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**Level 3 – 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.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

There has been a last-minute change to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the change last week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the squads will come onto the pitch to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino commented on the change to the national anthem ceremony. 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: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every fan and this new pre-match ceremony reflects that."

FIFA said more players will have a role in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and referees face each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of unity, pride, and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still participate in the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another tradition kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the 2026 FIFA World Cup. 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?

last-minute change / national anthem / World Cup / soccer players / innovate / FIFA / atmosphere / ceremony / referees / pride / captains / coin toss / shaking hands

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

**3. NATIONAL ANTHEMS:** Students A **strongly** believe we should sing our national anthems at public events and in schools; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. SPORTING EVENTS:** What do you know about these sporting events? How good do you think they are? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Event	What I Know	How Good
FIFA World Cup		
Summer Olympics		
Winter Olympics		
Tour de France		
Wimbledon tennis		
Formula 1		

**5. FOOTBALL:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "football". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. PLAYING POSITIONS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best position at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Goalkeeper
- Centre-back
- Right-back
- Defensive midfielder
- Central midfielder
- Attacking midfielder
- Striker
- Winger

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. anthem       | a. To control or manage something.                         |
| 2. organization | b. A country's official song.                              |
| 3. run          | c. Gave information to many people.                        |
| 4. announced    | d. A group of players in a sports team.                    |
| 5. squad        | e. A large group of people working together for a purpose. |
| 6. pitch        | f. To introduce new ideas or new ways of doing something.  |
| 7. innovate     | g. The area (field) where a sports game is played.         |

## Paragraph 2

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8. role       | h. The feeling or mood in a place.  |
| 9. atmosphere | i. When people are together as one and are supporting each other.               |
| 10. ceremony  | j. A job or function that a person has.   |
| 11. referee   | k. A formal event with special actions.   |
| 12. unity     | l. To stay the same or continue to be there.                                    |
| 13. remain    | m. An official who makes sure the rules are followed in a sports game.          |
| 14. coin toss | n. The act of people or teams throwing a coin into the air to decide something. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. A change will come to the World Cup a minute before kick-off. **T / F**
2. The whole squad of a soccer team always sings the national anthem. **T / F**
3. All players will have to sing the U.S. national anthem. **T / F**
4. There'll be a change to the pre-match ceremony for World Cup games. **T / F**
5. The new rule will mean all players standing around the centre circle. **T / F**
6. FIFA said only the players will feel unity and pride during the anthems. **T / F**
7. Other parts of the pre-match ceremony will stay the same. **T / F**
8. The custom of shaking hands will stop at this World Cup. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>runs</b>       | a. go on     |
| 2. <b>squads</b>     | b. stay      |
| 3. <b>continue</b>   | c. shows     |
| 4. <b>fan</b>        | d. mood      |
| 5. <b>reflects</b>   | e. supporter |
| 6. <b>role</b>       | f. manages   |
| 7. <b>atmosphere</b> | g. harmony   |
| 8. <b>unity</b>      | h. swap      |
| 9. <b>remain</b>     | i. teams     |
| 10. <b>exchange</b>  | j. part      |

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

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. There has been a last-                  | a. each other          |
| 2. the organization that runs              | b. game is experienced |
| 3. all of the players                      | c. in the squads       |
| 4. we continue to innovate the way the     | d. the centre circle   |
| 5. The pre-match ceremonies will be no     | e. hands               |
| 6. more players will                       | f. different           |
| 7. all squad members will stand around     | g. minute change       |
| 8. all players and referees face           | h. the coin toss       |
| 9. Team captains will still participate in | i. have a role         |
| 10. shaking                                | j. the World Cup       |

# GAP FILL

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

There has been a last-(1) \_\_\_\_\_ change to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the change last week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ will come onto the pitch to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on the change to the national anthem ceremony. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup grows, we continue to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the way the game is experienced. The pre-match ceremonies... will be no (6) \_\_\_\_\_." He added: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and this new pre-match ceremony (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that."

