

10 tasks about football, or soccer

Pre-Intermediate

1. Read the text and match the names with the dates

The history of football (soccer)

Football (or soccer as the game is called in some parts of the world) has a long history. The first known examples of a team game involving a ball, which was made out of a rock, occurred in old Mesoamerican cultures for over 3,000 years ago. It was called Tchatali by the Aztecs.

The first known ball game which also involved kicking took place in China in the 3rd and 2nd century BC under the name cuju. Cuju was played with a round ball (stitched leather with fur or feathers inside) on an area of a square. The Japanese version of cuju, kemari, was developed during the Asuka period. This is known to have been played within the Japanese imperial court in Kyoto from about 600 AD.

Task 1. Read the text and match the names with the dates

Perhaps even older than cuju was Marn Gook, played by Aboriginal Australians and according to white emigrants in the 1800s, a ball game primarily involving kicking.

The most admitted story tells that the game was developed in England in the 12th century. In this century, games that resembled football were played on meadows and roads in England. Besides from kicks, the game also involved punches of the ball with the fist.

Football clubs have existed since the 15th century, but unorganised and without official status. It is therefore hard to decide which the first football club was. Some historians suggest that it was the Foot-Ball Club formed 1824 in Edinburgh. Early clubs were often formed by former school students and the first of this kind was formed in Sheffield in 1855.



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Task 1. Read the text and match names with dates

China

3,000 years ago

Edinburgh

3rd and 2nd century BC

Aztecs

12th century

England

600 AD

Japan

1824

Task 2. Complete the facts about football

90 minutes • soccer • 11 players • pitch or field • 15-minute • hands • goalkeeper
45 minutes • referee

- Football is also known as 1. _____ in some countries.
- A football team consists of 2. _____ on the field at the same time.
- Two teams play against each other and there is a 3. _____ to make sure everyone follows the rules of the game.
- The game is played on a rectangular 4. _____, and none of the players can use their 5. _____ to touch the ball except for one 6. _____ in each team.
- A game of football lasts 7. _____. This is divided into two halves of 8. _____ each. There is a 9. _____ break between the first half and the second half.

Task 3. Write the missing letters into the words under the pictures and say what footballers wear



a__mband



gl__ves



shor__s



bo__ts



shi__t /
jerse__



so__ks/
stoc__ings

Task 4. Match football terms with their definitions

1. **To cross**
 2. **To dribble**
 3. **To kick**
 4. **To pass**
 5. **To score (a goal)**
 6. **To shoot**
 7. **To tackle**
- A. when the ball is kicked in the direction of the opponent's goal in an attempt to score a goal
 - B. to move the ball along with your feet as you go up the field
 - C. when a player kicks (or heads) the ball to another player on their same team
 - D. to pass the ball from one side of the pitch to the opposite side or into the goal area
 - E. to get a goal
 - F. to strike the ball with your foot
 - G. to challenge and try to take the ball from an opposing player

Task 5. Correct mistakes in the football rules (the mistakes are in bold)

1. A match consists of two **75**-minute halves with a **25**-minute rest period in between.
2. Each team can have a minimum of **21** players (including **2** goalkeepers who is the only player allowed to handle the ball within the 18 yard box).
3. Each team can name up to **17** substitute players. Substitutions can be made at any time of the match with each team being able to make a maximum of **13** substitutions per side.
4. Each game must include **4** referees and **7** assistant referees (linesmen). It's the job of the referee to act as timekeeper and make any decisions which may need to be made such as fouls, free kicks, throw ins, penalties, and added time at the end of each half.
5. The **red** card is a warning and a **yellow** card is a dismissal of that player. Two **red** cards will equal one **yellow**. Once a player is sent off, they cannot be replaced.

