



LISTENING

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

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

1. Listen to the podcast until minute 3'57.
2. Do the exercises below. There is only one correct answer for each question.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text if necessary.

✓ WORKSHEET

1. According to the conversation, who managed to watch any of the World Cup football?
 - a. Damon
 - b. Damian
 - c. Both of them
 - d. None of them
2. The team which has made their first ever World Cup finals is...
 - a. Russia
 - b. Kosovo
 - c. Turkey
 - d. Iceland
3. Which team has qualified for the World Cup for the first time after 27 years?
 - a. Congo
 - b. Australia
 - c. Egypt
 - d. Syria
4. The matches played by both Irish teams were...
 - a. The Republic of Ireland versus Wales and Northern Ireland versus Germany
 - b. Wales versus Germany and The Republic of Ireland versus Northern Ireland
 - c. The Republic of Ireland versus Germany and Northern Ireland versus Wales
 - d. None of the answers is correct.

✓ **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **Clash:** battler, fight
- **Nail-biting:** causing nervousness
- **Terrific:** extremely good
- **Qualify:** to demonstrate the required ability in an initial or preliminary contest
- **Hex:** spell, charm, jinx
- **Slip up:** to make a mistake or error
- **Winner:** late-winning goal
- **Play-off:** a series of games or matches played to decide a championship
- **Hat-trick:** three goals scored by the same player in a football match
- **Holder:** owner

✓ **PODCAST TRANSCRIPT**

2017/ 2018 PREMIER LEAGUE KICK OFF

DF: You are listening to Languagecaster's football-language podcast. Hello everybody my name is Damian and I am here in a bright, sunny London and hopefully Damon is on the other end of the line in Tokyo? Damon, how are things there in Japan?

DB: Hi there Damian, they're pretty grey, wet, rainy... Yes, not so good weather-wise but other than that pretty good. What have we got on the show today?

Line Up

DF: Well, today's show has a big World Cup theme as we look back first at some of the good, the bad and the ugly from the football week, before explaining some football language that has emerged from the week, including the phrase 'results go your way', and then we'll be looking ahead to the Liverpool-Manchester United **clash** in our weekly predictions.

DB: Come on Liverpool!

Good

DF: Now, Damon, before we look at the good, the bad and the ugly, did you manage to watch any of the World Cup football?

DB: Unfortunately, I found it very difficult over here in Japan to watch the games. How about you?

DF: Oh yes. I watched lots and lots of it. It was really, really great stuff and we might as well start off there with the good because it was such a fantastic week of international football! **Nail-biting** finishes, huge shocks, controversial ghost goals, **terrific** comebacks and some wonderful stories from all over the globe as teams tried to **qualify** for next summer's World Cup finals in Russia.

In the European section, it was a very good week for Iceland, as they defeated Turkey away and then Kosovo at home to qualify top of a very tough group and make their first ever World Cup finals. Wasn't it fantastic, Iceland?

DB: Yes

DF: Another team making its competitive bow is Panama.

DB: Brilliant

DF: From the CONCACAF region after an amazing night of football action in the North and Central American section. The United States were favourites to make it through the **hex** but they **slipped up** against Trinidad and Tobago, allowing Panama to get through thanks to Román Torres' late **winner** in their game against Costa Rica as well as another **late-winning goal** for Honduras in their match against Mexico. Dramatic stuff indeed.

DB: Yes, it was dramatic and there was more late drama in the African qualifiers when Liverpool's Mo Salah scored a 94th-minute penalty against Congo to send Egypt through to the World Cup for the first time since 1990, while in the Asian **play-offs**, Syria and Australia went to extra time before Tim Cahill's second goal of the game saw the Australians through to an intercontinental play-off against Honduras in November. And what about South America?

DF: Wow! With one game to go there was a real possibility that Argentina would miss out on the World Cup for the first time since 1970. They needed to beat Ecuador away, at altitude, on Tuesday night to stay in with a chance of making it to Russia 2018 and, despite going a goal down within the first minute of the game, they came back to win 3-1 thanks to an amazing **hat-trick** from Leo Messi to book their place in the finals next year. What a... the three goals were fantastic! Remarkably, the current Copa America **holders**, Chile, missed out after two defeats in their final two games, with Peru making the play-offs, and they will play New Zealand in November. And talking of play-offs, Damon, both Irish teams will be involved in the European play-offs in November as they both finished second in their respective groups. The Republic of Ireland battled to an impressive and very, very tense, victory over Wales on Monday. I watched that with my brother. Oh my God, it was so ne...we were so nervous; while Northern Ireland finished as **runners-up** behind Germany. So a great week of international football with more to come in November, as we find out the names of the last nine sides to qualify for Russia.