



LISTENING

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS- OCTOBER 2016

In order to do this task, you should follow these steps:

1. Listen to the podcast until the minute 4'40.
2. Do the exercises below.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text if necessary.

✓ WORKSHEET

1. The games that took place in Asia last Thursday were...
 - a. Japan vs Saudi Arabia and Iraq vs Australia
 - b. Japan vs Australia and Iraq vs Saudi Arabia
 - c. Japan vs Iraq and Saudi Arabia vs Australia
 - d. Japan vs Iraq and Australia vs Saudi Arabia
2. According to the podcast, the group in which Ireland is included is formed by...
 - a. Wales, Austria and Serbia
 - b. Georgia, Wales, Austria and Serbia
 - c. Georgia, Wales, Austria, Serbia and Russia
 - d. Wales, Austria, Serbia and Russia
3. Damon says that some of the big guns of international football are...
 - a. Brazil, Bolivia, Germany, France, Bulgaria and Portugal
 - b. Brazil, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Bosnia and Holland
 - c. Brazil, Germany, France, Portugal, Belgium and Belarus
 - d. Brazil, Germany, France, Portugal, Belgium and Holland
4. The last two Copa America finals were played by...
 - a. Chile and Argentina
 - b. Argentina and Peru
 - c. Chile and Ecuador
 - d. Chile and Uruguay

✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

- **Qualifiers:** games played to decide which teams progress to the main tournament or knock-out stages of a competition.
- **Caretaker manager:** someone who is in charge of the position of manager until someone else takes control of it, which means that the caretaker position is a temporary one; it's not permanent. . He may be offered the job on a permanent basis after that or they might look elsewhere for a new manager.
- **Tough:** hard
- **Vying:** from the verb *vie* -> compete
- **To pick out:** to choose
- **The big guns = the powerhouses:** teams that are traditionally strong sides
- **To thrash:** to defeat thoroughly
- **To overcome:** to defeat
- **To be comprehensively beaten:** it means that the team was outplayed in the defeat; it is the sense of being completely defeated.
- **CONMEBOL:** the name of the South American football organisation. This word is coined from three different words in Spanish -> **Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol.**
- **To win ugly:** teams cannot always play in a stylish way; they have often to defend a lot and maybe win the game on a counter-attack, or even with a bit of luck, and so sometimes we use this phrase when describing this kind of victory.
- **To grind out a result:** it means that even though the team has not played very well, it has won or drawn the match
- **To outplay:** to be defeated; to play better than the opposing team
- **Woodwork:** crossbar
- **Scrappy:** incomplete
- **A scramble:** a goal scored in an uncontrolled or ungraceful manner

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

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Hello everybody, my name is Damian and I'm in a very sunny though slightly chilly London and hopefully Damon is there on the other end of the line in Tokyo, Japan. Damon, how are you doing?

DB: Very well indeed, Damian!

DF: Now today is Sunday, so we are a little bit later than usual with the podcast, as we wanted to see how the World Cup **qualifiers** were getting on and, especially, how the new England manager got on in his debut game in charge, the **caretaker manager** Gareth Southgate.

DB: Yes, lots of games are going on around the world this week. There were games in Asia last Thursday; Japan managed to beat Iraq 2-1 with a late, late goal and Saudi Arabia and Australia played out a 2-2 draw among them.

DF: Yes, last Thursday also saw the first of six days of European qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Perhaps, the biggest game so far was the match in Turin between hosts Italy and Spain, which finished 1-1 and this meant that the Italians have not lost a qualifying game at home in either European or World Cup qualifiers in 52 games; amazing.

DB: It is indeed amazing. Now, how did Ireland do?

DF: Well, Damon they managed to beat Georgia 1-0 at home but they were lucky to claim all three points. This is a **tough** group with Wales, Austria and Serbia all **vying** with Ireland to make the top spot and direct qualification for Russia 2018.

DB: Yes, lots of games still to come over the next couple of days for the European sides and this will be their third game (of 10) in the qualifying tournament. African teams, meanwhile, have started their qualification process this weekend. There are five groups of four teams and, with only the winners going through to the finals, this makes it very competitive indeed. In South America, they've already been playing for a year and teams have played nine times in the league system they use to decide qualification there.

Line up

DF: Yes, Damon, loads of football going on around the world. Now, we will be looking at some of the stories that have emerged from those qualifiers in our football review of the week; that's the good, the bad and the ugly. After that, we will be looking at a couple of football language phrases from the week including the phrase 'caretaker manager' and 'comprehensive'. As we don't have any Premier League games this week, we don't have our usual predictions battle but we have **picked out** a big game for us to predict from this week's World Cup games: Slovenia versus England.

Right, let's start with our football review. Damon, what was good this week?

Good

DB: Well, it's been a good weekend so far for some of **the big guns, the powerhouses** of international football. Brazil **thrashed** Bolivia 5-0, Germany cruised to victory over the Czech Republic; that was 2-0, and there were big wins for France (4-1

vs Bulgaria), Portugal (6-0 against Andorra), Belgium (4-0 winners over Bosnia) and Holland, who defeated Belarus 4-1. How about bad Damian?

Bad

DF: Well, Damon, the last two Copa America finals have seen Chile **overcoming** Argentina (both times on penalties), but neither side is playing particularly well at the moment with Argentina drawing their last game 2-2 away in Peru to find themselves in 5th place; that's outside the direct qualification spots. But Chile are faring much worse. They **were comprehensively beaten** 3-0 by Ecuador at the weekend and they are now in 7th place in the **CONMEBOL** or South American league; 8 points, that is, behind the leaders Uruguay. Bad times for the Copa America champions.

DB: How about ugly?

Ugly

DF: Not so much ugly itself but **win ugly**. As we know, teams cannot always play beautiful attacking football to win games and sometimes they have to **grind out a result**; they win ugly. Ireland's win over Georgia on Thursday night was exactly that; as they **were outplayed** for much of the game, the visitors hit the **woodwork** twice, and the Irish goal was a **scrappy** one after **a scramble** in the box. Ireland won ugly but if I'm honest, I'd be happy if they did that in every qualifier!

DB: Indeed!