

## **'I WANT TO BE A FOOTBALLER'**

'I want to be a footballer.' This is what David Beckham replied every time one of his teachers at school asked him what he wanted to do when he was older. His answer was always the same. He retired from football on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 but he has been one of the world's most legendary footballers and a great celebrity. What is so special about him?

He was born in London in 1975. As a child he loved playing football. His parents were great fans of Manchester United and he inherited this passion, so they often took him to see matches. However, his career did not start in this club. The first club he played for was Tottenham Hotspur and his career began in 1992. David Beckham's debut was with Manchester United when he was 17. They offered him a professional contract and he was promoted to team captain in 2000.

He played regularly for Manchester United but he did not become part of the England team before Euro 96. In 2003 he left the U.K. to play for Real Madrid and in 2007 he signed a contract with Los Angeles Galaxy that gave him the highest player salary in history. Before retiring from football, he has also played for Milan.

He has a great number of incredible records: he was the world's highest-paid footballer, the only English player that has scored in three world cups, the first British footballer to play 100 Champions League matches and Google's most searched sportsman (in 2003 and 2004). He is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and has been involved in promoting London's **attempt**<sup>1</sup> for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. He has scored an enormous amount of goals, given his teams and England important victories and won lots of important recognitions: he is officer in the Order of the British Empire, Britain's Greatest Ambassador, and number 1 on the list of the 40 most influential men in their forties in the UK. He has also founded the David Beckham Academy football school. David is a supporter of some charitable organisations, such as Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS campaign, Malaria No More, MLS W.O.R.K.S. and he has made cameo appearances in many films including *Goal!: The Dream Begins* and the sequels *Goal! 2: Living the Dream...*, and *Goal! 3: Taking on the World*.

In 1997 when David met Victoria Adams, who at that time was a member of the famous pop group the Spice Girls, their relationship immediately attracted a lot of media attention. They got married in Ireland in 1999. Now they have three sons and a daughter. David and Victoria are very famous in the world of fashion, fitness and health.

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<sup>1</sup> Tentativo.

## READING COMPREHENSION

- **DECIDE IF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE OR FALSE. CORRECT THE FALSE ONES.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. When he was a child, David Beckham didn't want to be a footballer. | T | F |
| 2. He is an ex-footballer.  | T | F |
| 3. The first club he played for was Manchester United.                | T | F |
| 4. He has no records.   | T | F |
| 5. David is married with an ex-singer.                                | T | F |

- **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

1. Who did David Beckham inherit the passion for football from?
2. Apart from Manchester United, what other football teams did he play for?
3. What recognitions did he win?
4. What charitable organisations is David a supporter of?
5. Is Beckham's wife a V.I.P. too? Why?
  
6. Do you like football? What's your favourite football team? What's your favourite footballer? Do you prefer watching sport on TV or playing it? Are you a sporty person? What sport do you practice? How often do you practice it?