

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 1 – 11th June 2026

New national anthem rule for 2026 World Cup

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.html>

There is a change to how teams sing national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA announced the change. For the first time, all players in the squads will sing their anthem. FIFA's president said that as the World Cup grows, FIFA will continue to improve how the game is experienced. He said the pre-match ceremony is one improvement. He added that the World Cup is about every player and fan, and the new ceremony shows that.

FIFA said all players singing will improve the pre-match atmosphere. All squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing. FIFA said having players face each other in the centre circle will create pride in the teams and fans in the stadium. Other parts of the ceremony stay the same. Team captains will still toss a coin. Players from each team will also still shake hands with players from the other team.

Sources: <https://www.si.com/soccer/fifa-makes-major-pre-match-change-ahead-2026-world-cup>
<https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/fifa-announce-fan-centric-change-081952835.html>
<https://worldsoccertalk.com/world-cup/fifa-president-gianni-infantino-announces-new-national-anthem-protocol-for-2026-world-cup/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. There is a change to how | a. ceremony |
| 2. national anthems at | b. the change |
| 3. FIFA announced | c. is experienced |
| 4. all players in the | d. player and fan |
| 5. improve how the game | e. the 2026 World Cup |
| 6. the pre-match | f. squads will sing |
| 7. the World Cup is about every | g. that |
| 8. the new ceremony shows | h. teams sing |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. All squad | a. in the stadium |
| 2. players face each | b. still shake hands |
| 3. create | c. members will stand |
| 4. the teams and fans | d. other team |
| 5. Other parts of the ceremony | e. pride |
| 6. Team captains will still | f. stay the same |
| 7. Players from each team will also | g. other |
| 8. players from the | h. toss a coin |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.html>

There is (1) _____ how teams sing national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA announced the change. For (2) _____, all players in the squads will (3) _____. FIFA's president said that as the World Cup grows, FIFA will continue (4) _____ the game is experienced. He said the pre-match (5) _____ improvement. He added that the World Cup is about every (6) _____, and the new ceremony shows that.

FIFA (7) _____ singing will improve the pre-match atmosphere. All squad (8) _____ around the centre circle and sing. FIFA said having players face (9) _____ the centre circle will create pride in the teams and fans (10) _____. Other parts of the ceremony stay the same. Team captains will still (11) _____. Players from each team will also still shake hands (12) _____ the other team.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.html>

There is a change to how teams sing national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA announced the change. For the first time, all players in the squad will sing their anthem. FIFA's president said that as the World Cup grows, FIFA will continue to improve how the game is experienced. He said the pre-match ceremony is one improvement. He added that the World Cup is about every player and fan, and the new ceremony shows that. FIFA said all players singing will improve the pre-match atmosphere. All squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing. FIFA said having players face each other in the centre circle will create pride in the teams and fans in the stadium. Other parts of the ceremony stay the same. Team captains will still toss a coin. Players from each team will also still shake hands with players from the other team.

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about 2026 FIFA 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

New national anthem rule for 2026 World Cup – 11th June 2026
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

