

The World Cup 2026

1) Reading task

Read the descriptions of eleven teenage football stars aiming for the World Cup 2026. Choose the correct texts (A–K) for each question (1–10). You can use a text more than once. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Eleven teenage football stars aiming for the World Cup 2026

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will start on 11 June 2026. It will take place in the USA, Canada and Mexico. Many young football players are hoping to play in their first World Cup. In the past, young players like Pelé and Lionel Messi became famous at World Cups. Now, a new group of teenagers wants to do the same. Here are eleven exciting young players to watch.

A

Luke Brooke-Smith (New Zealand)

Luke Brooke-Smith is a 17-year-old attacker. He recently made his debut for New Zealand in a match against Australia. Fast and good at dribbling, he may be an important surprise player for his team.

B

Pau Cubarsí (Spain)

Cubarsí is an 18-year-old defender from Barcelona. He is already a strong player for Spain and his club. Even though he is so young, he is very good at passing and reading the game.

C

Yan Diomande (Côte d'Ivoire)

Diomande is a young forward who has quickly become important in Europe. He moved to a big club, scored many goals and also helped his national team qualify for major tournaments. Recently, he even achieved a hat-trick (i.e.: scored three goals) against Frankfurt.

D

Estevão (Brazil)

At only 18 years old, Estevão already is a Brazilian international player. The fast and creative winger impressed at club level and recently moved to Chelsea in England.

E

Karl Lennart (Germany)

Lennart is a talented 17-year-old attacking player playing for Bayern Munich. He is skillful and has proven that he can score goals. Lennart is still waiting for his first call to the German national team.

F

Franco Mastantuono (Argentina)

Mastantuono is a young player for Real Madrid, already playing for the Argentina national team. He is a strong attacking player and has already scored in top matches.



G

Gilberto Mora (Mexico)

Mora is a midfield player with good technique. He made his senior debut very young and has already won a regional tournament with Mexico. To some, he is a future star.

H

Ibrahim Mbaye (Senegal)

Mbaye is a fast winger playing for Paris Saint-Germain. He is good at dribbling and creating chances. He has already impressed in international competitions.

I

Kendry Páez (Ecuador)

Páez is a creative midfielder. He has already played many matches for Ecuador’s national team. Despite being very young, he has strong technical skills and good vision.

J

Ryunosuke Sato (Japan)

Sato is a flexible young player who can play in different positions. He is strong in dribbling and works hard for his team. He has already played in Japan’s top league.

K

Lamine Yamal (Spain)

Yamal is one of the most famous young players in the world. He plays for Barcelona and Spain. He is very skilled and creative. Many people expect him to become a future superstar.

According to the descriptions, which player ...

poses a strong threat in attack?	0	
netted more than twice in a single match?	1	
could turn out to be an unexpected help for his teammates?	2	
is seen by some to become a top player soon?	3	4
is not yet playing for his national team?	5	
has the ability to play in more than one position?	6	
has started to play for a famous club in an English-speaking country?	7	
is good at setting up opportunities?	8	
is good at understanding the game, despite his young age?	9	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
F										



2) Speaking task: *Individual long turn* – Global sporting events

Give a 5-minute talk on this year's FIFA World Cup or other big sporting events.



In your talk you should:

- **discuss** different aspects of global sporting events as presented in the pictures
- **reflect on** how global sporting events could be made more environmentally friendly,
- **explain** what the advantages and disadvantages of global sporting events are.

3) Speaking task: *Paired activity* – The FIFA World Cup

Your school is organising a project day and has invited you and your partner to give a talk about the upcoming FIFA World Cup as a global sporting event.

You have 10 minutes to discuss the following aspects. Agree on two or three that you will include in your talk.

- atmosphere in stadiums vs. public viewing areas
- role of fans and national identity
- media coverage and global attention
- commercialisation and sponsorship
- positive and negative effects on host countries

4) Creative task: Vocabulary loop

For the teacher:

a) Preparation

- The teacher cuts out individual stripes.
- Each student receives 1 or 2 stripes (depending on the group size).
- Each stripe contains:
 - a term (e.g. “striker”)
 - a definition (e.g. “The person who controls the match and enforces the rules.”)

b) How the activity works

1. Starting the chain

- The teacher selects one student to begin.
- The first student reads **ONLY** the definition on their card.
 - Example: “This is a player whose main job is to stop the other team from scoring.”

2. Finding the match

- All other students listen and try to identify the correct term.
 - The student who has the matching term on their stripe responds: “Defender!”

3. Continuing the chain

- The student who says the correct term continues immediately by reading their definition.

4. From this point on, the activity becomes a loop.

- definition → term → definition → term → ...

Goal: To complete the loop as fast and accurately as possible.

Possible extra challenge: Do it again, this time even faster.

For the students:

striker	The person who controls the match and enforces the rules.
referee	A large place where football matches are played.
stadium	A free shot from the penalty spot after a serious foul.
penalty	The player who protects the goal and can use hands inside the penalty area.
goalkeeper	A player whose main job is to stop the other team from scoring.
defender	A player who connects defence and attack.
midfielder	The person who trains and leads the team.

coach	A player who replaces another player during the match.
substitute	Physical harm to a player during a match or training.
injury	The time a team controls the ball.
possession	A move to take the ball away from an opponent.
tackle	To kick or pass the ball to a teammate.
to pass	An attempt to score a goal.
shot	When the ball crosses the goal line between the posts.
goal	A match that ends with both teams having the same score.
draw	When a team wins a match.
victory	When a team loses a match.
defeat	The process of earning a place in the World Cup.
qualification	A competition with many teams playing several matches.
tournament	The first round where teams are divided into groups.
group stage	The phase where losing teams are eliminated.
knockout stage	The last match that decides the winner of the tournament.
final	Extra playing time if the score is tied.
extra time	A method to decide the winner using penalty kicks.
penalty shootout	People who support a team or player.
fans	The leader of a football team on the pitch.
captain	An action that breaks the rules of the game.
foul	A warning given by the referee for bad behaviour.
yellow card	A punishment that removes a player from the match.
red card	A player whose main role is to score goals.

The World Cup 2026: Key

1) Reading task

0 F, 1 C, 2 A, 3 G, 4 K, 5 E, 6 J, 7 D, 8 H, 9 B, 10 I

4) Creative task: Vocabulary loop

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