

World Cup players must sing national anthem

4th June, 2014



The coach (manager) of the England soccer team has told his players they must sing their national anthem before each game at the FIFA World Cup. The tournament kicks off in Brazil on June 12th. The first game is the hosts Brazil against Croatia. The eyes of the world will be on the

month-long event and the England coach wants people to see the pride his players have to be playing for their country. The coach, Roy Hodgson, said he wants his players to be "loud and proud". Mr Hodgson told reporters: "We are happy to be wearing that England shirt. We are proud to be England players...so when the national anthem comes up, it's an obvious one for me that we sing it."

In the past, many England players have not sung their national anthem before games. Hodgson introduced it for his teams when he became England manager two years ago. He said: "They've been doing it for two years and perhaps we need to remind them, as the squad has changed so much." He was a little worried that not all the players know all the words to Britain's national anthem, called "God Save The Queen". He said: "We're great until the second verse comes along because we don't really know that." The manager wants his players to show the same passion as other teams. He said: "You very rarely play an international match against opponents who haven't got their hands on their hearts."

Sources: *Daily Mail / Express / BBC*

Writing

Children should sing the national anthem at school every day. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

coach / national anthem / tournament / hosts / pride / reporters / wearing shirts / players / manager / squad / a little worried / passion / international / hand on heart

True / False

- England soccer players must sing their national anthem or not play. T / F
- The England coach wants the world to see his players' passion. T / F
- The coach said his players must be "loud and proud" when they sing. T / F
- The coach said it's obvious his players sing other anthems too. T / F
- All England's players have a long history of singing their anthem. T / F
- The coach started telling his players to sing the anthem two years ago. T / F
- Britain's national anthem is called "God Save Our Country". T / F
- The coach wants his players to play with their hands on their hearts. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. coach | a. versus (vs) |
| 2. each | b. started |
| 3. against | c. jog someone's memory |
| 4. country | d. clear |
| 5. obvious | e. fire |
| 6. introduced | f. nation |
| 7. remind | g. manager |
| 8. worried | h. seldom |
| 9. passion | i. concerned |
| 10. rarely | j. every |

Discussion – Student A

- Should children sing their national anthem at school?
- Why do countries have national anthems?
- Does singing a national anthem make players try harder?
- Would you like a different national anthem for your country?
- Some countries play the national anthem in movie theatres before a film begins. What do you think of this?
- Are national anthems necessary and important?
- Would a world anthem be better than a national anthem?
- What new words would you add to your national anthem?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. they must sing | a. players have |
| 2. The tournament kicks | b. to remind them |
| 3. The eyes of the world will be on | c. be England players |
| 4. see the pride his | d. two years ago |
| 5. We are proud to | e. their national anthem |
| 6. when he became England manager | f. as other teams |
| 7. perhaps we need | g. on their hearts |
| 8. the second | h. off in Brazil |
| 9. show the same passion | i. verse |
| 10. got their hands | j. the month-long event |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of your country's national anthem?
- Is it important for people to sing their national anthem?
- What do you think of sports fans who boo national anthems?
- How interested are you in the FIFA World Cup?
- How does hearing your national anthem make you feel?
- What other national anthems do you like?
- Are you proud when you hear your national anthem played?
- What do the words to your national anthem mean?

Spelling

- the sstoh Brazil against Croatia
- the month-long tneve
- the epird his players have
- be "loud and opurd"
- England hsrit
- it's an biusvoo one
- Hodgson tnoedicdur it
- we need to demrni them
- the sdaqu has changed
- He was a little owrdier
- show the same nossiap as other teams
- an international match against etponsnpo

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – National anthem

You think the national anthem is the thing that makes people most proud of their country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people as proud. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): food, the flag or landscape.

Role B – Food

You think food is the thing that makes people most proud of their country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people as proud. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): national anthem, the flag or landscape.

Role C – Flag

You think the flag is the thing that makes people most proud of their country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people as proud. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): food, national anthem or landscape.

Role D – Landscape

You think the landscape is the thing that makes people most proud of their country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people as proud. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): food, the flag or national anthem.

Speaking – My Country

Rank these with your partner. Put the thing you are most proud of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| • landscape | • national anthem |
| • music | • food |
| • flag | • history |
| • people | • environmental record |

Answers – True False

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