Task 6. Mark sentences as true or false

1. Essentially, the equipment that is needed for a soccer match is a pitch and a football, racket, snacks, sunglasses, and tennis shoes. _____
2. The goalkeepers can't additionally wear padded gloves as they are not allowed to handle the ball. _____
3. The whole ball needs to be over the line for it to be a legitimate goal. _____
4. A goal can be scored with any part of the body apart from the hand or arm up to the shoulder. _____
5. To win you have to score fewer goals than your opponents. _____



Task 6. Mark sentences as true or false

6. Players must use their hands to pass the ball and are prohibited to use their feet. _____
7. Offside can be called when an attacking player is in front of the last defender when the pass is played through to them. _____
8. To be onside they must be placed behind the last defender when the ball is played to them. _____
9. If the player is in front of that last defender, he is deemed to be offside and a free kick to the defending team will be called.



Task 7. Read about football players and arrange players on the pitch. Name all the players

Goalkeeper	The main aim of a goalkeeper is to stop the opposing team from scoring a goal.
Forwards	Their main aim is to score goals or to create an easy situation for their teammates to score a goal.
Midfielders	They are the link between the defenders and attackers. Their responsibility is to enter the opposing team's area and see that they defend them when the opposing team retains the ball.
Defenders	The defenders are positioned in front of the goalkeeper and their aim is to stop the opposing team from entering into their goal area.



1
2
3
4

Task 8. Match words with their definitions

1. an action that is not permitted in the game as it is against the rules
2. the first kick of the game
3. a free kick from the penalty spot
4. if a player gets it, they must leave the pitch
5. when some players from one team stand together in a line to create a barrier between the ball and the goal when there is a free kick
6. it is given as punishment for a serious foul in the game

- A. Penalty
- B. Yellow card
- C. Kick-off
- D. Red card
- E. Wall
- F. Foul

Task 9. Look at the table of FIFA World Cup Winners and answer the questions

1. When was the first World Cup held?
2. Who won the last World Cup?
3. When is the next World Cup?
4. Who has won the most World Cups?
5. How many times did Italy win the World Cup?
6. Who won more World Cups, France or Germany?
7. What year did Spain win the World Cup?



Task 10. Watch the video [Top 10 football players of all time](#) and match footballers with their countries

1. Michel Platini
2. Ronaldinho
3. Paolo Maldini
4. Alfredo Di Stéfano
5. Zinedine Zidane
6. Johan Cruyff
7. Diego Maradona
8. Cristiano Ronaldo
9. Lionel Messi
10. Pelé

- A. France**
- B. Brazil**
- C. Italy**
- D. Argentine**
- E. the Netherlands**
- F. Portugal**



Keys

Task 1. Aztecs over 3,000 years ago

China in the 3rd and 2nd century BC

Japan 600 AD

England in the 12th century

1824 in Edinburgh

Task 2. 1.soccer 2.11 players 3.referee 4.pitch or field 5.hands 6.goalkeeper
7.90 minutes 8.45 minutes 9.15-minute

Task 3. armband, boots, gloves, shirt/jersey, shorts, socks/stockings

Keys

Task 4. 1.D 2.B 3.F 4.A 5.E 6.A 7.G

Task 5. 1. 45/15 2.11/1 3.7/3 4.1/2 5.yellow/red

Task 6. 1.F 2.F 3.T 4.T 5.F 6.F 7.T 8.T 9.T

Task 7. 1.B Forwards 2.C Midfielders 3.D Defenders 4.A Goalkeeper

Task 8. 1.Foul 2.Kick-off 3.Penalty 4.Red card 5.Wall 6.Yellow card

Keys

Task 9. 1. The first FIFA World Cup was held in the year 1930, with Uruguay emerging as the champions.

2. Germany. They defeated Argentina 1-0 to clinch their fourth world cup.

3. The world cup 2022 will be the next FIFA World Cup and will be held in Qatar in the year 2022. It will be the 22nd edition of the tournament and is officially known as Qatar World Cup.

4. Brazil. The South American team has won the FIFA World Cup five times (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, and 2002)

5. 4 times 6. Germany 7. 2010

Keys

1. Michel Platini **France**
2. Ronaldinho **Brazil**
3. Paolo Maldini **Italy**
4. Alfredo Di Stéfano **Argentine**
5. Zinedine Zidane **France**
6. Johan Cruyff **Netherlands**
7. Diego Maradona **Argentine**
8. Cristiano Ronaldo **Portugal**
9. Lionel Messi **Argentine**
10. Pelé **Brazil**