FIFA said more players will have a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad members will (10) \_\_\_\_\_ around the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ face each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of unity, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the (13) \_\_\_\_\_." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still participate in the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another (15) \_\_\_\_\_ kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking (16) \_\_\_\_\_ with players from the other team.

*announced*

*different*

*minute*

*reflects*

*commented*

*squads*

*fan*

*innovate*

*tradition*

*stand*

*pride*

*hands*

*coin*

*role*

*stadium*

*referees*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. change lest week
  - b. change past week
  - c. change last weeks
  - d. change last week
- 2) all of the players in the squads will come onto the pitch to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. sing there anthem
  - b. sing their anthem
  - c. sing them anthem
  - d. sing they're anthem
- 3) Gianni Infantino commented on the change to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. national anthem ceremony
  - b. national anthem ceremonial
  - c. nationally anthem ceremony
  - d. international anthem ceremony
- 4) we continue to innovate the way the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. game is experience
  - b. game is experiences
  - c. game is experienced
  - d. game has experienced
- 5) about every player and every fan and this new pre-match \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ceremonial reflects that
  - b. ceremony reflect that
  - c. ceremony reflects what
  - d. ceremony reflects that
- 6) FIFA said more players will have a role in adding to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. pro-match atmosphere
  - b. per-match atmosphere
  - c. pry-match atmosphere
  - d. pre-match atmosphere
- 7) In the new ceremony, all squad members will stand around \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the centre circle
  - b. the centre square
  - c. the centre oval
  - d. the centre triangle
- 8) the national anthems will create a moment of unity, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fried, and emotion
  - b. tried, and emotion
  - c. pride, and emotion
  - d. bride, and emotion
- 9) participate in the coin toss and exchange pennants with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the opposing captain
  - b. the imposing captain
  - c. the proposing captain
  - d. the supposing captain
- 10) players from each team shaking hands with players from \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the another team
  - b. the other team
  - c. the others team
  - d. the other's team

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

There has been a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the change last week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players (2) \_\_\_\_\_ will come onto the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino (4) \_\_\_\_\_ change to the national anthem ceremony. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup grows, we continue to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the game is experienced. The pre-match ceremonies... will be no different." He added: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every fan and this new pre-match (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

FIFA said more players will have a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad members (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and referees (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of unity, pride, and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone (10) \_\_\_\_\_." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still participate in (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another tradition kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team (12) \_\_\_\_\_ players from the other team.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. When was the change to the national anthem rule done?
2. What does the article say FIFA is?
3. Which players will sing the national anthems?
4. What did FIFA say it would continue to do as the game grows?
5. Who did FIFA's president say the World Cup is about?
6. Where will the players stand when they sing the national anthems?
7. What did FIFA say the new anthem ceremony would create?
8. What will team captains continue to participate in?
9. What will team captains continue to exchange?
10. What will players from each team continue to do?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) When was the change to the national anthem rule done?
  - a) at the last minute
  - b) a year ago
  - c) last month
  - d) yesterday
- 2) What does the article say FIFA is?
  - a) the best organization in the world
  - b) an important organization
  - c) the organization that runs the World Cup
  - d) a money-making machine
- 3) Which players will sing the national anthems?
  - a) the 11 players selected to start
  - b) the whole squad
  - c) those who want to
  - d) those with a good voice
- 4) What did FIFA say it would continue to do as the game grows?
  - a) develop talent
  - b) make money
  - c) help poorer countries
  - d) innovate
- 5) Who did FIFA's president say the World Cup is about?
  - a) every player and fan
  - b) the whole world
  - c) club teams
  - d) the captains
- 6) Where will the players stand when they sing the national anthems?
  - a) near the tunnels
  - b) on the edge of the penalty box
  - c) on the half-way line
  - d) around the centre circle
- 7) What did FIFA say the new anthem ceremony would create?
  - a) a beautiful sound
  - b) unity, pride, and emotion
  - c) many, many tears
  - d) a perfect environment
- 8) What will team captains continue to participate in?
  - a) a lottery
  - b) a staring match
  - c) a discussion
  - d) a coin toss
- 9) What will team captains continue to exchange?
  - a) autographs
  - b) small talk
  - c) pennants
  - d) football shirts
- 10) What will players from each team continue to do?
  - a) warm up
  - b) shake hands
  - c) hug
  - d) their best

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Goalkeeper**

You think goalkeeper is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): centre-back, striker or winger.

