

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Spain king welcomes soccer heroes home

3rd July, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

Follow Sean Banville on

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

Tens of thousands of jubilant fans turned out in the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid on Monday to welcome home the national football team after their record-breaking victory at the Euro 2012 tournament. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted the team at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace. He told them: "Each of you is a good player, but as a team you are formidable...You know how to play together, how to combine your own skills with those of your teammates." The team then headed off through the streets on an open-top bus for their victory parade. It seemed as though the city had been turned red and yellow as the bus made its way through the capital. Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: "It's one of the best days of my life."

Spain's 4-0 thrashing of Italy in the final in Kiev on Sunday made them the first-ever team to win three successive major international tournaments. They won the World Cup in 2010 and have now become the first nation to successfully defend a European Championship. Their winning margin on Sunday was the biggest ever for a Euro final. Spain became the first team to win 15 straight competitive fixtures and matched Brazil's record 35-game unbeaten run from the 1990s. They also qualified for the last two major tournaments, winning every game they played. Many soccer analysts are now saying the team is the greatest ever and they could win the 2014 World Cup, for four in a row.

WARM-UPS

1. FOOTBALL (SOCCER): Walk around the class and talk to other students about football (soccer). Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

jubilant / record-breaking / victory / formidable / play together / parade / midfielder / thrashing / successive / tournaments / defend / winning margin / unbeaten / analysts

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

3. THE BEST: Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

The best ever ...	What? / Who?	Why?
soccer team		
game		
athlete / sports star		
fashion item		
book		
movie		

4. SPAIN: Students A **strongly** believe the current Spanish team is the best football team ever; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SPORT: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put your favourite at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- football (soccer)
- American football
- cricket
- baseball
- basketball
- tennis
- athletics
- Formula 1 motor racing

6. FANS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'fans'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. A million Spanish fans lined the streets to see their football heroes. | T / F |
| b. The Spanish King welcomed the team in Madrid's city hall. | T / F |
| c. The king said the team was formidable. | T / F |
| d. The team went on a parade of the city in open-top Rolls Royce cars. | T / F |
| e. The second paragraph has a word that suggests Spain easily beat Italy. | T / F |
| f. No other team but Spain has successfully defended a Euro title. | T / F |
| g. Spain is yet to reach Brazil's amazing 35-game unbeaten run. | T / F |
| h. Soccer experts say Spain's team is the best ever. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. jubilant | a. mighty |
| 2. victory | b. experts |
| 3. formidable | c. appeared |
| 4. combine | d. matches / games |
| 5. seemed | e. overjoyed |
| 6. thrashing | f. consecutive; in a row |
| 7. successive | g. triumph |
| 8. defend | h. blend |
| 9. fixtures | i. mauling |
| 10. analysts | j. safeguard |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Tens of thousands of jubilant | a. off through the streets |
| 2. as a team you are | b. competitive fixtures |
| 3. The team then headed | c. way through the capital |
| 4. as though the city had been | d. unbeaten run |
| 5. the bus made its | e. of Italy |
| 6. Spain's 4-0 thrashing | f. turned red and yellow |
| 7. successfully defend a | g. a row |
| 8. win 15 straight | h. fans |
| 9. Brazil's record 35-game | i. European Championship |
| 10. four in | j. formidable |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Tens of thousands of (1) _____ fans turned (2) _____ in the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid on Monday to welcome home the national football team after their record-breaking (3) _____ at the Euro 2012 tournament. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted the team at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace. He told them: "Each of you is a good player, but as a team you are (4) _____ ...You know how to play together, how to (5) _____ your own skills with those of your teammates." The team then (6) _____ off through the streets on an open-top bus for their victory (7) _____. It seemed as though the city had been turned red and yellow as the bus made its (8) _____ through the capital. Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: "It's one of the best days of my life."

formidable

parade

headed

out

jubilant

way

victory

combine

Spain's 4-0 (9) _____ of Italy in the final in Kiev on Sunday made them the first-ever team to win three (10) _____ major international tournaments. They won the World Cup in 2010 and have now become the first nation to successfully (11) _____ a European Championship. Their winning (12) _____ on Sunday was the biggest ever for a Euro final. Spain became the first team to win 15 straight (13) _____ fixtures and matched Brazil's record 35-game unbeaten run from the 1990s. They also (14) _____ for the last two major tournaments, winning every game they played. Many soccer (15) _____ are now saying the team is the greatest ever and they could win the 2014 World Cup, for four in a (16) _____.

defend

row

margin

analysts

thrashing

successive

competitive

qualified

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

Tens of thousands of (1) _____ out in the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid on Monday to welcome home the national football team after their (2) _____ at the Euro 2012 tournament. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted the team at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace. He told them: "Each of you is a good player, (3) _____ are formidable...You know how to play together, (4) _____ your own skills with those of your teammates." The team then headed off through the streets on an open-top bus for (5) _____. It seemed as though the city had been turned red and yellow as the bus (6) _____ the capital. Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: "It's one of the best days of my life."

Spain's 4-0 (7) _____ the final in Kiev on Sunday made them the first-ever team to win three (8) _____ international tournaments. They won the World Cup in 2010 and have now become the first nation to (9) _____ a European Championship. Their winning margin on Sunday was the biggest ever for a Euro final. Spain became the first team (10) _____ competitive fixtures and matched Brazil's record 35-game unbeaten run from the 1990s. They also (11) _____ last two major tournaments, winning every game they played. Many soccer analysts are now saying the team is the greatest ever and they could win the 2014 World Cup, (12) _____.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

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

team	mate
-------------	-------------

- 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">• fans• home• each• formidable• bus• best	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• final• major• margin• 15• 35• 2014
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FOOTBALL (SOCCER) SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

Write five GOOD questions about football (soccer) 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.

