



# Pelé



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Who is the person in the picture?
2. What country is this person from?
3. Why is this person famous?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. poor ( <i>adjective</i> )         | a) a person who teaches you how to play a sport |
| _____ 2. coach ( <i>noun</i> )             | b) getting paid for one's skills at work        |
| _____ 3. professional ( <i>adjective</i> ) | c) a person who plays sports                    |
| _____ 4. national ( <i>adjective</i> )     | d) a 100-year period                            |
| _____ 5. goal ( <i>noun</i> )              | e) related to one's country                     |
| _____ 6. succeed ( <i>verb</i> )           | f) to achieve one's goal, to do very well       |
| _____ 7. athlete ( <i>noun</i> )           | g) a dream or plan for the future               |
| _____ 8. century ( <i>noun</i> )           | h) not having much money                        |

# Reading

## ABOUT PELÉ

1. Pelé is a famous Brazilian soccer\* player. He was born to a **poor** family in 1940. His father was his first soccer **coach**. They used a sock or a grapefruit as a soccer ball.
2. As a teenager, Pelé played in many youth leagues. He was always the top scorer. He had a powerful kick, and he scored with his left foot and his right foot.
3. Pelé became a **professional** soccer player at age 16. The next year, he joined the **national** team. Brazil won three World Cups with Pelé on the team (in 1958, 1963, and 1970).
4. Many other teams tried to get Pelé to play for them. Brazil's government found a way to keep him at home. They named him a "national treasure."
5. Pelé played for Brazil until 1974. Then he moved to the United States to play his last few years. His **goal** was to make soccer popular in America. He **succeeded!** In 1980, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) named Pelé the **athlete** of the **century**.



**\*Note:**

Outside of North America, this sport is called *football*. A player is a *footballer* or a *football player*.

# Writing

## ABOUT ME

Finish the *About Me* sentences. Use your own personal information.

1. Pelé was born in Brazil.

*I was* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pelé loved playing soccer.

*I love* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Pelé's father taught him how to play soccer.

*My father/mother* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Pelé's goal was to help make soccer popular in America.

*My goal is to* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Comprehension

## A. True or False?

Read the biography again, or listen to a recording.  
Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Pelé is American.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Pelé's father taught him how to play soccer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pelé always used his left foot to shoot the soccer ball.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pelé played soccer for many national teams.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Pelé helped Americans fall in love with soccer.

## B. Forming Questions

Work with a partner. Here are the answers. What are the questions?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As a young boy, Pelé played soccer with a sock or a grapefruit.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pelé was 16 years old when he became a professional soccer player.

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Brazil's national team won three World Cups with Pelé.

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pelé played for Brazil until 1974.

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pelé moved to the US to introduce soccer to Americans.

## Pronunciation Practice

Soccer is popular around the world. In many nations, this sport is called football. Listen to your teacher say these nations and nationalities. Practice saying these words out loud with a partner.

**Example:**

*Pelé is from Brazil. He is Brazilian.*

Who is your favorite athlete?  
What is his or her nationality?

Nation	Nationality	Player
Brazil	Brazilian	Pelé
Canada	Canadian	Christine Sinclair
Argentina	Argentine	Lionel Messi
Portugal	Portuguese	Cristiano Ronaldo
Spain	Spanish	Fernando Torres
England	English	David Beckham

## Vocabulary Review

Circle the word that means the opposite of each word.

- |                  |             |               |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. succeed       | 3. father   | 5. wealthy    |
| a) success       | a) mother   | a) poor       |
| b) fail          | b) player   | b) successful |
| c) lost          | c) coach    | c) treasure   |
| 2. professional  | 4. powerful | 6. right      |
| a) amateur       | a) kick     | a) foot       |
| b) player        | b) coach    | b) left       |
| c) international | c) weak     | c) kick       |



# Listening

## A. Gap Fill

Listen to a recording of this reading.  
Fill in the gaps. Listen again and check your answers.

(Audio: <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2015/06/17/podcast-pele/>)

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2. As a teenager, Pelé played in many youth leagues. He was always the top scorer. He had a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ , and he scored with his left foot and his \_\_\_\_\_ foot.
3. Pelé became a **professional** soccer \_\_\_\_\_ at age 16. The next year, he joined the **national** team. Brazil won three \_\_\_\_\_ Cups with Pelé on the team (in 1958, 1963, and 1970).
4. Many other teams tried to get Pelé to play for them. Brazil's government found a way to keep him at \_\_\_\_\_ . They named him a "national treasure."
5. Pelé played for Brazil \_\_\_\_\_ 1974. Then he moved to the United States to play his last few years. His **goal** was to make soccer \_\_\_\_\_ in America. He **succeeded!** In 1980, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) named Pelé the **athlete** of the **century**.



## B. Extra Practice

Do you want more listening practice? After you fill in the gaps in Part A, listen to the recording a few more times. Underline all of the past tense verbs. Remember that a verb is often an action word.