



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and choose the correct answer for the questions below.

Cristiano Ronaldo to Juventus: Why is he leaving Real Madrid?

What is behind Cristiano Ronaldo's move to Juventus? And what does it all mean for Real Madrid?

The Portuguese superstar is on the way to Juventus in a £105m move, with both the Turin club and Real Madrid confirming they have agreed a deal for his transfer. Here, we answer the key questions surrounding the move with *Sky Sports'* Spanish football expert, Guillem Balague.

Why does Ronaldo want to leave?

Ultimately, it comes down to him not feeling wanted enough. Ronaldo has spent nine glittering seasons with Madrid and lifted his fourth Champions League trophy in five years just a few weeks ago, but he has a complicated relationship with club president, Florentino Pérez.

"It's a personal issue," Balague told *Sky Sports* in Friday's episode of the *Transfer Talk* podcast. "Juventus is happy to pay him €30m net per year. He would earn the same if he signed a new contract at Real Madrid, but he feels he's not wanted. The background is that, a year ago, Pérez said he would increase Ronaldo's wages. Cristiano was waiting for an offer and meanwhile Lionel Messi got a new contract worth €41m net per year, Neymar is earning €35m net per year, and he is only earning €21m net per year."

"He also feels there is a lot of talk about Neymar. When Cristiano won the Ballon d'Or, Pérez said that if Neymar wanted to win the Ballon d'Or, he needed to move to Real Madrid. Cristiano didn't like that, but when he threatened them with leaving, he felt Real Madrid didn't do enough to try and keep him."

"It's all very confusing. He wants to leave but at the same time he wants to be stopped. Anyway, Real Madrid is happy to let him go, but they want him to say publicly that he's leaving, so the finger of blame goes to him and they can give him a spectacular send-off."

Were there any other suitors?

Jorge Mendes, Ronaldo's agent, also sounded out Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United about the possibility of signing him, according to Balague, but both clubs said they were not interested, leaving Juventus with a clear run at him.

Could Ronaldo keep winning at Juventus?

Ronaldo would be confident of adding to his vast trophy collection at Juventus. The Old Lady is totally dominant in Italian football having won seven consecutive Serie A titles and four consecutive league and cup doubles. They are a European force, too. Juventus have not won the Champions League since the 1995/96 season, but they have reached two finals in the last five years. With Ronaldo on their side, instead of standing in their way, they would fancy their chances of going one better.

What would it mean for Gareth Bale?

"The idea was to sell Bale but now everything changes; he could get transformed into a newly-born Galáctico. Ronaldo is one of the best players in history and Bale hasn't got to that level yet, but what will happen is that, without Ronaldo, Bale will grow. I believe Real Madrid think the same," said Balague.

Bale struggled to play time under Zinedine Zidane. "From the moment Zidane went, there was a sigh of relief from Bale's side, so much that the conversations that were going to take place around now have been delayed."

"Ronaldo was the guy who took things to another level when things got tough, so whoever else comes in will have to fill that gap."

Questions

1. According to the text, Cristiano Ronaldo does not want to stay in Real Madrid anymore because...

- a. He earns less money than Neymar.
- b. He would earn more money in Juventus than in Real Madrid.
- c. He thinks he is not appreciated enough in this club.
- d. Lionel Messi's annual salary is higher than Ronaldo's one.

2. Real Madrid wants Ronaldo to say publicly that he is leaving because...

- a. His fans deserve so.
- b. They are angry with him.
- c. They want to be blamed.
- d. They do not want to look like the guilty party in front of Real Madrid's fans.

3. According to the Champions League competition, Juventus...

- a. Has won it twice in the last five years
- b. Has not won it for more than 20 years
- c. Won it five years ago
- d. Has never won it



4. Now that Ronaldo is leaving Real Madrid, ...

- a. It is thought that Gareth Bale will stand out among everyone else.
- b. Bale is going to be sold.
- c. Bale is relieved because Zidane is not Real Madrid's coach anymore.
- d. Bale will have to struggle to play more time.