

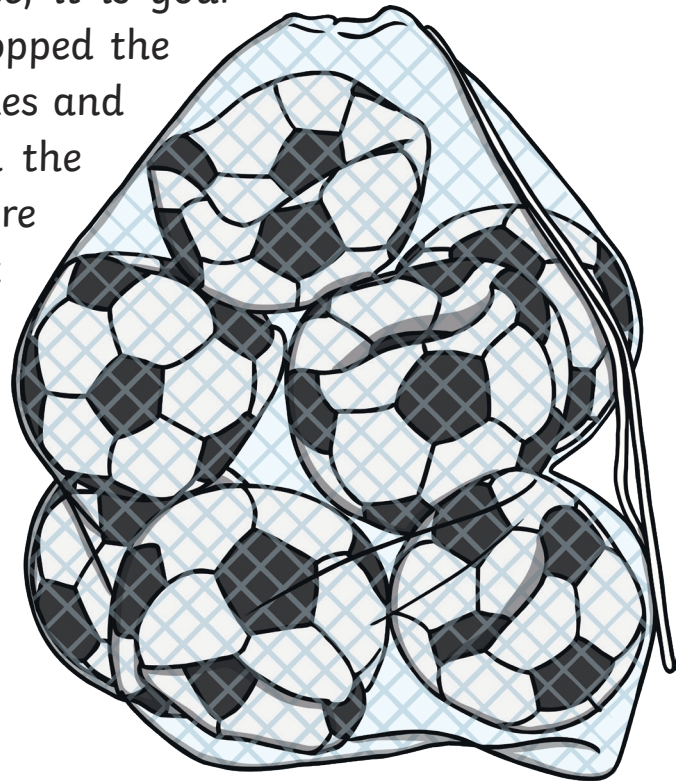
The Mystery of the Popped Footballs

Football fans from around the world had travelled to France to watch the final of The Women's World Cup 2019. They were all so excited to see their favourite team win the golden trophy. However, just as the final match was about to start, the teams discovered that all of the footballs in the stadium had been popped!

As Detective Chief Inspector on the case, it is your job to find out which football player popped the footballs. You have taken down the names and descriptions of 20 players who were in the stadium when the popped footballs were discovered. There are also five important clues that have been discovered in the equipment store.

To crack the case, you will need to solve each clue and check the information with the list of names. Will you be able to solve the mystery and replace the footballs before The World Cup is over?

Good luck!



