



Lionel Messi

Text Book

# **Lionel Messi**

## **Text**

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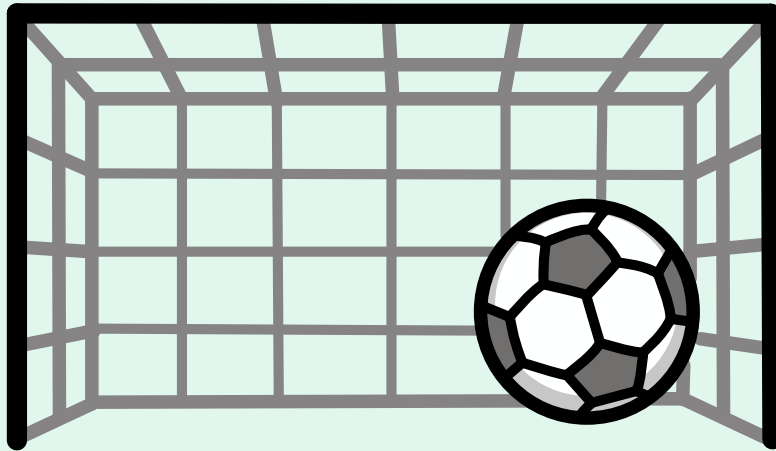


Lionel Messi was born in Argentina in 1987.

His parents were called Jorge and Celia.

Messi was the third of four children.

Messi loved playing football from an early age.

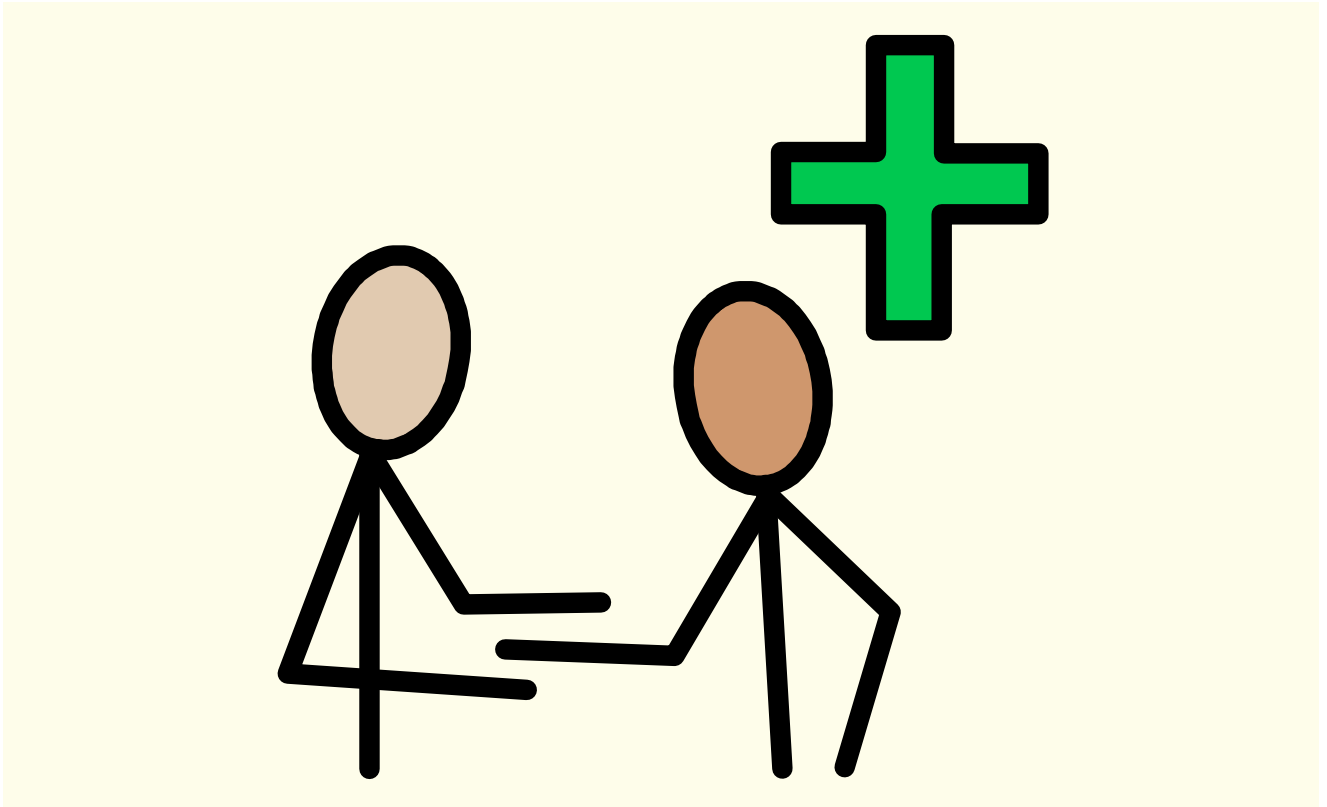


Messi joined local club Newell's Old Boys, aged 6.

He played for Newell's Old Boys for 6 years.

Here, Messi scored nearly 500 goals.

