

## France win 2018 FIFA World Cup final

17th July, 2018



Image:  
<https://www.francefootball.fr/>

France beat Croatia 4-2 in the final of the FIFA World Cup in Moscow on Sunday night. It was a thrilling and high-scoring end to a hugely successful tournament. France's victory came 20 years after their very first success in 1998.

French coach Didier Deschamps became only the third man to win the competition as a player and coach. The final was a true spectacle that had quality football, controversial refereeing decisions, an own goal, a pitch invasion, and a goalkeeping howler. Billions of people around the world watched as France slowly imposed their quality on the game with a team full of outstanding talent, which included the next global superstar - the explosive 19-year-old forward Kylian Mbappe.

Croatia dominated the game early on and frequently threatened to score first. However, France got a free kick after 18 minutes on the edge of Croatia's penalty area. The kick was deflected in for an own goal by the Croatian forward Mario Mandzukic. Croatia deservedly equalized with a beautiful piece of control and a quality shot from Ivan Perisic. France restored its lead from the penalty spot after the referee reviewed video evidence of a handball, which many pundits say was not handball. Two shots from outside Croatia's penalty area from Paul Pogba and Mbappe extended France's lead. An error from France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris in the 69th minute gave Croatia hope, but France held on for victory.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [sports.yahoo.com](http://sports.yahoo.com) / [espn.com](http://espn.com)

## Writing

The World Cup is the greatest event in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

France / Croatia / Moscow / successful / tournament / success / controversial / talent / score / free kick / own goal / penalty / handball / shots / goalkeeper / lead / victory

## True / False

- a) The article said the World Cup final wasn't so thrilling. T / F
- b) Four men have now won the World Cup as coach and player. T / F
- c) The French goalkeeper howled during the match. T / F
- d) Billions of people watched the final all over the world. T / F
- e) The article said it looked like Croatia might be the first to score. T / F
- f) It took France 18 minutes to take a free kick. T / F
- g) Experts suggested a handball for a penalty wasn't a handball. T / F
- h) A goalkeeping mistake led to Croatia's second goal. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>beat</b>        | a. controlled |
| 2. <b>hugely</b>      | b. show       |
| 3. <b>success</b>     | c. excellent  |
| 4. <b>spectacles</b>  | d. experts    |
| 5. <b>outstanding</b> | e. defeated   |
| 6. <b>dominated</b>   | f. increased  |
| 7. <b>edge</b>        | g. triumph    |
| 8. <b>pundits</b>     | h. border     |
| 9. <b>extended</b>    | i. mistake    |
| 10. <b>error</b>      | j. enormously |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the World Cup?
- b) How has this World Cup compared to others?
- c) What was the best moment of this World Cup?
- d) What was the worst moment of this World Cup?
- e) What do you think of the refereeing decisions using video replays?
- f) Who is the best player in the world, and why?
- g) How good is the World Cup for the world?
- h) How good was this World Cup for Russia?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. a thrilling and high-scoring end to a | a. as a player and coach        |
| 2. France's victory came 20 years after  | b. early on                     |
| 3. the third man to win the competition  | c. of a handball                |
| 4. controversial refereeing              | d. their very first success     |
| 5. a team full of outstanding            | e. Croatia's penalty area       |
| 6. Croatia dominated the game            | f. its lead                     |
| 7. on the edge of                        | g. hugely successful tournament |
| 8. France restored                       | h. on for victory               |
| 9. the referee reviewed video evidence   | i. decisions                    |
| 10. France held                          | j. talent                       |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is football the greatest game in the world?
- Is the World Cup the greatest sporting event in the world?
- How would it feel to score an own goal?
- How would it feel to take a penalty?
- How would it feel to be on the losing side?
- What do you think the Qatar 2022 World Cup will be like?
- What questions would you like to ask one of the French team?

## Spelling

- a ihitllrgn and high-scoring end
- a lgheuy successful tournament
- iqauytl football
- a pitch vinnaois
- a team full of iudntgaonst talent
- the velxsioep 19-year-old forward
- Croatia tadndoiem the game
- Croatia's etnplay area
- a beautiful piece of ontclor
- referee reviewed video eeevincd
- Mbappe enedtdx France's lead
- France held on for rtcivyo

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. h	8. d	9. f	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Rivalries

You think rivalries is 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 interesting of these (and why): passion, penalties or World Cup.

### Role B – Passion

You think passion is 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 interesting of these (and why): rivalries, penalties or World Cup.

### Role C – Penalties

You think penalties is 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 interesting of these (and why): passion, rivalries or World Cup.

### Role D – The World Cup

You think the World Cup is 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 interesting of these (and why): passion, penalties or rivalries.

## Speaking – Soccer

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

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

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.