentina
3. Brazil
4. Chile