Messi performed ball tricks during half time.

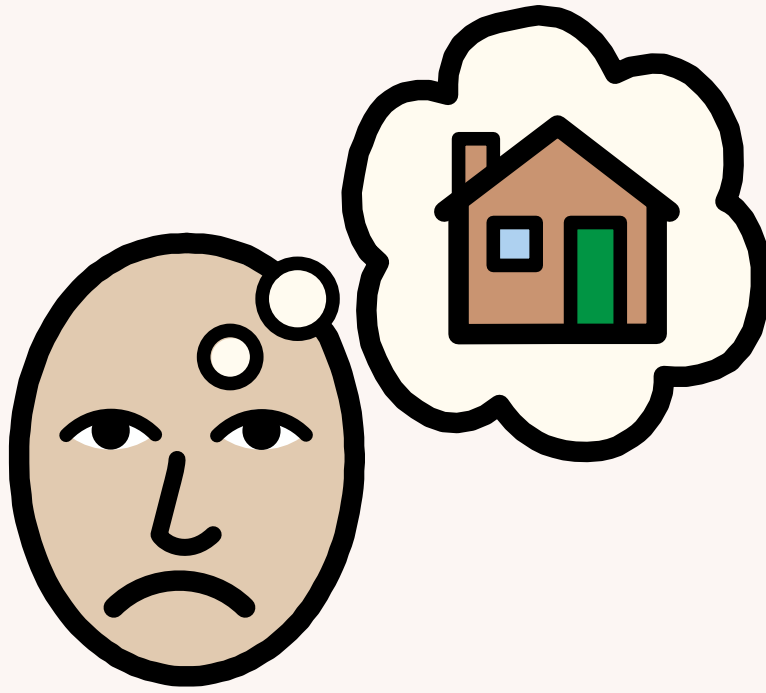


Aged 10, Messi was diagnosed with an illness.

Messi had a growth hormone deficiency.

Messi's parents could not afford the treatments.

Barcelona agreed to pay for Messi's treatments.

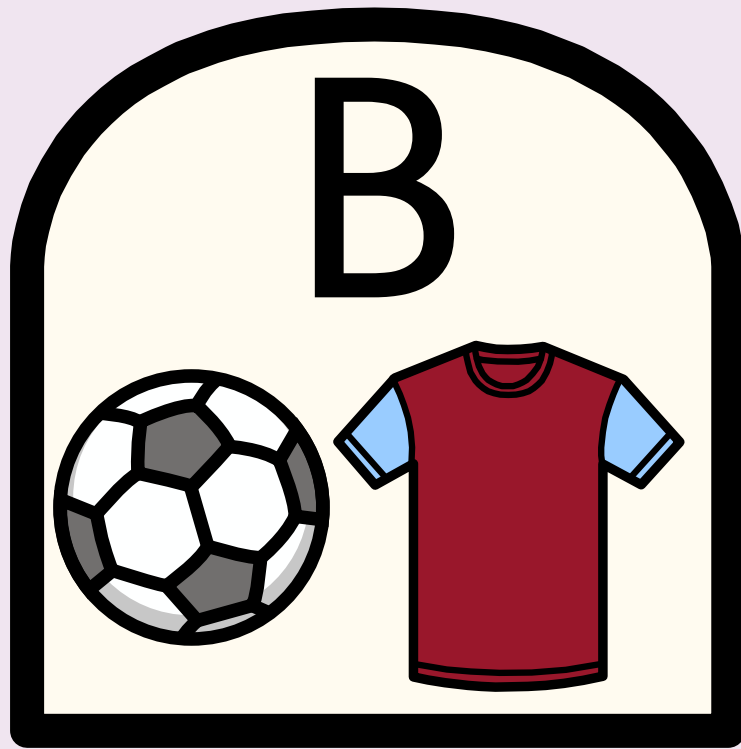


In 2001 Messi moved to Barcelona in Spain.

Messi could only play in friendly games.

Aged 13, Messi was very shy and quiet.

Messi was homesick and missed his family.



Messi became Barcelona's greatest goalscorer.

Messi played with Barcelona for the next 21 years.

Messi scored many goals for Barcelona.

Messi won many trophies playing for Barcelona.



Messi became one of the world's greatest footballers.

Messi has amazing dribbling and passing skills.

Messi is great at scoring goals.

Messi is great at taking free kicks and penalties.





Messi also has played internationally for Argentina.

Messi has played 175 matches for Argentina.

Argentina won an Olympic gold medal in 2008.

In 2022 Messi helped Argentina win the World Cup.

