



## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and do the exercises below.

### LIONEL MESSI: I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO PLAY IN ARGENTINA AGAIN SOME TIME

Lionel Messi has again outlined his desire to play in his native Argentina before his career ends but the Barcelona forward insists he has put no timeframe on a return.

The five-times Ballon d'Or winner began his career with the Argentinian club Newell's Old Boys before being snapped up by Barça's academy in 2001. The 28-year-old has since gone on to win seven Primera División titles, three Copas del Rey and four Champions League winners' medals and could add to that tally this season. Barcelona is top of La Liga and is on a 34-match unbeaten run in all competitions; they hold a 2-0 lead over Arsenal after the first leg of their last-16 tie in the Champions League.

While Messi has no immediate intention of leaving Spain, he does concede that a move back home appeals at some stage. "It's something that I would still like to do. I don't know when, but it's a possibility," he told the Argentinian magazine *El Gráfico*. "I haven't set myself any goals, short or long term, but I would like to keep playing while my body allows it and I have something to offer the team. When I know that it's time, I'll make a decision."

The Argentina captain has scored 49 international goals and is closing in on Gabriel Batistuta's record of 57. Yet Messi, who guided his country to the World Cup final in 2014 before being beaten in extra-time by Germany, admits he would rather win team accolades. "I prefer to win something with the national team," he said. "I am not interested in records. They are there, but that does not make you win titles." "I get upset whenever we lose with Argentina because I know that we should have won. We did enough to win the World Cup and the Copa América."

## Worksheet

- 1. Lionel Messi would like to play again in his homeland and...**
  - a. He already knows when he is coming back and has an immediate intention to do it.
  - b. He has decided that he will do it when his career ends.
  - c. He doesn't know yet when we will be coming back.
  
- 2. Messi has been linked to F.C. Barcelona for...**
  - a. 15 years
  - b. 14 years
  - c. 11 years
  
- 3. According to the text, since Messi moved to Barcelona, he has won...**
  - a. Seven titles
  - b. 14 titles
  - c. 10 titles
  
- 4. F.C. Barcelona has won...**
  - a. 16 matches in a row
  - b. 34 matches in a row
  - c. 49 matches in a row
  
- 5. In the World Cup final, in 2014,...**
  - a. Argentina lost.
  - b. Argentina won.
  - c. Germany was beaten by Argentina.