

Rules and respect

Level 3 • Advanced

1 Warmer

What do you think is meant by the phrase 'rules and respect'?

2 Key words: Synonyms

Find the synonyms used in the article for the following words. The paragraph number is provided to help you.

1. announce (para 1) _____
2. team (para 2) _____
3. (football) game (para 2) _____
4. walk (slowly) (para 2) _____
5. develop/invent (para 4) _____
6. mind-set/way of thinking (para 4) _____
7. way (para 5) _____
8. fitting/proper (para 6) _____
9. first language (para 7) _____
10. task (para 8) _____
11. (football) field (para 9) _____
12. shows/indicates (para 9) _____
13. main (para 10) _____
14. positive outcome (para 11) _____

3 Skim-reading

Skim-read the article to find the answers to these questions.

1. What nationality is the England football team's new manager?
2. Which well-known teams has he managed in the past?
3. Why didn't he want to speak English at the press conference?
4. What language does he speak with the players?
5. What does Capello demand from his players?
6. What recently damaged the England players' self-confidence?

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Rules and respect are the buzz words as Capello seeks winning mentality

Richard Williams
February 6, 2008

- 1 At Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid the players called Fabio Capello 'Mister', the name given to generations of managers in Italy and Spain as a result of the many British coaches who spread the game around the world. In England, however, he will have another title. The players can call him 'Boss', Capello declared yesterday.
- 2 To the England football squad the Italian's iron word will be law. And that means no wasting time with computer games, no strolling down to breakfast at whatever time suits the individual, and absolutely no golf in the run-up to international football matches.
- 3 "After the match they can play all the golf they like," Capello said with a grim smile during a press conference, when he explained the need for a code of behaviour.
- 4 "We are only together for a short time," he said, "and in that time you need to try and work and create a way of working. To do that you need to set some rules. Eating together and getting up from the table at the same time and being punctual – these things are about respect for other people and for each other. We don't have a long time to create a group mentality. It's important to spend time together."
- 5 Capello continued: "We need to work in an orderly fashion. Compared to football clubs, we don't have many days together. Therefore we need strict rules. If we follow those rules, we'll create a group and a specific winning mentality, which is what I want."
- 6 "People make mistakes but, if they want to be part of this group, they will follow the rules. If someone doesn't, then we will analyze why the rules were broken and take the appropriate course of action."
- 7 At the press conference, headphones were provided for journalists needing a simultaneous translation from the manager's native tongue. "I will speak English with you when I am sure that I know all the terms and all the right words," he said. "You are good at twisting things, so I want to be very careful. But with the players I can explain and communicate in English and I'm happy about that."
- 8 Capello's objective is to create a unified team in time for the first World Cup qualifying game against Andorra in September. In the meantime he will be studying videos of each friendly match and passing on his observations to the players.
- 9 "We've worked very hard on the tactical front for the last few days, all of this in order to create a group mentality and, more importantly, a way of moving on the pitch that reflects my ideas about football," he said. "I've seen some English clubs move on the pitch in the way I want my team to move. So for some it won't be anything new. Others who aren't used to moving this way will have to adapt."
- 10 On the psychological front, his principal task will be to restore the self-belief so badly damaged by failure to qualify for Euro 2008. But that, as he pointed out, is not an overnight job.
- 11 "I want the team to regain their winning mentality by being confident in their own resources and by playing bravely. I believe we need to leave the past behind. We need a positive mind-set and to look ahead. But we can't perform miracles. We've only just started our work. Give us time to show results."
- 12 And after a month in England, what was his view of England's players? "I think players are the same everywhere," he concluded. "My first impressions of these players are very good. They're very attentive and eager to impress. With this spirit and mentality I believe we will be able to do very well."

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4 Comprehension check

Choose the right answer.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Capello wants the England players to call him...</p> <p>a) ... Mister.</p> <p>b) ... Boss.</p> <p>c) ... Sir.</p> | <p>3. He says the players should not play golf...</p> <p>a) ... before the matches.</p> <p>b) ... after the matches.</p> <p>c) ... at all.</p> |
| <p>2. Capello wants the players to eat...</p> <p>a) ... in expensive restaurants.</p> <p>b) ... together.</p> <p>c) ... once a day.</p> | <p>4. He believes that strict rules will lead to...</p> <p>a) ... better discipline.</p> <p>b) ... higher earnings.</p> <p>c) ... more positive results.</p> |

5 Discussion: Football small talk

Put the words in the right order and practise using the sentences in imaginary small talk situations.
You can change the names to make the sentences apply to your country's national football team.

- yesterday? / What / game / you / of / think / did / the
- the / What / of / was / the / result / afternoon? / match / this
- World / reckon / qualify / England / for / can / the / you / next / Do / Cup?
- this / What / England's / are / chances / beating / match / of / Germany / in / the / evening?
- you / again? / Capello / is / think / to / likely / pick / Do / to / play / for / Beckham / England
- do / support? / Who / you
- do / the / manager? / What / think / you / of / new
- England / the / would / choose / as / you / captain / of / squad? / Who

6 Webquest

Look on the Internet to find out when Fabio Capello took over as England manager, how much he earns, whether England won or lost their first match with him as manager, and who that match was against.

You can watch a short video about Capello on <http://www.fabiocapello.org.uk/> and an interview with him on <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/internationals/7229823.stm>

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KEY

2 Key words: Synonyms

1. declare
2. squad
3. match
4. stroll
5. create
6. mentality
7. fashion
8. appropriate
9. native tongue
10. objective
11. pitch
12. reflects
13. principal
14. result

3 Skim-reading

1. Italian
2. Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid
3. Because the journalists often twist words, and he was worried that they would misquote him.
4. English
5. Adherence to rules, respect, a winning mentality and a different way of moving on the pitch.
6. Not qualifying for Euro 2008.

4 Comprehension check

1. b
2. b
3. a
4. c

5 Discussion: Football small talk

1. What did you think of the game yesterday?
2. What was the result of the match this afternoon?
3. Do you reckon England can qualify for the next World Cup?
4. What are England's chances of beating Germany in the match this evening?
5. Do you think Capello is likely to pick Beckham to play for England again?
6. Who do you support?
7. What do you think of the new manager?
8. Who would you choose as captain of the England squad?