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Level 6

Spanish football suspended indefinitely

10th May, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football are in shock over the sudden suspension of all games in the country from May 16. This means the penultimate and final, and championship-deciding rounds of matches in La Liga may not take place. This has happened because of a dispute between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension could affect more than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a worse moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three games left to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their spat.

The dispute is over a new law drawn up by the Spanish government that makes all teams bargain together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to negotiate their own deals with TV companies. This means they are allotted nearly half of all TV money on offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted properly on the proposed new TV rights law. In another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are backing this threat.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/32619740>
http://www.eurosport.com/football/liga/2014-2015/reports-spanish-domestic-football-suspends-end-of-season-matches_sto4715138/story.shtml
<http://www.90min.com/posts/2135982-spanish-football-suspended-indefinitely-from-16th-may-after-dispute-with-government>

WARM-UPS

1. FOOTBALL: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about football. 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?

shock / suspension / final / matches / dispute / players / worse / moment / officials / government / new law / negotiate / respect / interfering / consulted / properly / threat

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

3. RULES: What changes would make football more exciting? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | Good (Why?) | Bad (Why?) |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|
| A bigger goal | | |
| Points for goals | | |
| Video referee | | |
| No offside rule | | |
| Unlimited substitutions | | |
| No goalkeepers | | |

4. SALARIES: Students A **strongly** believe football player salaries are too high; Students B **strongly** believe they can never be too high. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

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

- soccer
- American football
- basketball
- cycling
- Formula 1
- tennis
- athletics
- skiing

6. FINAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "final". 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/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Games in Spain's La Liga will be suspended, but not in other leagues. | T / F |
| b. The suspension comes with two rounds of the season remaining. | T / F |
| c. Over half-a-million players are affected. | T / F |
| d. A final between Barcelona and Athletic Madrid will take place. | T / F |
| e. The dispute is because of a proposed law that will affect TV money. | T / F |
| f. The top two teams get nearly half of all TV money. | T / F |
| g. The government is complaining it was not consulted enough. | T / F |
| h. Lionel Messi is refusing to support a proposed players' strike. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. suspension | a. hit |
| 2. dispute | b. blamed |
| 3. affect | c. altercation |
| 4. moment | d. written |
| 5. resolve | e. considered |
| 6. drawn up | f. time |
| 7. deals | g. postponement |
| 8. accused | h. supporting |
| 9. consulted | i. agreements |
| 10. backing | j. settle |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Lovers of Spanish football are in | a. a worse moment |
| 2. It could not come at | b. from the negotiations |
| 3. three games left | c. resolve their spat |
| 4. under | d. properly |
| 5. time for all parties to | e. their own deals |
| 6. all teams bargain together | f. threat |
| 7. allowed to negotiate | g. are backing this threat |
| 8. it had not been consulted | h. to play |
| 9. excluded | i. over TV rights |
| 10. Lionel Messi and others | j. shock |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football are in (1) _____ over the sudden suspension of all games in the country from May 16. This means the penultimate and final, and championship-deciding (2) _____ of matches in La Liga may not take place. This has happened because of a (3) _____ between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV (4) _____. The suspension could affect more than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a (5) _____ moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three games (6) _____ to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also (7) _____ threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to (8) _____ their spat.

dispute

shock

left

under

rounds

resolve

worse

rights

The dispute is over a new law (9) _____ up by the Spanish government that makes all teams (10) _____ together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to negotiate their own (11) _____ with TV companies. This means they are (12) _____ nearly half of all TV money on offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of (13) _____ " over interfering in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted (14) _____ on the proposed new TV rights law. In another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to (15) _____ over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are (16) _____ this threat.

allotted

drawn

properly

backing

deals

strike

bargain

respect

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

- 1) Lovers of Spanish football are in shock over the sudden suspension of _____ country
 - a. all games on the
 - b. all games at the
 - c. all games for the
 - d. all games in the
- 2) championship-deciding rounds of matches in La Liga may _____
 - a. not takes place
 - b. not taking place
 - c. not took place
 - d. not take place
- 3) This has happened because of a dispute between the Spanish _____
 - a. football federations
 - b. football federated
 - c. football federation
 - d. football feeder nation
- 4) Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three _____
 - a. games leave to play
 - b. games not to play
 - c. games left to play
 - d. games loft to play
- 5) Officials say there could be time for all parties to _____
 - a. resolve their spat
 - b. resolve their spit
 - c. resolve their splat
 - d. resolve their split
- 6) The dispute is over a new law _____ Spanish government
 - a. drawn on by the
 - b. drawn op by the
 - c. drawn app by the
 - d. drawn up by the
- 7) This means they are allotted nearly half of all TV _____
 - a. money on offers
 - b. money on offered
 - c. money on offering
 - d. money on offer
- 8) It also complained it had not been consulted properly on the _____
 - a. proposed new TV right
 - b. proposed new TV lights
 - c. proposed new TV nights
 - d. proposed new TV rights
- 9) the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over _____ the negotiations
 - a. being excluded from
 - b. being included from
 - c. being concluded from
 - d. being excluded form
- 10) Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are _____
 - a. backing this threat
 - b. backing this threats
 - c. backing this threaten
 - d. backing this treat

