

Learning English Through Football

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2018 World Cup Qualification

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The road to the 2018 World Cup in Russia has just started and in this report we take a look at some of the early rounds of World Cup qualification. Listen to the report by [clicking here](#) while answering the worksheet's questions below. The answers along with a transcript, as well as vocabulary support can be found at the end of this worksheet.

Pre-Listening

Match the abbreviation on the left with its football region on the right.

A	UEFA	1	South America
B	CONCACAF	2	Oceania
C	CONMEBOL	3	Africa
D	CAF	4	Europe
E	Oceania	5	Asia
F	AFC	6	North and Central America

A. Main Idea – Numbers

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. The number of countries taking part in the 2018 World Cup qualification process
2. The number of countries that will qualify for the 2018 World Cup
3. The number of teams that have to play in the first round of the Asian qualification section.
4. The number of countries taking part in the second round of the Asian qualification process
5. The number of goals that Mongolia scored in their first leg match
6. The number of goals that India scored in their first leg match
7. The number of teams that have to play in the first round of the North and Central American qualification section
8. The date in March when Bermuda play Bahamas in the first leg of their CONCACAF qualifying game.

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B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the final part of the report (*The Rest*) and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

The next region to begin (1) _____ will be the CONCACAF section (North and Central America) with the first round starting at the end of this month. Like their Asian (2) _____ they will have a qualifying round to (3) _____ which 7 teams will make it through to the second round meaning we will be saying goodbye to either the Bahamas or Bermuda as they (4) _____ off on March 25th. The Oceania qualification (5) _____ begins in June, while both the African (CAF) and the South American (CONMEBOL) sections begin in October. Europe will probably be at the same time though its (6) _____ (UEFA) has yet to decide on the official start time.

C. Listening - prepositions

Listen to the first part of the report again and choose the appropriate preposition.

(1) With/In Russia qualifying as hosts, 207 other nations are all still (2) in with/on with a chance of filling the remaining 31 places (3) at/in the 2018 World Cup. At least until early next week that is. The qualifying rounds in Asia have started this week with 12 teams hoping (4) for/to avoid the ignominy of being eliminated from the competition more than three years before it actually kicks off. The lowest-ranked 12 sides (5) of/from the Asian football federation (AFC) are currently participating (6) on/in the first round of Asian qualification.

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ANSWERS – 2018 World Cup Qualification

Pre-Listening

Match the abbreviation on the left with its football region on the right.

A	UEFA	4	Europe
B	CONCACAF	6	North and Central America
C	CONMEBOL	1	South America
D	CAF	3	Africa
E	Oceania	2	Oceania
F	AFC	5	Asia

A. Main Idea – Numbers

Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.

1. The number of countries taking part in the 2018 World Cup qualification process **207**
2. The number of countries that will qualify for the 2018 World Cup **31**
3. The number of teams that have to play in the first round of the Asian qualification section. **12**
4. The number of countries taking part in the second round of the Asian qualification process **40**
5. The number of goals that Mongolia scored in their first leg match **1**
6. The number of goals that India scored in their first leg match **2**
7. The number of teams that have to play in the first round of the North and Central American qualification section **14**
8. The date in March when Bermuda play Bahamas in the first leg of their CONCACAF qualifying game. **25**

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the final part of the report (*The Rest*) and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.

The next region to begin **qualification** will be the CONCACAF section (North and Central America) with the first round starting at the end of this month. Like their Asian **counterparts** they will have a qualifying round to **determine** which 7 teams will make it through to the second round meaning we will be saying goodbye to either the Bahamas or Bermuda as they **face** off on March 25th. The Oceania qualification **campaign** begins in June, while both the African (CAF) and the South American (CONMEBOL) sections begin in October. Europe will probably be at the same time though its **federation** (UEFA) has yet to decide on the official start time.

C. Listening - prepositions

Listen to the first part of the report again and choose the appropriate preposition.

(1) **With** Russia qualifying as hosts, 207 other nations are all still (2) **in with** a chance of filling the remaining 31 places (3) **at** the 2018 World Cup. At least until early next week that is. The qualifying rounds in Asia have started this week with 12 teams hoping (4) **to** avoid the ignominy of being eliminated from the competition more than three years before it actually kicks off. The lowest-ranked 12 sides (5) **from** the Asian football federation (AFC) are currently participating (6) **in** the first round of Asian qualification.

Transcript: 2018 World Cup Qualification

2018 World Cup Qualification: Asia

With Russia qualifying as hosts, 207 other nations are all **still in with a chance** of filling the remaining 31 places at the 2018 World Cup. At least until early next week that is. The qualifying rounds in Asia have started this week with 12 teams hoping to avoid **the ignominy of being eliminated from** the competition more than three years before it actually **kicks off**. The lowest-ranked 12 sides from the Asian football federation (AFC) are currently participating in the first round of Asian qualification. The games are played over two legs (home and away) with the winner progressing to the second round where they will be joined by 34 other countries and drawn into eight groups of five teams. Of course, the losers from these six first round matches will be out of the World Cup.

The six first-leg matches from the first round produced some remarkable results with FIFA's lowest-ranked side Bhutan defeating Sri Lanka 1-0 away from home, while Timor Leste **thrashed** Mongolia 4-1 in for their first ever World Cup win and Brunei also **claimed their first ever victory** with a 1-0 win in Chinese Taipei (Taiwan). India also managed to win their home leg (2-0 against Nepal) and should make it through to the next round along with Yemen and Cambodia. The second-leg matches take place on Tuesday when for six countries their World Cup dream will be over.

2018 World Cup Qualification: The Rest

The next region to begin qualification will be the CONCACAF section (North and Central America) with the first round starting at the end of this month. **Like their Asian counterparts** they will have a qualifying round **to determine** which 7 teams **will make it through to** the second round meaning we will be saying goodbye to either the Bahamas or Bermuda as they **face off** on March 25th. The Oceania qualification campaign begins in June, while both the African (CAF) and the South American (CONMEBOL) sections begin in October. Europe will probably be at the same time though its federation (UEFA) have yet to decide on the official start time.

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Vocabulary support

still in with a chance: There is still a possibility of making it

the ignominy: The shame

being eliminated from: Knocked out of

kicks off: Starts

thrashed: Heavily defeated

claimed their first ever victory: Won their first match

Like their Asian counterparts: Similarly

to determine: To decide

will make it through to: Progress; qualify

face off: Play against each other

Further Links

- [FIFA's page on the Asia qualifiers](#)
- Read [the Guardian report](#) on the first set of World Cup qualifiers here
- [Wikipedia's page](#) on the qualification process