Football Player People Descriptions

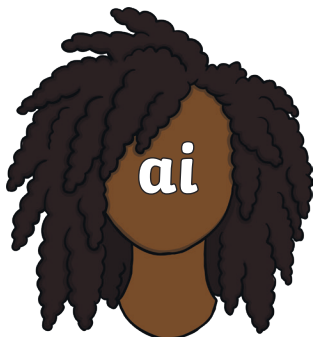
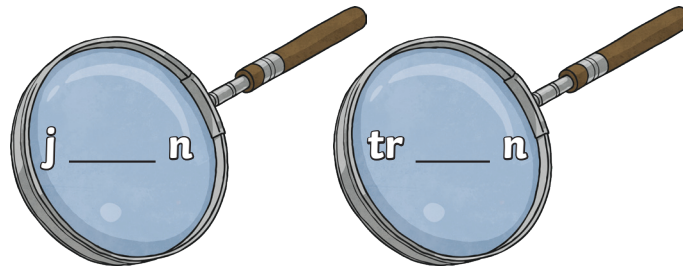
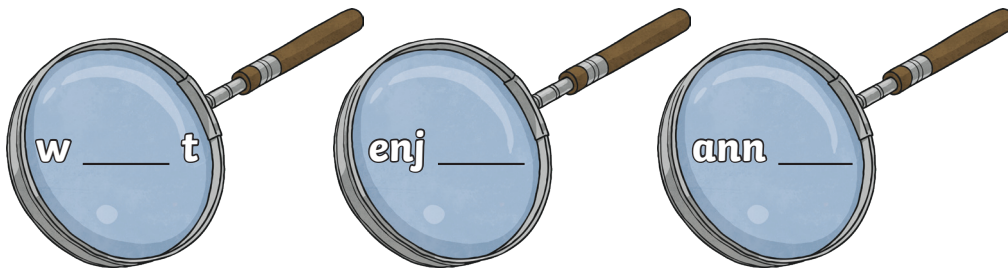
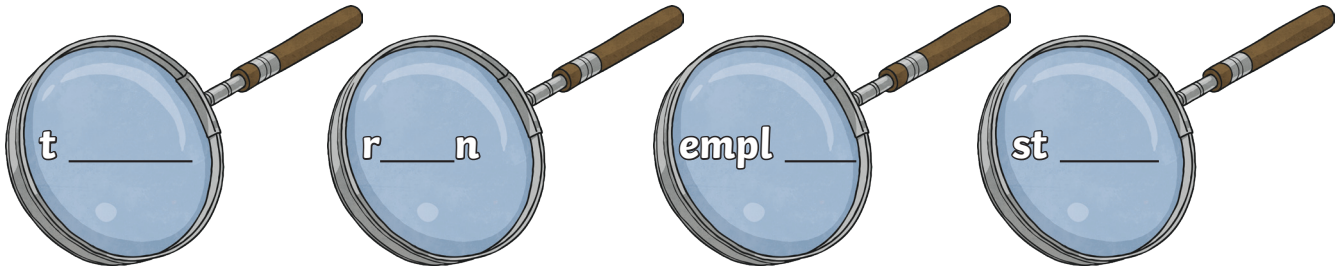
Player Name	Football Boot Size	Hair Colour	Kit Colour	National Flag Colour	Favourite Drink
Ahmed Marquez	8	brown	red	red	cola
Alton Hamilton	9	blonde	blue	white	water
Atila Demir	7	brown	yellow	green	cola
Aydan Wiley	8	black	blue	red	coffee
Emmanuel Oneal	11	brown	red	white	fruit juice
Florin Lakatos	13	blonde	blue	green	fruit juice
Harun Ali	12	brown	yellow	red	water
Keziah Pike	9	black	red	green	fruit juice
Marcel Sanford	11	ginger	blue	white	coffee
Marcus O'Brien	10	blonde	yellow	green	coffee
Matthew Kirkwood	9	brown	red	white	fruit juice
Muzafar Roman	12	brown	blue	green	coffee
Naim Shah	10	brown	red	red	water
Semih Lynch	11	black	yellow	white	water
Simon Zuniga	9	ginger	red	red	fruit juice
Syed Murray	8	brown	yellow	green	coffee
Uktu Fletcher	10	brown	red	white	cola
Vasile Mays	13	ginger	blue	green	fruit juice
Wayne Conrad	9	ginger	yellow	red	water
Winston Ryan	7	blonde	red	white	cola

The World Cup football popper must be _____.

Clue 1

A Cut Above the Rest

As the first person on the scene, you find an important piece of evidence. On the floor, next to one of the popped footballs, you find a hair. It must belong to the football popper! Draw a line to match the word to the correct vowel sound. Make sure that you spell the words correctly. The vowel sound with the most matching words will show the colour of the football popper's hair.



black hair



brown hair



ginger hair



blonde hair

The vowel sound with the most matching words is _____ so the football popper's hair must be _____.

Clue 2

A Shred of Evidence

Beneath the bag of popped footballs, you find a scrap of material. It must have been torn from the popper's football kit as they ran away. Read the sentences below. Decide which suffix is needed to correctly complete the words. The suffix that is used the most will show you the colour of the football popper's kit.