## **Role B – Centre-back**

You think centre-back is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goalkeeper, striker or winger.

## **Role C – Striker**

You think striker is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): centre-back, goalkeeper or winger.

## **Role D – Winger**

You think winger is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): centre-back, striker or goalkeeper.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'national anthem' and 'football'.

national anthem	football

- 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"><li>• minute</li><li>• runs</li><li>• pitch</li><li>• continue</li><li>• different</li><li>• fan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• role</li><li>• stand</li><li>• face</li><li>• everyone</li><li>• toss</li><li>• tradition</li></ul>
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# 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP SURVEY

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

# 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'anthem'?
3. What do you think of football?
4. What do you think of the FIFA World Cup?
5. What do you think of your national anthem?
6. How often do you sing your national anthem?
7. How do you feel when you see sport stars singing national anthems?
8. What will the new-style ceremony change?
9. What other changes should FIFA make to football?
10. How excited are you about the World Cup?

*New national anthem rule for 2026 World Cup – 11th June 2026*  
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# 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'football'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Football is called 'the beautiful game'. Do you think it is?
15. What do you think of the atmosphere at football matches?
16. What is your favourite football team?
17. How excited are you about the World Cup?
18. Is the World Cup the world's best sport tournament?
19. What advice do you have for the FIFA president?
20. What questions would you like to ask the FIFA boss?

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

There has been a last-(1) \_\_\_\_\_ change to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the World Cup, announced the change last week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ will come onto the pitch to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino commented on the change to the national anthem ceremony. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup (4) \_\_\_\_\_, we continue to innovate the way the game is experienced. The pre-match ceremonies... will be no (5) \_\_\_\_\_." He added: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every fan and this new pre-(6) \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony reflects that."

FIFA said more players will have a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and referees face each (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of unity, pride, and emotion that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still participate (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Another tradition kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with players from the other team.

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

- |     |                 |                |             |               |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) extra time  | (b) minutes    | (c) minute  | (d) minutia   |
| 2.  | (a) runs        | (b) walks      | (c) shoots  | (d) scores    |
| 3.  | (a) squads      | (b) penalties  | (c) fouls   | (d) squids    |
| 4.  | (a) grows       | (b) refs       | (c) blows   | (d) whistles  |
| 5.  | (a) differences | (b) difference | (c) differ  | (d) different |
| 6.  | (a) watch       | (b) catch      | (c) pitch   | (d) match     |
| 7.  | (a) role        | (b) roll       | (c) rule    | (d) roar      |
| 8.  | (a) others      | (b) othering   | (c) another | (d) other     |
| 9.  | (a) truly       | (b) studs up   | (c) headed  | (d) saved     |
| 10. | (a) on          | (b) in         | (c) up      | (d) by        |
| 11. | (a) striker     | (b) captain    | (c) winger  | (d) defender  |
| 12. | (a) hands       | (b) heads      | (c) chests  | (d) ankles    |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. the nogritaonzai that runs the World Cup
2. docenannu the change
3. all of the players in the udqssa
4. the national anthem ermcoyen
5. we continue to eniavont
6. the way the game is eercxeindep

## Paragraph 2

7. adding to the pre-match aehpotsrem
8. players and ereeefsr
9. unity, idpre, and emotion
10. everyone in the mtausdi
11. iacpritteap in the coin toss
12. Another ioidrntta

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) "Having all players and referees face each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a
- ( ) ceremony. 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: "The FIFA World Cup is about every
- ( ) FIFA said more players will have a role in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad
- ( ) for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking hands with players from the other team.
- ( ) members will stand around the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said:
- ( ) moment of unity, pride, and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the
- ( ) participate in the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another tradition kept
- ( ) pitch to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino commented on the change to the national anthem
- ( ) player and every fan and this new pre-match ceremony reflects that."
- ( ) stadium." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still
- ( ) the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the change last
- ( **1** ) There has been a last-minute change to how teams sing their national anthems at
- ( ) week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the squads will come onto the

