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Level 2 – 11th June 2026

New national anthem rule for 2026 World Cup

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-2.html>

There has been a change to how teams sing national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the change. For the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the squads will sing their anthem. FIFA's president commented on the change. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup grows, we continue to innovate the way the game is experienced. The pre-match ceremonies... will be no different." He added that the World Cup is about every player and fan, and the new pre-match ceremony shows that.

FIFA said more players singing will add to the pre-match atmosphere. All squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing their anthem. FIFA said: "Having all players and referees face each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of... emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the game stay the same. Team captains will still toss a coin and exchange pennants. Players from each team will also 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. There has been a change to how teams | a. and fan |
| 2. national | b. squads |
| 3. all of the players in the | c. innovate |
| 4. FIFA's president commented on the | d. that |
| 5. As the FIFA World Cup grows, we continue to | e. anthems |
| 6. The pre-match ceremonies will be no | f. sing |
| 7. the World Cup is about every player | g. different |
| 8. the new pre-match ceremony shows | h. change |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. add to the pre-match | a. a moment of emotion |
| 2. squad members will stand | b. referees face each other |
| 3. Having all players and | c. team |
| 4. national anthems will create | d. atmosphere |
| 5. Other parts of the game | e. a coin |
| 6. Team captains will still toss | f. players from the other team |
| 7. Players from each | g. stay the same |
| 8. shake hands with | h. around the centre circle |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-2.html>

There has been a (1) _____ teams sing national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, (2) _____. For the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in (3) _____ sing their anthem. FIFA's president commented on the change. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup grows, we (4) _____ the way the game is experienced. The pre-match ceremonies... will (5) _____." He added that the World Cup is about every (6) _____, and the new pre-match ceremony shows that.

FIFA said more players (7) _____ to the pre-match atmosphere. All squad members will stand around the centre (8) _____ their anthem. FIFA said: "Having all players and referees face each other in (9) _____ during the national anthems will create a moment of... emotion that (10) _____ the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the game stay the same. Team captains will still (11) _____ and exchange pennants. Players from each team will (12) _____ with players from the other team.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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2026 FIFA WORLD CUP SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2606/260611-2026-fifa-world-cup-2.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) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

