

Podcast 10 Worksheet

The World Cup Qualifiers

By Damian Fitzpatrick (October 10th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

The World Cup will take place in South Africa in the summer of 2010. Almost 200 teams have entered the competition but only 32 can take part in the finals. Listen to how this number is decided.

Key word: to qualify from the group (The noun form is qualification)

A. Listening – main point

Predict the answers to the following questions before you listen. Then listen to the whole report and check your answers.

1. Which team won the last World Cup in Germany 2006?
2. Why does South Africa not have to qualify for the 2010 finals?
3. How many different world football regions are there?
4. Which region do you think has the most members?
5. How about the one with the least?

B. Listening – main point

Listen again to the whole report and fill in the chart with the appropriate information.

Region	Number of Teams in the region	Number of teams qualifying	When does the qualifying start?
Oceania	Not mentioned	half	
Asia			Early next year
Africa			This month
North / Central America			
South America			
Europe			

C. Listening – vocabulary

Listen to first section of the report and fill in the gaps with the correct word.

It is only 15 months since Italy won the World Cup in (1) _____ fashion on penalties but the qualifying campaign for the next World Cup in South Africa has just got (2) _____. Indeed, countries such as Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga have already been knocked (3) _____ and must wait till four years from now before they can dream again of taking part in the next World Cup. So, with less than a (4) _____ days to go till the opening game in South Africa, the languagecaster team kicks off its World Cup campaign with a look at how qualification for the tournament (5) _____ place.

Only 32 teams play in the finals and with the hosts, South Africa, already taking one of those places, the remaining 31 (6) _____ are decided by six regional tournaments that play over the next three years. The first of these regions to start their qualifying campaign was Oceania in August this year and the teams from this area, mainly from around the Pacific islands, are (7) _____ to make a play-off spot against a team from Asia, so really they only have half a place!

D. Listening – false statements

Listen to the final section of the report (North, Central and South America and Europe) and explain why the following statements are all false.

1. The schedule in South America is fairly relaxed making it easy to qualify.
2. The South American teams have to play 8 games in their group.
3. Because a European team won the last World Cup they get extra places in the finals.
4. Damian thinks that France, Italy, Ireland, and England will do well in the next finals.

ANSWERS

A. Listening – main point

Predict the answers to the following questions before you listen. Then listen to the whole report and check your answers.

1. Which team won the last World Cup in Germany 2006?

Italy

2. Why does South Africa not have to qualify for the 2010 finals?

Hosts

3. How many different world football regions are there?

6

4. Which region do you think has the most members?

Europe

5. How about the least?

South America

B. Listening – main point

Listen again to the whole report and fill in the chart with the appropriate information.

Region	Number of Teams in the region	Number of teams qualifying	When does the qualifying start?
Oceania	Not mentioned	Half (1 play-off)	August 2007
Asia	43	4 (+1 play-off)	Early next year
Africa	51	5 (+ hosts S. Africa)	This month
North / Central America	35	3 (+ 1 play-off)	February 2008
South America	10	4 (+ 1 play-off)	This weekend
Europe	53	13	August 2008

C. Listening – vocabulary

Listen to first section of the report and fill in the gaps with the correct word.

It is only 15 months since Italy won the World Cup in (1) **dramatic** fashion on penalties but the qualifying campaign for the next World Cup in South Africa has just got (2) **underway**. Indeed, countries such as Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga have already been knocked (3) **out** and must wait till four years from now before they can dream again of taking part in the next World Cup. So, with less than a (4) **thousand** days to go till the opening game in South Africa, the languagecaster team kicks off its World Cup campaign with a look at how qualification for the tournament (5) **takes** place.

Only 32 teams play in the finals and with the hosts, South Africa, already taking one of those places, the remaining 31 (6) **spots** are decided by six regional tournaments that play over the next three years. The first of these regions to start their qualifying campaign was Oceania in August this year and the teams from this area, mainly from around the Pacific islands, are (7) **battling** to make a play-off spot against a team from Asia, so really they only have half a place!

D. Listening –false statements

Listen to the final section of the report (North, Central and South America and Europe) and explain why the following statements are all false.

1. The schedule in South America is fairly relaxed making it easy to qualify.
It's grueling and lasts two years
2. The South American teams have to play 8 games in their group.
18 games
3. Because a European team won the last World Cup they get extra places in the finals.
Most members / traditionally are strong
4. Damian thinks that France, Italy, Ireland, and England will do well in the next finals.
Not England - Germany

Transcript

It is only 15 months since Italy won the World Cup in dramatic fashion on penalties but the qualifying campaign for the next World Cup in South Africa has just got underway. Indeed, countries such as Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga have already been knocked out and must wait till four years from now before they can dream again of taking part in the next World Cup. So, with less than a thousand days to go till the opening game in South Africa, the languagecaster team kicks off its World Cup campaign with a look at how qualification for the tournament takes place.

Only 32 teams play in the finals and with the hosts, South Africa, already taking one of those places, the remaining 31 spots are decided by six regional tournaments that play over the next three years. The first of these regions to start their qualifying campaign was Oceania in August this year and the teams from this area, mainly from around the Pacific islands, are battling to make a play-off spot against a team from Asia, so really they only have half a place!

Asia has 43 teams taking part in its regional competition and there will be 4 teams qualifying directly plus another will face that play-off with the winners of the Oceania section. Now, one former member of that region, Australia, has joined the Asian tournament this time and will be taking part in the main qualifying stage early next year.

Africa has 51 teams that are divided into small groups to decide the 5 teams that will represent the continent along with the hosts, South Africa. This is always an exciting competition and after some preliminary matches this month, the group stages will also begin next year.

The North and Central American region has 35 members and they will start playing from February of 2008 to see which three teams will go to South Africa. The team that finishes fourth will have a play-off chance against the 5th team from the South American group. Now, this region only has ten members but has a really gruelling schedule with countries playing each other home and away for a total of 18 games each. The tournament begins this weekend, lasts for two years and the top 4 teams progress directly.

Finally, Europe will be supplying 13 teams to the finals since it has the most members, with 53, and the fact that traditionally the strongest teams are from this part of the world, the four semi-finalists from the last World Cup were all European. This competition starts in August 2008 and teams from the region, such as Italy, France, Germany and Ireland, will once again be favourites to do well in the World Cup 2010.

Only 973 days to go!