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football (1) _____ the sudden suspension of all games in the country from May 16. This means the penultimate _____ and _____ final, _____ and _____ championship-deciding (2) _____ in La Liga may not take place. This has happened because (3) _____ the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension (4) _____ than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come (5) _____ for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three games left to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time (6) _____ resolve their spat.

The dispute is over a (7) _____ up by the Spanish government that makes all teams (8) _____ TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed (9) _____ own deals with TV companies. This means they are allotted (10) _____ TV money on offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted (11) _____ proposed new TV rights law. In another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

1. Who is in shock over the suspension of football games in Spain?

2. How many rounds of matches will be affected?

3. How many players could be affected?

4. How many more points did Barcelona have than Real Madrid?

5. What did officials say there could be time for?

6. What does a new law make teams do over TV rights?

7. How much of the TV money do Barcelona and Real Madrid usually get?

8. What did the Spanish football federation say the government lacked?

9. What are football players threatening to do?

10. What did Lionel Messi say he would do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

1. Who is in shock over the suspension of football games in Spain?
 - a) the boss of Real Madrid
 - b) lovers of Spanish football
 - c) Lionel Messi
 - d) the English Premier League
2. How many rounds of matches will be affected?
 - a) 5
 - b) 4
 - c) 3
 - d) 2
3. How many players could be affected?
 - a) exactly 600,000
 - b) just under 600,000
 - c) over 600,000
 - d) around 600,000
4. How many more points did Barcelona have than Real Madrid?
 - a) 2
 - b) 3
 - c) 4
 - d) 5
5. What did officials say there could be time for?
 - a) the final
 - b) a resolution
 - c) more games
 - d) extra time
6. What does a new law make teams do over TV rights?
 - a) bargain together
 - b) watch TV
 - c) play longer
 - d) strike
7. How much of the TV money do Barcelona and Real Madrid usually get?
 - a) three-quarters
 - b) two-thirds
 - c) nearly half
 - d) 62%
8. What did the Spanish football federation say the government lacked?
 - a) respect
 - b) ability
 - c) ideas
 - d) know-how
9. What are football players threatening to do?
 - a) ask for higher salaries
 - b) play overseas
 - c) play the games
 - d) strike
10. What did Lionel Messi say he would do?
 - a) quit football
 - b) go back to Argentina
 - c) support the strike
 - d) play in England

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Role A – Soccer

You think soccer is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): tennis, cycling or basketball.

Role B – Tennis

You think tennis is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): soccer, cycling or basketball.

Role C – Cycling

You think cycling is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): tennis, soccer or basketball.

Role D – Basketball

You think basketball is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sports aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): tennis, cycling or soccer.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

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

| under | threat |
|-------|--------|
| | |

- 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">• shock• rounds• happened• affect• moment• parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drawn• top• deals• lack• twist• backing |
|---|--|

FOOTBALL SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Write five GOOD questions about football 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 DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'football'?
- 3) Which is better, American football or soccer football?
- 4) What do you think of the suspension?
- 5) How good is Spanish football?
- 6) Why do you think this suspension cannot wait until after the final games?
- 7) Is it wrong for governments to get involved in sport?
- 8) What do you think the players think of this dispute?
- 9) What will happen if the final two games are not played?
- 10) How could the parties resolve their spat?

Spanish football suspended indefinitely – 10th May, 2015
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FOOTBALL DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) Who should sort out the dispute?
- 13) Is it fair that Barcelona and Real Madrid get most of the money?
- 14) How would football change if all teams got an equal share of TV money?
- 15) How might the government have shown a lack of respect?
- 16) How might the players' strike affect things?
- 17) Is it right for sport professionals to strike?
- 18) How do you think this dispute will end?
- 19) Do soccer players get paid too much money?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Lionel Messi?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football are in shock over the (1) _____ suspension of all games in the country from May 16. This means the (2) _____ and final, and championship-deciding rounds of matches in La Liga may not (3) _____ place. This has happened because of a dispute between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension could (4) _____ more than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a worse moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three games (5) _____ to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their (6) _____.

