

**Select Readings, Second Edition**  
**Pre-Intermediate, Chapter 9 Test**

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

**The Universal Language: Soccer**

When Miguel Rodriguez was a young boy in Los Angeles, he was very shy. He had a slight<sup>1</sup> speech impairment<sup>2</sup> and found it difficult to communicate with others. His parents worried about how their son would get along in school. But all that changed one day in the second grade.

Miguel saw some of his classmates playing soccer and decided to join them. “It was like someone flipped a switch,” his mother said. Miguel opened up. His speech impairment disappeared, and Miguel became a successful and popular student.

Like Miguel, soccer has changed the lives of many people around the world. Whether giving a shy kid a way to open up to others, or helping homeless kids find a way to get off the streets, soccer has become an international language that speaks louder than words.

One of the reasons that soccer has been able to cross borders so easily is that the rules are the same, no matter where you are. Even if the teams come from all over the globe, they all share common rules and traditions relating to the game. After all, a *yellow card* means the same thing whether you are from Taiwan, the U.S., Brazil, or Italy. Some other reasons for the universal popularity of soccer may be the fact that its rules are relatively simple compared to many other sports, and because it can be played anywhere from a city park to an international stadium.

Just as Miguel Rodriguez was able to use soccer to communicate with other kids, soccer matches both big and small bring people together from all over the world. The FIFA World Cup, the largest soccer competition in the world, has seen 76 nations compete over its history. It is estimated that there were 700 million viewers of the final World Cup match in 2010 between Spain and the Netherlands alone. That’s about one-ninth of the world’s entire population. With those kinds of numbers, it’s no surprise that soccer has become a universal language.

1. The reading passage is primarily about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. how popular soccer competitions like the FIFA World Cup have become
  - B. how one boy’s parents used soccer to help him become popular
  - C. how soccer has become like an international language around the world
  - D. how soccer has become more popular recently in the U.S.
2. Why did Miguel Rodriguez find it difficult to communicate in school?
  - A. His speech impairment made him feel shy.
  - B. He didn’t know how to play soccer with other kids.
  - C. His speech impairment made him unable to speak at all.
  - D. His parents were very worried about him.
3. In paragraph 2, the expression “flipped a switch” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. pulled him into a game
  - B. caused him to feel shy

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<sup>1</sup> **slight** small

<sup>2</sup> **impairment** a disability

- C. made him run away
  - D. turned on a light
4. We can infer that Miguel's speech impairment improved because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. he played soccer for the first time  
B. he felt less shy around the other kids  
C. his parents were worried  
D. he was in second grade
5. In paragraph 3, the expression "speaks louder than words" means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. speaks very clearly and slowly  
B. soccer fans are very loud at matches  
C. has its own system of grammar and vocabulary  
D. allows people to communicate something without using words
6. Which of the following was not given as a reason for soccer becoming so popular?  
A. The rules are pretty simple to learn.  
B. It can be played almost anywhere.  
C. Everyone gets a *yellow card*.  
D. The rules are the same everywhere.
7. According to the reading, the FIFA World Cup is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. made up of big and small competitions  
B. made up of 76 nations  
C. the most-viewed sports event in history  
D. the largest soccer competition in the world
8. Which places are not mentioned in the reading?  
A. Taiwan and the United States  
B. France and Germany  
C. Spain and the Netherlands  
D. Brazil and Italy
9. According to the reading, how many people watched the final match of the 2010 World Cup?  
A. About 700 million  
B. Most of the world's population  
C. People in 76 nations  
D. One ninth of the people in Spain and the Netherlands
10. Which of the following is not true, according to the reading?  
A. Miguel Rodriguez went to a school in Los Angeles.  
B. Soccer has helped some homeless children get off the streets.  
C. Teams from 76 nations compete in each World Cup competition.  
D. People around the world share common traditions when playing soccer.