FOOTBALL (SOCCER) DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'football'?
- c) Do you think football is the best sport in the world?
- d) What do you think of Spain's success at Euro 2012?
- e) Why is football (soccer) the world's most popular sport?
- f) Why do you think some people dislike soccer?
- g) Is a soccer tournament victory important enough for a king to break his schedule and greet the winning team?
- h) What does it take for a team to be formidable?
- i) What would it be like to be a player in the victory parade on the open-top bus?

Spain king welcomes soccer heroes home – 3rd July, 2012
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

FOOTBALL (SOCCER) DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think of Spain's record of three tournament wins in a row?
- c) How impressive is a 4-0 winning margin in a major final?
- d) Is it right to compare teams from different decades?
- e) How much is soccer teamwork and how much is it the skill of individual players?
- f) Where do you think Spain will go from here?
- g) What are the chances of Spain winning the 2014 World Cup? Would you like to see them do it?
- h) What do you think is the greatest sports team ever?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Spain's coach?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120703-spain_football_team.html

Tens of thousands of (1) ____ fans turned out in the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid on Monday to welcome home the national football team after their record-(2) ____ victory at the Euro 2012 tournament. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted the team at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace. He told them: "Each of you is a good player, but as a team you are (3) ____ ...You know how to play together, how to combine your own skills with those of your teammates." The team then (4) ____ off through the streets on an open-top bus for their victory (5) _____. It seemed as though the city had been turned red and yellow as the bus made its (6) ____ through the capital. Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: "It's one of the best days of my life."

Spain's 4-0 thrashing of Italy in the final in Kiev on Sunday made them the first-ever team to win three (7) ____ major international tournaments. They won the World Cup in 2010 and have now become the first nation to successfully defend a European Championship. Their winning (8) ____ on Sunday was the biggest ever for a Euro final. Spain became the first team to win 15 (9) ____ competitive fixtures and (10) ____ Brazil's record 35-game unbeaten run from the 1990s. They also qualified for the last two major tournaments, winning every game they played. Many soccer (11) ____ are now saying the team is the greatest ever and they could win the 2014 World Cup, for four in a (12) _____.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) jubilation | (b) jubilee | (c) grubby | (d) jubilant |
| 2. | (a) contravening | (b) breaking | (c) pausing | (d) fracturing |
| 3. | (a) formidable | (b) formalities | (c) formless | (d) formula |
| 4. | (a) backed | (b) nosed | (c) headed | (d) stomached |
| 5. | (a) sensor | (b) exhaust | (c) parade | (d) merchandise |
| 6. | (a) weight | (b) way | (c) wry | (d) wish |
| 7. | (a) successive | (b) repressive | (c) missive | (d) excessive |
| 8. | (a) border | (b) error | (c) edge | (d) margin |
| 9. | (a) curly | (b) straight | (c) bent | (d) curved |
| 10. | (a) battled | (b) marched | (c) fought | (d) matched |
| 11. | (a) analysis | (b) analytics | (c) analysts | (d) analyses |
| 12. | (a) row | (b) how | (c) low | (d) now |

Spain king welcomes soccer heroes home – 3rd July, 2012

More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright Sean Banville 2012

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 the Euro 2012 football championship. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FOOTBALL (SOCCER): Make a poster about football (soccer). Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SPAIN: Write a magazine article about Spain's football team. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against the idea this Spanish team is the best ever.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to the Spanish coach. Ask him three questions about his team. Give him three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. jubilant | a. overjoyed |
| 2. victory | b. triumph |
| 3. formidable | c. mighty |
| 4. combine | d. blend |
| 5. seemed | e. appeared |
| 6. thrashing | f. mauling |
| 7. successive | g. consecutive; in a row |
| 8. defend | h. safeguard |
| 9. fixtures | i. matches / games |
| 10. analysts | j. experts |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Tens of thousands of jubilant | a. fans |
| 2. as a team you are | b. formidable |
| 3. The team then headed | c. off through the streets |
| 4. as though the city had been | d. turned red and yellow |
| 5. the bus made its | e. way through the capital |
| 6. Spain's 4-0 thrashing | f. of Italy |
| 7. successfully defend a | g. European Championship |
| 8. win 15 straight | h. competitive fixtures |
| 9. Brazil's record 35-game | i. unbeaten run |
| 10. four in | j. a row |

GAP FILL:

Spain king welcomes soccer heroes home

Tens of thousands of (1) **jubilant** fans turned (2) **out** in the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid on Monday to welcome home the national football team after their record-breaking (3) **victory** at the Euro 2012 tournament. Spain's King Juan Carlos greeted the team at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace. He told them: "Each of you is a good player, but as a team you are (4) **formidable**...You know how to play together, how to (5) **combine** your own skills with those of your teammates." The team then (6) **headed** off through the streets on an open-top bus for their victory (7) **parade**. It seemed as though the city had been turned red and yellow as the bus made its (8) **way** through the capital. Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: "It's one of the best days of my life."

Spain's 4-0 (9) **thrashing** of Italy in the final in Kiev on Sunday made them the first-ever team to win three (10) **successive** major international tournaments. They won the World Cup in 2010 and have now become the first nation to successfully (11) **defend** a European Championship. Their winning (12) **margin** on Sunday was the biggest ever for a Euro final. Spain became the first team to win 15 straight (13) **competitive** fixtures and matched Brazil's record 35-game unbeaten run from the 1990s. They also (14) **qualified** for the last two major tournaments, winning every game they played. Many soccer (15) **analysts** are now saying the team is the greatest ever and they could win the 2014 World Cup, for four in a (16) **row**.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a