The dispute is over a new law (7) _____ up by the Spanish government that makes all teams bargain together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to (8) _____ their own deals with TV companies. This means they are (9) _____ nearly half of all TV money on offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" (10) _____ interfering in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted properly on the proposed new TV rights law. (11) _____ another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are (12) _____ this threat.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) sadden | (b) sodden | (c) suddenly | (d) sudden |
| 2. | (a) ultimatum | (b) ultimately | (c) ultimate | (d) penultimate |
| 3. | (a) give | (b) take | (c) have | (d) play |
| 4. | (a) effect | (b) reflect | (c) affect | (d) infect |
| 5. | (a) not | (b) resolve | (c) left | (d) on |
| 6. | (a) spat | (b) spit | (c) splat | (d) spite |
| 7. | (a) sketched | (b) drawn | (c) painted | (d) sprayed |
| 8. | (a) negotiate | (b) deal | (c) survey | (d) interrogate |
| 9. | (a) alleged | (b) allotted | (c) alleviated | (d) allied |
| 10. | (a) in | (b) under | (c) over | (d) on |
| 11. | (a) On | (b) To | (c) In | (d) As |
| 12. | (a) shooting | (b) heading | (c) fronting | (d) backing |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Paragraph 1

1. the sudden isspunnose of all games
2. the nmpaietuel and final...
3. because of a uidetps
4. the Spanish football erntdfoiae
5. also under tahetr
6. erlseov their spat

Paragraph 2

7. makes all teams irnbaga together
8. allowed to aoeietgnt their own deals
9. they are tdteoall nearly half
10. scdeauc the government
11. it had not been stdcnolue properly
12. strike over being clexddue

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| () | Real Madrid by just two points, with three games left to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona |
| () | May 16. This means the penultimate and final, and championship-deciding rounds |
| () | negotiate their own deals with TV companies. This means they are allotted nearly half of all TV money on |
| () | The dispute is over a new law drawn up by the Spanish government that makes all teams bargain |
| () | offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering |
| () | and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their spat. |
| () | rights law. In another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to |
| () | between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension could affect more |
| (1) | Lovers of Spanish football are in shock over the sudden suspension of all games in the country from |
| () | of matches in La Liga may not take place. This has happened because of a dispute |
| () | than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a worse moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals |
| () | together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to |
| () | in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted properly on the proposed new TV |
| () | strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are backing this threat. |

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

1. over suspension games shock sudden all In the of .

2. the between dispute A federation football Spanish .

3. a It at come moment not worse could .

4. Madrid by Lead just rivals two Real points .

5. for time be could There spat their resolve to parties all .

6. up Spanish A drawn the law by government new .

7. negotiate deals companies to own TV Allowed their with .

8. offer on money TV all of half nearly allotted are They .

9. of a Accused lack the of government respect .

10. being over Strike negotiations the from excluded .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football are in *shocking* / *shock* over the sudden suspension of all games in the *countries* / *country* from May 16. This means the penultimate and *final* / *finally*, and championship-deciding rounds of matches in La Liga may not *take* / *give* place. This has happened because of a *disputing* / *dispute* between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension could *affect* / *effect* more than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a *worst* / *worse* moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead *rivals* / *rivalries* Real Madrid by just two points, with three games *left* / *right* to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their *spit* / *spat*.

The dispute is over a new law *drawn* / *painted* up by the Spanish government that makes all teams *sale* / *bargain* together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to *negotiation* / *negotiate* their own deals *with* / *of* TV companies. This means they are allotted nearly *halve* / *half* of all TV money on offer. The Spanish federation *accused* / *accusation* the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering *on* / *in* Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted *properly* / *proper* on the proposed new TV rights law. In another *twist* / *screw*, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are *forwarding* / *backing* this threat.

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

L_v_rs _f Sp_n_sh f__tb_ll _r_ _n sh_ck _v_r th_ s_dd_n s_sp_ns__n _f _ll g_m_s _n th_ c__ntry fr_m M_y 16. Th_s m__ns th_ p_n_lt_m_t_ _nd f_n_l, _nd ch_mp__nsh_p-d_c_d_ng r__nds _f m_tch_s _n L_ L_g_m_y n_t t_k_ pl_c_. Th_s h_s h_pp_n_d b_c__s _f _d_sp_t_ b_tw__n th_ Sp_n_sh f__tb_ll f_d_r_t__n _nd TV c_mp_n__s _v_r TV r_ghts. Th_ s_sp_ns__n c__ld _ff_ct m_r_ th_n 600,000 f__tb_ll pl_y_rs _nd 30,000 m_tch_s. _t c__ld n_t c_m__t _w_rs_m_m_nt f_r L_ L_g__s B_rc_l_n_ l__d r_v_ls R__l M_dr_d by j_st tw_ p__nts, w_th thr__ g_m_s l_ft t_ pl_y. Th_ C_p_d_l R_y f_n_l b_tw__n B_rc_l_n_ _nd _thl_t_c B_lb__s _ls _nd_r thr__t. _ff_c__ls s_y th_r_ c__ld b_ t_m_ f_r _ll p_rt__s t_r_s_lv_ th__r sp_t.

