

Jennifer Lopez won't sing World Cup song

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FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

American singer Jennifer Lopez was supposed to perform the official song at the opening ceremony of the World Cup in Brazil. However, her agent told FIFA (the organisers of the tournament) that she has pulled out. The agent said:

"Regretfully, Jennifer

Lopez will not be attending this year's World Cup opening ceremonies." Neither the star nor her agent gave a specific reason why, but said it was due to "production issues". Lopez was going to join the rapper Pitbull and Brazilian star Claudia Leitte onstage ahead of the opening game between hosts Brazil and Croatia. FIFA announced on its website that the song, "We Are One (Ole Ola)," would now be sung just by Pitbull and Ms Leitte.

The World Cup song has been a tradition since the 1966 World Cup in England. In recent World Cups, people have been unhappy that the song has not represented the country hosting the competition. At the South Africa World Cup in 2010, the Colombian singer Shakira sang the official song. In 1998, Puerto Rican star Ricky Martin sang the song for the France World Cup. Many Brazilians do not like the 2014 song. They say it has a weak Brazilian rhythm, is mainly performed by non-Brazilian musicians and is sung largely in Spanish and English, with a few seconds of Portuguese at the end. Brazilian composer and music critic Leonardo Martinelli said the song has been "stripped of local colour".

Sources: CNN / IB Times / The Week.co.uk

Writing

There should be no official songs and mascots for the World Cup. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

perform / official song / pulled out / opening ceremony / specific reason / hosts / tradition / unhappy / competition / rhythm / musicians / composer / music critic

True / False

- Jennifer Lopez was to sing Brazil's national anthem at the World Cup. T / F
- Ms Lopez told organisers why she would not be able to sing. T / F
- Lopez was going to sing onstage with two other people. T / F
- The official song will now be sung just by a Brazilian singer. T / F
- The tradition of a World Cup song started in England in 1966. T / F
- People say a singer from the host nation should sing the official song. T / F
- Brazilians are unhappy the 2014 song has so little Portuguese in it. T / F
- A Brazilian singer said the song is full of Brazilian colour. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. supposed to | a. made it known |
| 2. agent | b. holding |
| 3. pulled out | c. exact |
| 4. specific | d. withdrew |
| 5. announced | e. poor |
| 6. tradition | f. meant to |
| 7. hosting | g. mostly |
| 8. weak | h. custom |
| 9. mainly | i. removed |
| 10. stripped | j. representative |

Discussion – Student A

- Should the official World Cup song be sung by someone from the host nation?
- Should there be an official football song sung at all World Cups?
- Why do you think a Colombian sang the South Africa World Cup song?
- Should the Brazil World Cup song be in Portuguese?
- Is it better for these events to have no songs and mascots?
- What does Leonardo Martinelli mean by "stripped of local colour"?
- How much of the World Cup will you watch?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of FIFA?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Lopez was supposed to | a. attending |
| 2. the organisers | b. since the 1966 World Cup |
| 3. Lopez will not be | c. critic |
| 4. Neither the star nor her agent gave | d. hosting the competition |
| 5. the opening game between | e. non-Brazilian musicians |
| 6. a tradition | f. perform the official song |
| 7. represented the country | g. hosts Brazil and Croatia |
| 8. mainly performed by | h. a specific reason why |
| 9. music | i. "stripped of local colour" |
| 10. the song has been | j. of the tournament |

Discussion – Student B

- What comes into your mind when you hear the word 'football'?
- Which is the better word, 'football' or 'soccer'?
- What do you think of Jennifer Lopez pulling out?
- How important is it to have stars at the opening ceremony?
- Why does the World Cup need an official song?
- Why do you think J-Lo pulled out?
- What do you think of the FIFA World Cup?
- Is the FIFA World Cup the world's greatest sporting event?

Spelling

- Lopez was pesdsuop to perform
- the opening cnmreeoy
- her agent gave a efccpisi reason
- it was due to production eissus
- adhea of the opening game
- FIFA naeoncndu on its website
- ... has been a irotaitnd since...
- In eenctr World Cups...
- the folfcaii song
- a weak Brazilian htyrmh
- ... and is sung llryeag in Spanish
- music tcirci

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. c	5. a
6. h	7. b	8. e	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – An official song

You think an official song is the most important thing in a World Cup. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a mascot, half-time entertainment or instant video replays.

Role B – A mascot

You think a mascot is the most important thing in a World Cup. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): an official song, half-time entertainment or instant video replays.

Role C – Half-time entertainment

You think half-time entertainment is the most important thing in a World Cup. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a mascot, an official song or instant video replays.

Role D – Instant video replays

You think instant video replays are the most important thing in a World Cup. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a mascot, half-time entertainment or an official song.

Speaking – World Cup Stuff

Rank these with your partner. Put the things the World Cup needs most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • official song | • dancers |
| • sponsors | • half-time entertainment |
| • mascots | • instant video replays |
| • a colourful logo | • a message to exercise |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.