



## Soccer

### Listening 1

1. When were Ronaldo and Neymar born?
2. How many goals did Ronaldo score in the Premier League with Manchester United?
3. What award did he win in 2016?
4. How many goals did Neymar score for Barcelona in the 2015-2016 season?
5. What is Neymar's estimated value?

### Listening 2

1. How many teams are there in the J3 division?
2. When was J2 launched?
3. When is Kazuyoshi Miura's birthday and how old will he be in 2017?
4. Which J.League team did Zico play for?
5. How many championships have the Antlers won?

## Transcript 1

This month we are featuring a soccer theme in honor of the new J.League season.

Two famous footballers born in February are Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar. Actually, these two superstars share the same birthday. Ronaldo was born on February 5, 1985 while Neymar was born on the same day but in 1992.

In 2009, Real Madrid acquired Ronaldo from Manchester United. In his six seasons with the Premier League team he scored 84 league goals and won 3 league championships. Ronaldo has won 1 league title so far with Real. In January, Ronaldo beat out Messi to win FIFA's Best Men's Player award for 2016.

Neymar plays for Barcelona in La Liga, Spain's top league, and is currently in his fourth season with the club. He scored 55 goals for Barcelona in the 2015/2016 season. At the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, Neymar was part of the gold medal winning Brazilian team and scored 4 goals in the tournament. Before joining Barcelona Neymar played for Santos FC in Brazil.

According to a study released in January, Neymar's estimated value is about 245 million euros, putting him at the top of all players in Europe. Ronaldo was seventh on the list at about 125 million euros.



## Transcript 2

Japan's J.League includes three divisions: J1, J2 and J3. A total of 18 teams compete in J1, the league's highest division, while J2 and J3 have 22 and 17 teams respectively.

When the J.League was founded in 1993 it had 10 teams. J2 came along 6 years later and J3 started up in 2014.

In January, Kazuyoshi Miura signed a 1-year extension with the J2 division club Yokohama FC. Miura, also known as 'King Kazu', will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 26. Miura played in 89 games for Japan and scored a total of 55 goals. Miura's career also includes stints in Brazil, Australia and Italy. Miura was the first ever Japanese to play in Italy's top league.

One of the most famous non-Japanese footballers to have played in the J.League is Zico. In addition to playing for the Kashima Antlers, Zico also coached Japan's national team.

Last December the Kashima Antlers won their 8<sup>th</sup> league title. In December Kashima also lost 4-2 to Real Madrid in the Club World Cup final that was played in Yokohama. Ronaldo scored a hat-trick in his team's victory.