Th_ d_sp_t_ _s _v_r _n_w l_w dr_wn _p by th_ Sp_n_sh g_v_rnm_nt th_t m_k_s _ll t__ms b_rg__n t_g_th_r _v_r TV r_ghts. C_rr_ntly, th_ c__ntry's t_p tw_ t__ms, B_rc_l_n_ _nd R__l M_dr_d, _r_ _ll_w_d t_n_g t__t th__r _wn d__ls w_th TV c_mp_n__s. Th_s m__ns th_y _r_ _ll_tt_d n__rly h_lf _f _ll TV m_n_y _n _ff_r. Th_ Sp_n_sh f_d_r_t__n _cc_s_d th_ g_v_rnm_nt _f _ "l_ck _f_r sp_ct" _v_r _nt_rf_r_ng _n Sp_n_sh f__tb_ll. _t _ls_ c_mpl__n_d _t h_d n_t b__n c_ns_lt_d pr_p_rly _n th_ pr_p_s_d n_w TV r_ghts l_w. _n _n_th_r tw_st, th_ pl_y_rs' _n__n, th_ _ss_c__t__n _f Sp_n_sh F__tb_ll_rs, h_s thr__t_n_d t_ str_k_ _v_r b__ng _xcl_d_d fr_m th_ n_g_t__t__ns. B_rc_l_n_ str L__n_l M_ss_ _nd _th_rs _r_ b_ck_ng th_s thr__t.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

lovers of spanish football are in shock over the sudden suspension of all games in the country from may 16 this means the penultimate and final and championship-deciding rounds of matches in la liga may not take place this has happened because of a dispute between the spanish football federation and tv companies over tv rights the suspension could affect more than 600000 football players and 30000 matches it could not come at a worse moment for la liga as barcelona lead rivals real madrid by just two points with three games left to play the copa del rey final between barcelona and athletic bilbao is also under threat officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their spat

the dispute is over a new law drawn up by the spanish government that makes all teams bargain together over tv rights currently the country's top two teams barcelona and real madrid are allowed to negotiate their own deals with tv companies this means they are allotted nearly half of all tv money on offer the spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering in spanish football it also complained it had not been consulted properly on the proposed new tv rights law in another twist the players' union the association of spanish footballers has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations barcelona star lionel messi and others are backing this threat

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1505/150510-la-liga.html>

Lovers of Spanish football are in shock over the sudden suspension of all games in the country from May 16. This means the penultimate and final, and championship-deciding grounds of matches in La Liga may not take place. This has happened because of a dispute between the Spanish football federation and TV companies over TV rights. The suspension could affect more than 600,000 football players and 30,000 matches. It could not come at a worse moment for La Liga as Barcelona lead rivals Real Madrid by just two points, with three games left to play. The Copa del Rey final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao is also under threat. Officials say there could be time for all parties to resolve their spat. The dispute is over a new law drawn up by the Spanish government that makes all teams bargain together over TV rights. Currently, the country's top two teams, Barcelona and Real Madrid, are allowed to negotiate their own deals with TV companies. This means they are allotted nearly half of all TV money on offer. The Spanish federation accused the government of a "lack of respect" over interfering in Spanish football. It also complained it had not been consulted properly on the proposed new TV rights law. In another twist, the players' union, the Association of Spanish Footballers, has threatened to strike over being excluded from the negotiations. Barcelona star Lionel Messi and others are backing this threat.

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 what's happening in Spanish football. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. MONEY: Write a magazine article about there being too much money in sport. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with people who do not.

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 the boss of Spain's La Liga. Ask him/her three questions about football in Spain. Give him/her three ideas on how to solve the current problem over TV rights. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. suspension | a. postponement |
| 2. dispute | b. altercation |
| 3. affect | c. hit |
| 4. moment | d. time |
| 5. resolve | e. settle |
| 6. drawn up | f. written |
| 7. deals | g. agreements |
| 8. accused | h. blamed |
| 9. consulted | i. considered |
| 10. backing | j. supporting |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Lovers of Spanish football
2. Two
3. Over 600,000
4. Two
5. The dispute (spat) to be resolved
6. Bargain together
7. Nearly half
8. Respect
9. Strike
10. Back the strike

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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