Sentence	-er	-est	-less
"It is hope _____," said the crowd. "We'll never find them!"			
I've never been angri_____ about anything in my life!			
This is the bigg_____ mystery I've ever seen.			
I don't think you'll come across a weird_____ mystery.			
Leaving a scrap of material is so care_____.			
They'd have to be the fast_____ runner ever to escape like that.			
I thought that The World Cup would be saf_____ than that.			
We hope the person will be nic_____ next time.			
This was supposed to be the happi_____ match of the event.			
I feel so help_____ because there's nothing I can do.			

If -er is used the most, the kit is red.

If -est is used the most, the kit is yellow.

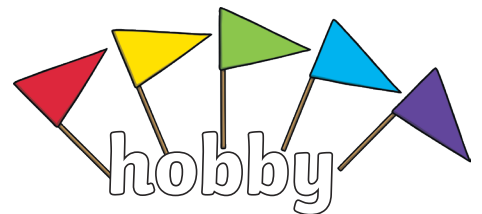
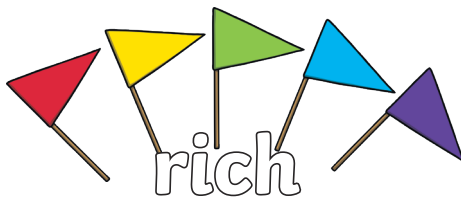
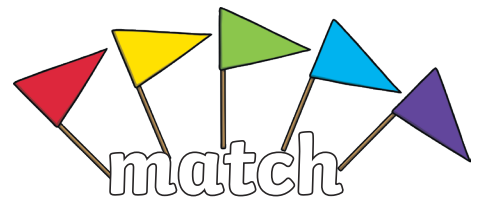
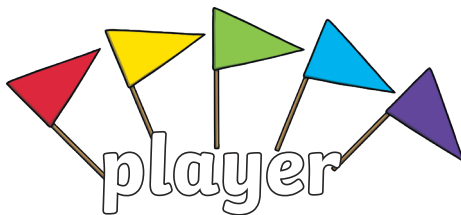
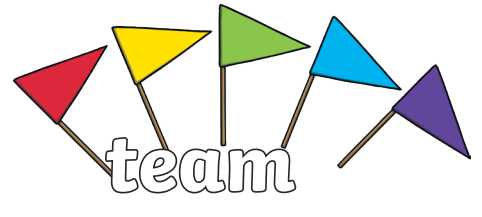
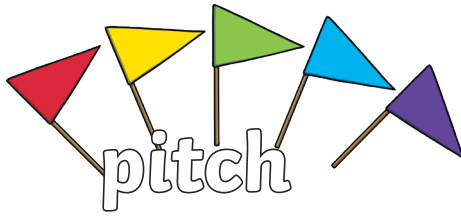
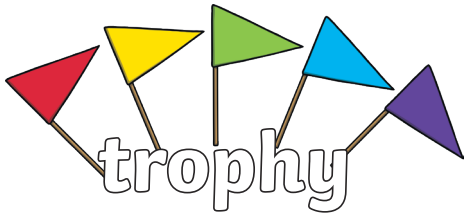
If -less is used the most, the kit is blue.

The suffix which is used most is _____ so the football popper's kit must be must be _____.

Clue 3

Flagging It Up

Whilst looking around the equipment store, you find another torn piece of material but this one belongs to a national flag. Look at the singular nouns below. Decide which letters are needed to turn them into plural nouns and write the plural form in the correct boxes. The box with the most words in will show you the main colour of the football popper's national flag.



s

es

ies

If **s** is used the most,
the flag is mostly **red**.

If **es** is used the most,
the flag is mostly **white**.

If **ies** is used the most,
the flag is mostly **green**.

The spelling pattern with the most matching words is _____ so the main colour of the football popper's national flag must be _____.

Clue 4

A Sticky Predicament

Beneath the bag of popped footballs, you spot a puddle of the football popper's favourite type of drink. To find out what kind of drink it is, you must solve this puzzle. Each of these sentences has one piece of punctuation missing. Add the missing punctuation from the options below. The most common piece of missing punctuation will tell you the football popper's favourite type of drink.

i hope i get to see the final match.

