

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the words with the definitions and write a–f next to the number 1–6.

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1..... an amateur | a. the one player who leads the other players in a sports team |
| 2..... a professional | b. a sporting game between two teams in a competition |
| 3..... a captain | c. someone who takes part in an activity (or sport) for fun and doesn't get paid for it |
| 4..... a match | d. someone who does an activity (or sport) as their job and for money |
| 5..... a draw | e. when two teams take five penalty kicks at the end of a game to decide which team wins |
| 6..... a penalty shoot-out | f. the random selection of sports teams (from a box or bag) to play each other in a competition |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. The FA Cup is the longest-running football competition in the world. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. The FA Cup final is played in London. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. Only the best teams in England can enter the FA Cup. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. The FA Cup final is always shown on television. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. A 'giant-killer' is a big team which beats a smaller team. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. Chelsea have won the Cup more times than any other team. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with a number from the box.

third	6	150	700	1923	millions
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1. The FA Cup final was first held around _____ years ago.
2. The FA Cup final has been played at Wembley Stadium since _____.
3. The final was played in a different stadium for _____ years.
4. Big teams join the competition in the _____ round.
5. Each year, approximately _____ teams enter the FA Cup.
6. The FA Cup is watched by _____ of people.

Discussion

Will you be watching the FA Cup this year?

Which football teams are popular in your country?

Which famous football teams do you like?

What famous sporting competitions are there in your country?