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. a change how last-minute sing teams There's to .
2. Cup first For history in the time World .
3. anthem ceremony change national The the to .
4. experienced game Innovate is the the way .
5. about and every fan FIFA World Cup is player The .
6. A adding atmosphere in pre-match role the to .
7. around centre circle members Squad stand the will .
8. centre circle each face in other Players the .
9. ceremony of Other parts pre-game remain the unchanged .
10. from hands other players Shaking team the with .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

There has been a last-minute change to how teams *singing / sing* their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that *walks / runs* the World Cup, announced the change *past / last* week. It said that for the first time *in / at* World Cup history, all of the players in the *squids / squads* will come onto the *pitch / patch* to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino commented *on / in* the change to the national anthem ceremony. He said: "As the FIFA World Cup grows, we continue to innovate the way the game is *experiences / experienced*. The pre-match ceremonies... will be no *difference / different*." He added: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every fan and this new pre-match ceremony *reflects / reflect* that."

FIFA said more players will have a *roll / role* in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the *new / news* ceremony, all squad members will stand *up / around* the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and referees *head / face* each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of *unity / unite*, pride, and emotion that truly *belongs / belong* to the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony *remains / remain* unchanged. Team captains will still participate *on / in* the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another tradition *keeps / kept* for the 2026 tournament is players from each team *shaking / shook* hands with players from the other team.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th\_r\_ h\_s b\_\_n \_ l\_st-m\_n\_t\_ ch\_ng\_ t\_ h\_w t\_\_ms  
s\_ng th\_\_r n\_t\_\_n\_l \_nth\_ms \_t th\_ 2026 W\_rld C\_p.  
F\_F\_, th\_ \_rg\_n\_z\_t\_\_n th\_t r\_ns th\_ W\_rld C\_p,  
\_nn\_\_nc\_d th\_ ch\_ng\_ l\_st w\_\_k. \_t s\_\_d th\_t f\_r th\_  
f\_rst t\_m\_ \_n W\_rld C\_p h\_st\_ry, \_ll \_f th\_ pl\_y\_rs  
\_n th\_ sq\_\_ds w\_ll c\_m\_ \_nt\_ th\_ p\_tch t\_ s\_ng th\_\_r  
\_nth\_m. F\_F\_ pr\_s\_d\_nt G\_\_nn\_ \_nf\_nt\_n\_ c\_mm\_nt\_d  
\_n th\_ ch\_ng\_ t\_ th\_ n\_t\_\_n\_l \_nth\_m c\_r\_m\_ny. H\_  
s\_\_d: "\_s th\_ F\_F\_ W\_rld C\_p gr\_ws, w\_ c\_nt\_n\_\_ t\_  
\_nn\_v\_t\_ th\_ w\_y th\_ g\_m\_ \_s \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_d. Th\_ pr\_-  
m\_tch c\_r\_m\_n\_\_s... w\_ll b\_ n\_ d\_ff\_r\_nt." H\_ \_dd\_d:  
"Th\_ F\_F\_ W\_rld C\_p \_s \_b\_\_t \_v\_ry pl\_y\_r \_nd \_v\_ry  
f\_n \_nd th\_s n\_w pr\_-m\_tch c\_r\_m\_ny r\_fl\_cts th\_t."

