

A football talent

1 Listen and read



Do you recognise the footballer in the photo? Listen and read to learn more about him.

Lionel Messi was born on 24 June, 1987. He is an Argentinean footballer who plays for FC Barcelona and for Argentina's national team as a forward. His playing style and ability is similar to Diego Maradona's.

Messi began playing football for his local team at the age of five. However, a health problem that affected his growth changed the plans of his family, who couldn't afford his treatment. Barcelona offered to pay for the treatment, so his family moved to Spain. Messi made his first appearance with Barcelona in a friendly match against Porto in 2003. He became the youngest club player to play in La Liga, Spain's football championship.

His international career started at the U20 Football World Youth Championship in the Netherlands. Lionel Messi was much younger than most of the other players on the team. However, he scored six goals and won both the Golden Boot award and the Golden Ball award, as the tournament's best player.

According to experts, Lionel works hard and he has the talent to play football fast and well. Many people have no doubt that he is the best player of his generation. Some even think that Messi is the best footballer of all time!

2 About the text

Write T (true) or F (false).

1. Messi was born in Spain.
2. He played with Barcelona in 2003.
3. Messi started his international career in Spain.
4. He won two awards in the Netherlands.

3 Vocabulary

A Match the words to their meanings.

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|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. match | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. turn up |
| 2. talent | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. all people of a similar age |
| 3. appearance | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. ability |
| 4. generation | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. game |