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## **2014 Brazil World Cup - Quarter Finals**

**6th July, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/2014-world-cup-round-up-6.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/2014-world-cup-round-up-6.html>

Four teams are through to the World Cup semi-finals and they got there via four very close games. Hosts Brazil are continuing their fairytale journey, and their hopes of winning the tournament at home in front of their soccer-crazy fans. They could be in trouble in their semi-final match-up with Germany as they will be without their captain Thiago Silva and their star player Neymar, who is out of the tournament after a terrible back injury in the 2-1 defeat of Colombia. Some of Germany's players played with flu as they beat France 1-0. The French team created many chances but failed to score.

Lionel Messi was the star of Argentina's 1-0 victory over Belgium. He provided a master class in precision passing, dribbling and creating space. Argentine coach Alejandro Sabella said Messi gives his team "water in the desert" when they are struggling. The Belgian team's "golden generation" did not show what they were capable of and offered little in front of goal. Belgian coach Marc Wilmots said Argentina is an "ordinary" team. The last quarter-final between the Netherlands and Costa Rica was a close game with few chances that went to extra time. Holland won 4-3 on penalties.

Source: [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/2014-world-cup-round-up-6.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Four teams are through to            | a. tournament at home         |
| 2. Brazil are continuing their          | b. a terrible back injury     |
| 3. their hopes of winning the           | c. their captain Thiago Silva |
| 4. They could be                        | d. the World Cup semi-finals  |
| 5. their semi-final match-              | e. but failed to score        |
| 6. they will be without                 | f. in trouble                 |
| 7. out of the tournament after          | g. fairytale journey          |
| 8. The French team created many chances | h. up with Germany            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Lionel Messi was the star                  | a. capable of                 |
| 2. He provided a                              | b. when they are struggling   |
| 3. precision                                  | c. few chances                |
| 4. Messi gives his team "water in the desert" | d. of Argentina's 1-0 victory |
| 5. The Belgian team's golden                  | e. extra time                 |
| 6. show what they were                        | f. master class               |
| 7. a close game with                          | g. generation                 |
| 8. went to                                    | h. passing                    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/2014-world-cup-round-up-6.html>

Four teams (1) \_\_\_\_\_ World Cup semi-finals and they got there via four very close games. Hosts Brazil are continuing (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and their hopes of winning the tournament at home in front of their soccer-crazy fans. They (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in their semi-final match-up with Germany as they will be without their captain Thiago Silva (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Neymar, who is out of the tournament after (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the 2-1 defeat of Colombia. Some of Germany's players played with flu as they beat France 1-0. The French team created many chances (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Lionel Messi (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Argentina's 1-0 victory over Belgium. He provided a master class in precision passing, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ space. Argentine coach Alejandro Sabella said Messi gives his team "water in the desert" when (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The Belgian team's "golden generation" did not show what they were capable of and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of goal. Belgian coach Marc Wilmots said Argentina (11) \_\_\_\_\_ team. The last quarter-final between the Netherlands and Costa Rica was a close game with few chances that (12) \_\_\_\_\_. Holland won 4-3 on penalties.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1407/2014-world-cup-round-up-6.html>

Four teams are through to the World Cup semi-finals and they got there via four very close games. Hosts Brazil are continuing their fairy tale journey, and their hopes of winning the tournament at home in front of their soccer-crazy fans. They could be in trouble in their semi-final match-up with Germany, many as they will be without their captain Thiago Silva and their star player Neymar, who is out of the tournament after a terrible back injury in the 1-0 defeat of Colombia. Some of Germany's players played with flu as they beat France 1-0. The French team created many chances but failed to score. Lionel Messi was the star of Argentina's 1-0 victory over Belgium. He provided a masterclass in precision passing, dribbling and creating space. Argentine coach Alejandro Sabella said Messi gives his team "water in the desert" when they are struggling. The Belgian team's "golden generation" did not show what they were capable of and offered little in front of goal. Belgian coach Marc Wilmots said Argentina is an "ordinary" team. The last quarter-final between the Netherlands and Costa Rica was a close game with few chances that went to extra time. Holland won 4-3 on penalties.

# QUARTER FINALS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What was the best quarter-finals game?
- b) Which teams are you happy about being in the semi-finals?
- c) What do you think of Neymar's injury?
- d) What was the goal of the quarter-finals??
- e) How good is it that Brazil are through?
- f) How have the world's top players performed at this tournament?
- g) How nervous do you get in extra time and penalties?
- h) What are the differences between South American and European team
- i) Who will win the semi-finals and final?
- j) What refereeing decision did you most disagree with in the quarter-finals?

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# QUARTER FINALS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Which word is better, "soccer" or "football"?
- b) Is FIFA a good organisation?
- c) Will the USA, China and India win the World Cup in the future?
- d) How important is football in your country?
- e) Should there have been more goals in the quarter-finals?
- f) Why do some players play with one pink boot and one blue one?
- g) Who is the best player of all time?
- h) What are the good and bad things about being a referee?
- i) Should a manager be the same nationality as the team?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Neymar?

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