F\_F\_ s\_\_d m\_r\_ pl\_y\_rs w\_ll h\_v\_ \_ r\_l\_ \_n \_dd\_ng  
t\_ th\_ pr\_-m\_tch \_tm\_sph\_r\_. \_n th\_ n\_w c\_r\_m\_ny,  
\_ll sq\_\_d m\_mb\_rs w\_ll st\_nd \_r\_\_nd th\_ c\_ntr\_ c\_rcl\_  
\_nd s\_ng th\_\_r n\_t\_\_n\_l \_nth\_m. Mr \_nf\_nt\_n\_ s\_\_d:  
"H\_v\_ng \_ll pl\_y\_rs \_nd r\_f\_r\_\_s f\_c\_ \_\_ch th\_r \_n  
th\_ c\_ntr\_ c\_rcl\_ d\_rng th\_ n\_t\_\_n\_l \_nth\_ms w\_ll  
cr\_\_t\_ \_ m\_m\_nt \_f \_n\_ty, pr\_d\_ \_nd \_m\_t\_\_n th\_t  
tr\_ly b\_l\_ngs t\_ th\_ t\_\_ms \_nd t\_ \_v\_ry\_n\_ \_n th\_  
st\_d\_\_m." \_th\_r p\_rts \_f th\_ pr\_-g\_m\_ c\_r\_m\_ny  
r\_m\_\_n \_nch\_ng\_d. T\_\_m c\_pt\_\_ns w\_ll st\_ll  
p\_rt\_c\_p\_t\_ \_n th\_ c\_\_n t\_ss \_nd \_xch\_ng\_ p\_nn\_nts  
w\_th th\_ \_pp\_s\_ng c\_pt\_\_n. \_n\_th\_r tr\_d\_t\_\_n k\_pt f\_r  
th\_ 2026 t\_\_rn\_m\_nt \_s pl\_y\_rs fr\_m \_\_ch t\_\_m  
sh\_k\_ng h\_nds w\_th pl\_y\_rs fr\_m th\_ \_th\_r t\_\_m.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

there has been a lastminute change to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 world cup fifa the organization that runs the world cup announced the change last week it said that for the first time in world cup history all of the players in the squads will come onto the pitch to sing their anthem fifa president gianni infantino commented on the change to the national anthem ceremony he said as the fifa world cup grows we continue to innovate the way the game is experienced the prematch ceremonies will be no different he added the fifa world cup is about every player and every fan and this new prematch ceremony reflects that

fifa said more players will have a role in adding to the prematch atmosphere in the new ceremony all squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing their national anthem mr infantino said having all players and referees face each other in the centre circle during the national anthems will create a moment of unity pride and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the stadium other parts of the pregame ceremony remain unchanged team captains will still participate in the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain another tradition kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking hands with players from the other team

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

There has been a last-minute change to how teams sing their national anthems at the 2026 World Cup. FIFA, the organization that runs the World Cup, announced the change last week. It said that for the first time in World Cup history, all of the players in the squads will come onto the pitch to sing their anthem. FIFA president Gianni Infantino commented on the change to the national anthem ceremony. 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: "The FIFA World Cup is about every player and every fan and this new pre-match ceremony reflects that." FIFA said more players will have a role in adding to the pre-match atmosphere. In the new ceremony, all squad members will stand around the centre circle and sing their national anthem. Mr Infantino said: "Having all players and referees face each other in the centre circle during the national anthem will create a moment of unity, pride, and emotion that truly belongs to the teams and to everyone in the stadium." Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged. Team captains will still participate in the coin toss and exchange pennants with the opposing captain. Another tradition kept for the 2026 tournament is players from each team shaking hands with players from the other team.





# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP:** Make a poster about the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Write a magazine article about people being required to stand up for and sing national anthems at sporting events and other public performances. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to improve it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. e    3. a    4. c    5. d    6. g    7. f  
8. j    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. n

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. At the last minute
2. The organization that runs the World Cup
3. The whole squad
4. Innovate
5. Every player and fan
6. Around the centre circle
7. Unity, pride, and emotion
8. A coin toss
9. Pennants
10. Shake hands

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. There's a last-minute change to how teams sing.
2. For the first time in World Cup history.
3. The change to the national anthem ceremony.
4. Innovate the way the game is experienced.
5. The FIFA World Cup is about every player and fan.
6. A role in adding to the pre-match atmosphere.
7. Squad members will stand around the centre circle.
8. Players face each other in the centre circle.
9. Other parts of the pre-game ceremony remain unchanged.
10. Shaking hands with players from the other team.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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