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Lionel Andrés Messi was born on June 24, 1987 in the city of Rosario, Argentina. Everyone knows him now as the best football player in the world. In fact, a lot of people say he might become the greatest player ever. We’ll see about that at the World Cup. Messi is FIFA World Player of the Year. He also helped his club team Barcelona win the European Champions League and the World Club Championship.

Messi grew up playing football. He joined his first club when he was five. At the age of eight, he signed up for the famous Newell's Old Boys' youth team. His career nearly ended when doctors found out he suffered from a growth hormone deficiency. Luckily, agents from Barcelona saw his talent and in 2000, he moved to Spain. The Catalan club paid for his medical treatment and coached him until he made his Barcelona debut.

Lionel started breaking records as soon as he played his first game for Barcelona in the 2004-05 season. He became the youngest footballer ever to play a La Liga game and the youngest to score a goal. He helped his team win the league in his first season, and the league and Champions League double in the following season. In the 2008-09 season he scored an impressive 38 goals as Barcelona won the treble.

Messi has an amazing career ahead of him. He is set to shine in South Africa. Many football experts compare him to the legendary Pele and Maradona. This World Cup could be the stage for him to show people he really is the best. His skills on the ball, ability to get past defenders and his goal-scoring are breathtaking. Top soccer coach Arsene Wenger said Messi is “like a PlayStation. He takes advantage of every mistake teams make”.
SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students’?

Paragraphs 1 and 2
1. ever \(\rightarrow\) a. joined
2. helped \(\rightarrow\) b. experienced
3. signed up for \(\rightarrow\) c. in history
4. suffered \(\rightarrow\) d. first appearance
5. coached \(\rightarrow\) e. assisted
6. debut \(\rightarrow\) f. trained

Paragraphs 3 and 4
7. breaking \(\rightarrow\) g. extraordinary
8. following \(\rightarrow\) h. in front
9. impressive \(\rightarrow\) i. specialists
10. ahead \(\rightarrow\) j. error
11. experts \(\rightarrow\) k. smashing
12. mistake \(\rightarrow\) l. next

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

1. Everyone knows him now as \(\rightarrow\) a. hormone deficiency
2. Messi is FIFA World \(\rightarrow\) b. of every mistake
3. Messi grew \(\rightarrow\) c. the best football player
4. he suffered from a growth \(\rightarrow\) d. records
5. coached him until he made \(\rightarrow\) e. his first season
6. Lionel started breaking \(\rightarrow\) f. Player of the Year
7. win the league in \(\rightarrow\) g. to the legendary Pele
8. Messi has an amazing career \(\rightarrow\) h. up playing football
9. experts compare him \(\rightarrow\) i. his Barcelona debut
10. He takes advantage \(\rightarrow\) j. ahead of him
LISTENING GAP FILL:

Lionel Andrés Messi was born on June 24, 1987 in the city of Rosario, Argentina. Everyone __________________ the best football player in the world. In fact, a lot of people __________________ the greatest player ever. We’ll __________________ the World Cup. Messi is FIFA World Player of the Year. He ________________ team Barcelona win the European Champions League and the World Club Championship.

Messi __________________ football. He joined his first club when he was five. At the age of eight, he ________________ famous Newell's Old Boys' youth team. His career nearly ended when doctors found out __________________ a growth hormone deficiency. Luckily, agents from Barcelona saw his talent and in 2000, he moved to Spain. The Catalon club paid for his medical treatment and coached ________________ his Barcelona debut.

Lionel started ________________ soon as he played his first game for Barcelona in the 2004-05 season. He became the youngest footballer ________________ La Liga game and the youngest to score a goal. He helped his team win the league ________________, and the league and Champions League double in the following season. In the 2008-09 season he scored an impressive 38 goals as Barcelona ________________.

Messi has an amazing career ________________. He is set to shine in South Africa. Many football experts compare him to the legendary Pele and Maradona. This World Cup ________________ for him to show people he really is the best. His skills on the ball, ________________ defenders and his goal-scoring are breathtaking. Top soccer coach Arsene Wenger said Messi is “like a PlayStation. He ________________ every mistake teams make”.

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LIONEL MESSI

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

Lionel Andrés Messi was birth / born on June 24, 1987 in the city of Rosario, Argentina. Everyone knows him now as the best / beast football player in the world. In fact, a lot of people say he might become the greatest player even / ever. We'll see / watch about that at the World Cup. Messi is FIFA World Player of the Year. He also helped his club team Barcelona win / wins the European Champions League and the World Club Championship.

Messi grow / grew up playing football. He joined his first club when he was five. At the age of eight, he signed in / up for the famous Newell's Old Boys' youth team. His career nearly ended when doctors found out he suffered / suffering from a growth hormone deficiency. Luckily, agents from Barcelona saw his talented / talent and in 2000, he moved to Spain. The Catalan club paid for his medical treatment and coached him until he made / did his Barcelona debut.

