

My idol



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Lionel Andrés Messi was born on June 24, 1987 in the city of Rosario, Argentina. Everyone knows him now as the best football player in the world. In fact, a lot of people say he might become the greatest player ever. We'll see about that at the World Cup. Messi is FIFA World Player of the Year. He also helped his club team Barcelona win the European Champions League and the World Club Championship.

Messi grew up playing football. He joined his first club when he was five. At the age of eight, he signed up for the famous Newell's Old Boys' youth team. His career nearly ended when doctors found out he suffered from a growth hormone deficiency. Luckily, agents from Barcelona saw his talent and in 2000, he moved to Spain. The Catalan club paid for his medical treatment and coached him until he made his Barcelona debut.





Lionel started breaking records as soon as he played his first game for Barcelona in the 2004-05 season. He became the youngest footballer ever to play a La Liga game and the youngest to score a goal. He helped his team win the league in his first season, and the league and Champions League double in the following season. In the 2008-09 season he scored an impressive 38 goals as Barcelona won the treble.

Messi has an amazing career ahead of him. He is set to shine in South Africa. Many football experts compare him to the legendary Pele and Maradona. This World Cup could be the stage for him to show people he really is the best. His skills on the ball, ability to get past defenders and his goal-scoring are breathtaking. Top soccer coach Arsene Wenger said Messi is “like a PlayStation. He takes advantage of every mistake teams make”.



FACTS ABOUT MY IDOL:

1. Possession of football skills in Messi's blood. In his family there are still football players – cousins Emanuel and Maxi Biancucci, who play for the clubs of South Africa.
2. Messi is the second richest player in the world. His fortune is estimated at \$ 180 million.
3. Lionel donates to children with autism.
4. He spends his leisure time with his family. At home, the player likes to play PlayStation.
5. The first companion of the young football player was a girl from his hometown. The relationship lasted only one year.



6. Together with his father, who was at that time his agent, he began to live in Barcelona at the age of 13. The boy got into the youth team "Barys".

7. Club Director Carlos Rex was so impressed with Lionel's skills that he wished to sign a contract immediately. The paper at hand was not, so the contract was presented on a napkin, and later re-registered legally according to the rules.



8. 37 goals in the opponent's goal in 30 games per season. Messi quickly found his own style and began increasingly to appear in the second part. In each game, he scored a goal against the enemy and perfectly showed their skills-pressure and resourcefulness.



9. The star of world football is very often shy, he was not able to overcome this complex. Even telephone conversations with little-known people Messi prefers correspondence.

10. In addition to "Adidas" Messi actively advertises brands such as: "Samsung", "Gillette", "Turkish Airlines", "Ibis", "Pepsi" and "Alfa-Bank".



A nighttime photograph of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben in London, viewed from across the River Thames. The buildings are illuminated with warm yellow and green lights, and their reflections are visible in the water. The sky is a deep purple and blue. The text "Thank you for your attention !" is overlaid in large white letters.

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