We cant wait for the next World Cup.

It won't be long until the game begins

Did you see the match between france and spain?

How long will we have to wait in this queue

The players performance was incredible.

I hope Ill be on time for the next game.

Did you remember to bring the tickets

I wonder if John Dennon will score a goal

"You dont want to miss it!" said the reporter.



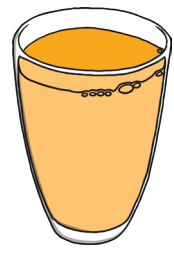
If **capital letters** are missing most, the football popper loves **water**.



If a **full stop** is missing most, the football popper loves **coffee**.



If a **question mark** is missing most, the football popper loves **cola**.



If an **apostrophe** is missing most, the football popper loves **fruit juice**.

The most common piece of missing punctuation is _____ so the football popper's favourite drink must be _____.

Clue 5

Putting Their Foot In It

Just as you were about to give up, you find a set of instructions written by the football popper! Circle the words which are spelt incorrectly and write the correct spellings below. The total number of words spelt incorrectly is the same as the football popper's boot size.

Plan to pop the footballs:

1. Ask my frend for the key to the storeroom tooday.
2. Cross the gras and hide behined the seats.
3. Clime over the wall and pusch the gate.
4. Check the whoale room to see if evribody has gone.
5. Pop the footballs then change my cloathes.
6. Sneak away and run to

There were _____ spelling mistakes in the note so that must be the football popper's boot size.

The Mystery of the Popped Footballs

Answers

Clue 1: A Cut Above the Rest

ai	ay	oi	oy
rain wait train	stay	join	toy employ enjoy annoy

The vowel sound with the most matching words is **oy** so the football popper's hair must be **brown**.

Clue 2: A Shred of Evidence

Sentence	-er	-est	less
"It is hope less ," said the crowd. "We'll never find them!"			✓
I've never been angrie r about anything in my life!	✓		
This is the bigge st mystery I've ever seen.		✓	
I don't think you'll come across a weird er mystery.	✓		
Leaving a scrap of material is so care less .			✓
They'd have to be the faste st runner ever to escape like that.		✓	
I thought that The World Cup would be safe r than that.	✓		
We hope the person will be nice r next time.	✓		
This was supposed to be the happie st match of the event.		✓	
I feel so help less because there's nothing I can do.			✓

The suffix which is used most is **-er** so the football popper's kit must be **red**.

The Mystery of the Popped Footballs **Answers**

Clue 3: Flagging It Up

s

teams
players
badges

es

pitches
coaches
matches
riches

ies

trophies
hobbies

The spelling pattern with the most matching words is **es** so the main colour of the football popper's national flag must be **white**.

Clue 4: A Sticky Predicament

Sentence	Missing Punctuation
I hope I get to see the final match.	capital letters
We can't wait for the next World Cup.	apostrophe
It won't be long until the game begins.	full stop
Did you see the match between France and Spain?	capital letters
How long will we have to wait in this queue?	question mark
The player's performance was incredible.	apostrophe
I hope I'll be on time for the next game.	apostrophe
Did you remember to bring the tickets?	question mark
I wonder if John Dennon will score a goal.	full stop
"You don't want to miss it!" said the reporter.	apostrophe

The most common piece of missing punctuation is **an apostrophe** so the football popper's favourite drink must be **fruit juice**.

The Mystery of the Popped Footballs **Answers**

Clue 5: Putting Their Foot In It

The correct answer should read:

Plan to pop the footballs:

1. Ask my **friend** for the key to the storeroom **today**.
2. Cross the **grass** and hide **behind** the seats.
- 3. Climb** over the wall and **push** the gate.
4. Check the **whole** room to see if **everybody** has gone.
5. Pop the footballs then change my **clothes**.
6. Sneak away and run to...

There were **9** spelling mistakes in the note so that must be the football popper's boot size.

The World Cup football popper must be Matthew Kirkwood.