



# Learn About Soccer

What game originated in China, and has been called the most popular sport in the world? We're talking about soccer, my friends. Because the month of June falls in the thick of soccer season, let's take a moment and learn more about this game.

## 1. Why do some people mix up the words "soccer" and "football?"

At Slate <http://slate.me/17aAWv> you learn the modern edition of soccer started 100 years ago during the English boarding-school athletics craze. Back then it was called "Association Football" or "Assoc" for short.

People who played it were called "soccers." When the sport migrated to America, the word "football" was already being used so it became known as "soccer."

**2. How are soccer balls made?** At <http://howisitmade.org/how-are-soccer-balls-made/> you can learn that the first soccer balls were made out of an inflated pig bladder. Today they are made in factories out of rubber or synthetic leather.

**3. What country makes the most soccer balls?** At [made-in-china.com](http://made-in-china.com) <http://bit.ly/ZiD7s7> you can see a listing of the current soccer ball brands. An expert soccer ball sewer can make between 3-4 balls a day.

**4. Who holds the record for the most goals scored in a game?** At Sports Addiction <http://bit.ly/ZiDt27> you learn that Archie Thompson <http://bit.ly/142Pf2d> scored 13 goals in one game. It was a FIFA game between Australia and American Samoa.

**5. Can a goalkeeper score a goal?** Yes! At FTB Pro <http://bit.ly/17DCoYa> you can watch the top 5 scoring goalkeepers at work, scoring goals instead of defending against them. Goalkeepers are allowed to take penalties or free kicks, or even leave the goal box open to play on the field. With luck, skill and a good wind, goalies can score goals, too. Here's another example <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sq8Csw09kpY>

**6. Who is Mia Hamm?** At <http://www.soccermaniak.com/mia-hamm-biography.html> you can learn how a five year old girl learned to play soccer watching her older brother. Today she's one of the most famous female soccer players who has scored 158 goals. Her name is Mia Hamm.



**7. What is the Golden Boot?** Is it made out of real gold? At <http://www.eurotopfoot.com/soulierdorhistorique.php3> you learn that the golden boot is a soccer trophy given to the player with the most goals. We're not sure if the shoe is made of solid gold, but we can tell you that the World Cup trophy is (see <http://bit.ly/ZyeiLa>) which is why it is protected by bullet proof glass.



**8. Are baseball cleats and soccer cleats the same?** At Soccer for Parents <http://bit.ly/11GYPbL> you learn that you can wear a soccer cleat for baseball, but not a baseball cleat for soccer. Why? Baseball shoes have an extra toe cleat, so they're not as good for extending running.

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## APPLICATION

### How do I juggle a soccer ball?

At Wikihow <http://bit.ly/15jxnOe> you learn these steps:

1. Hold the ball out in front of you with both hands and drop it onto the pavement for a bounce.

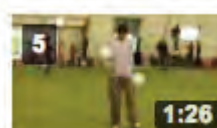
2. After the bounce, tap the ball back up to your hands with the shoelace or instep part your foot.

3. Catch the ball and repeat several times with each foot.



## Select Videos About Soccer

Here are some videos about Soccer at <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKw154jmpunNuPwWOcFOcCTLB>



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