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

**Preparation**

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

1. a trophy  a. to happen
2. an injury  b. to take something in your hands and move it up
3. to lift  c. an ornament (usually made of gold or silver) that the winner of a competition receives
4. a defender  d. a physical problem with a part of your body, often caused by an accident
5. a match  e. to be in good physical condition
6. to take place  f. a football player whose main job is to score goals
7. to be fit  g. a football player whose main job is to prevent goals
8. a striker  h. a game in which teams or players compete against each other

1. Check your understanding: true or false

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

1. Iceland will appear in the World Cup for the first time.  
   True  False

2. In the Group Stage, half of the teams are eliminated.  
   True  False

3. The text suggests that Messi has had a very successful career playing for Argentina.  
   True  False

4. Brazil’s Neymar is not in his best physical condition.  
   True  False

5. The text suggests that Achraf Hakimi scores a lot of goals for Real Madrid.  
   True  False

6. The referee only uses VAR after the game, not during it.  
   True  False

7. Raheem Sterling plays for a club in the UK.  
   True  False

8. In 2014, the World Cup was watched by more than fifty per cent of people in the world.  
   True  False
2. Check your understanding: reordering

Put these sentences in the correct order by writing a number in the brackets.

1. who finish (___) The two teams (___) the next stage (___) go through to (___) with the most points (___)

2. for them to (___) the last chance (___) be (___) This could (___) lift the World Cup trophy (___)

3. suffering (___) He has been (___) but hopes to be (___) from a leg injury (___) fully fit again

4. will be hopeful (___) is very well protected (___) He plays as a defender, (___) that their goal (___) meaning Moroccan fans (___)

5. are hoping to do (___) English fans (___) progress to (___) well in the Group Stage (___) and then (___) the later rounds (___)

6. win! (___) you’re watching, (___) the best team (___) and may (___) Make sure (___)

Discussion

Which country do you think will win the 2018 World Cup?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learned in this lesson.