Lionel started breaking records / plates as soon as he played his first game for Barcelona at / in the 2004-05 season. He became the youngest footballer ever to play a La Liga game and the youngest for / to score a goal. He helped his team win the league in his first season, and the league and Champions League double / duo in the following season. In the 2008-09 season he scored an impressive 38 goals was / as Barcelona won the treble.

Messi has an amazing career front / ahead of him. He is set to shine in South Africa. Many football experts compare him to / by the legendary Pele and Maradona. This World Cup could be the pitch / stage for him to show people he really is the best. His skills on the ball, ability / able to get past defenders and his goal-scoring are breathtaking. Top soccer coach Arsene Wenger said Messi is “like a PlayStation. He takes advantage for / of every mistake teams make”.

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SPELLING:
These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1
1. Everyone onwsk
2. the etgtsare player ever
3. We’ll see otbua that
4. He also ehpdel his club team

Paragraph 2
5. He oijend his first club
6. he esdngi up
7. he feedsurf from a growth hormone deficiency
8. his Barcelona budet

Paragraph 3
9. breaking ecrsord
10. the 2004-05 aeosns
11. win the aeuelg
12. Barcelona won the ebrtel

Paragraph 4
13. an gimzaan career
14. experts recpoma him to the legendary Pele
15. get past nfdrdsee
16. He takes advantage of every mitkeas
LIONEL MESSI

Number these lines in the correct order.

( ) famous Newell's Old Boys' youth team. His career nearly ended when doctors found out he suffered from a growth hormone deficiency. Luckily, agents from Barcelona saw his talent and in 2000, he moved to Spain. The Catalan club paid Lionel started breaking records as soon as he played his first game for Barcelona in the 2004-05 season. He became for his medical treatment and coached him until he made his Barcelona debut.

( ) player in the world. In fact, a lot of people say he might become the greatest player ever. We’ll see about that at the World Cup. Messi is

(1 ) Lionel Andrés Messi was born on June 24, 1987 in the city of Rosario, Argentina. Everyone knows him now as the best football to the legendary Pele and Maradona. This World Cup could be the stage for him to show people he really is the

( ) Messi has an amazing career ahead of him. He is set to shine in South Africa. Many football experts compare him his first season, and the league and Champions League double in the following season. In the 2008-

( ) the youngest footballer ever to play a La Liga game and the youngest to score a goal. He helped his team win the league in

( ) best. His skills on the ball, ability to get past defenders and his goal-scoring are breathtaking. Top soccer

( ) 09 season he scored an impressive 38 goals as Barcelona won the treble.

( ) FIFA World Player of the Year. He also helped his club team Barcelona win the European Champions League and the World Club Championship.

( ) coach Arsene Wenger said Messi is “like a PlayStation. He takes advantage of every mistake teams make”.

( ) Messi grew up playing football. He joined his first club when he was five. At the age of eight, he signed up for the
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. city the in 1987 June 24 born was Messi Rosario of.

2. he the ever say become player People might greatest.

3. was He first he his when five joined club.

4. from suffered He deficiency hormone growth a.

5. Coached his him Barcelona until debut he made.

6. to the play youngest footballer He ever became.

7. goals 38 impressive an scored he season 2008-09 the In

8. of an him amazing career Messi ahead has.

9. legendary Experts him the Pele compare to

10. teams advantage make of every He mistake takes.
LIQUEL MESSI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Lionel Messi?
2. Would you like to meet Lionel Messi?
3. What would you like to know about Lionel Messi and why?
4. _____________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________
6. _____________________________________________
7. _____________________________________________
8. _____________________________________________

LIQUEL MESSI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Lionel Messi?
2. What questions would you like to ask Lionel Messi?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. _____________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________
6. _____________________________________________
7. _____________________________________________
8. _____________________________________________
LIONEL MESSI SURVEY:
Write five questions about Lionel Messi in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING:
Write about Lionel Messi for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Lionel Messi. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. LIONEL MESSI POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Lionel Messi. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Lionel Messi. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Lionel Messi. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your “Lionel Messi expert” partner(s) will try and answer your questions.
ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:
Paragraphs 1 and 2
1. ever  a. 1.
2. helped  b. 2
3. signed up for  c. 3.
4. suffered  d. 4.
5. coached  e. 5.
6. debut  f. 6.
Paragraphs 3 and 4
7. breaking  g. 7.
8. following  h. 8.
9. impressive  i. 9.
10. ahead  j. 10.
11. experts  k. 11
12. mistake  l. 12

PHRASE MATCH:
1. Everyone knows him now as  a. the best football player
2. Messi is FIFA World  b. Player of the Year
3. Messi grew  c. up playing football
4. he suffered from a growth  d. hormone deficiency
5. coached him until he made  e. his Barcelona debut
6. Lionel started breaking  f. records
7. win the league in  g. his first season
8. Messi has an amazing career  h. ahead of him
9. experts compare him  i. to the legendary Pele
10. He takes advantage  j. of every mistake

ALL OTHER EXERCISES
Look at the text on page 2.