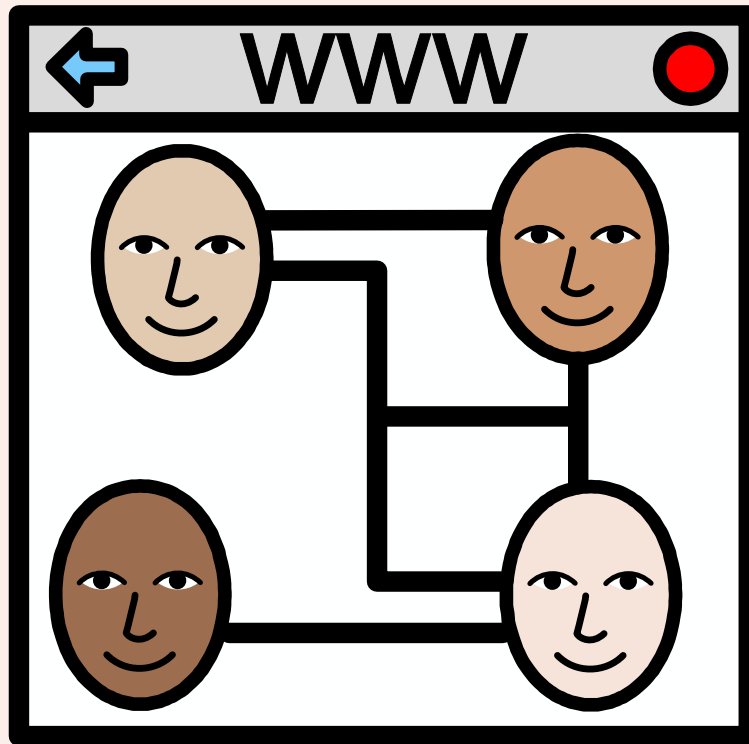


Messi has won the Ballon d'Or 7 times.

This is awarded to the world's best football player.

The Ballon d'Or is football's greatest honour.

Messi has earned a billion dollars in his career.

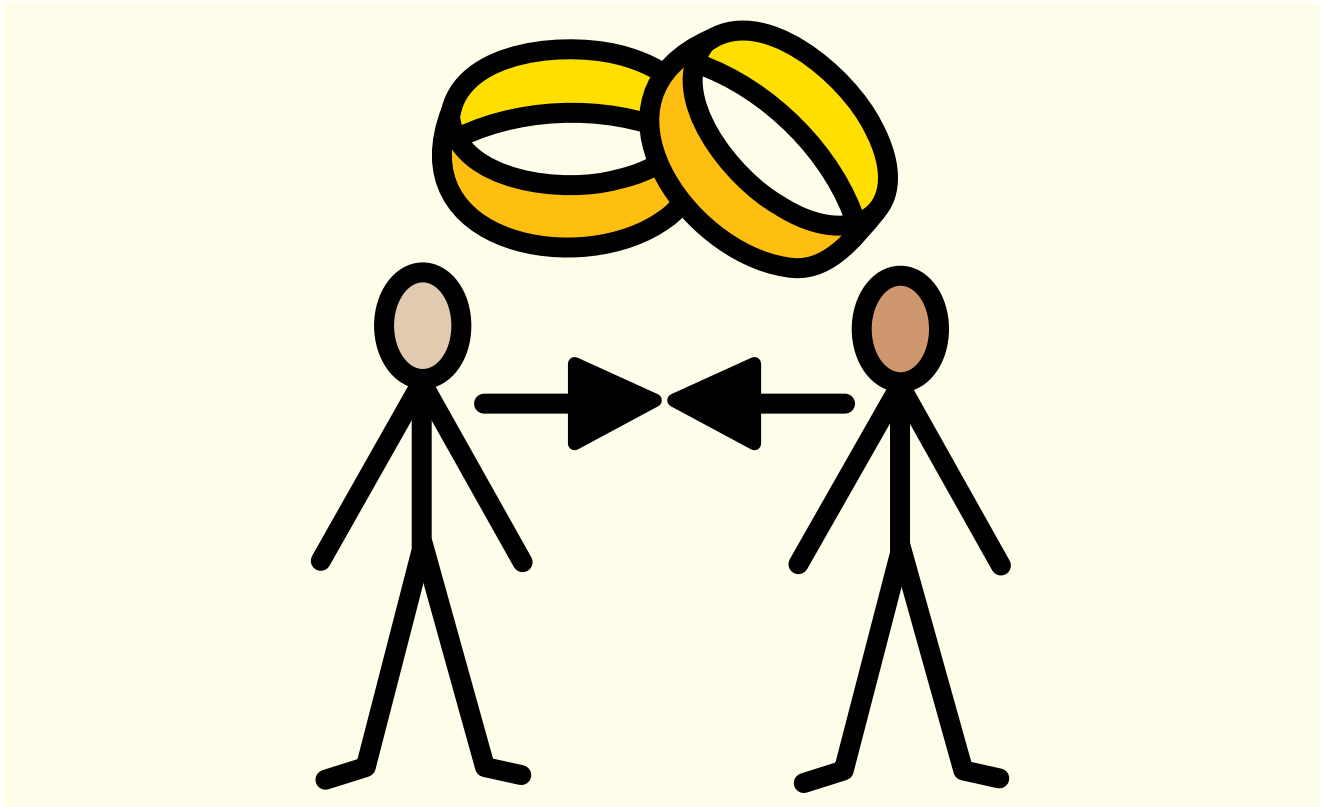


Messi is one of the world's most popular players.

Messi is very popular on social media.

Messi's Facebook has 103 million followers.

Messi has 450 million Instagram followers.

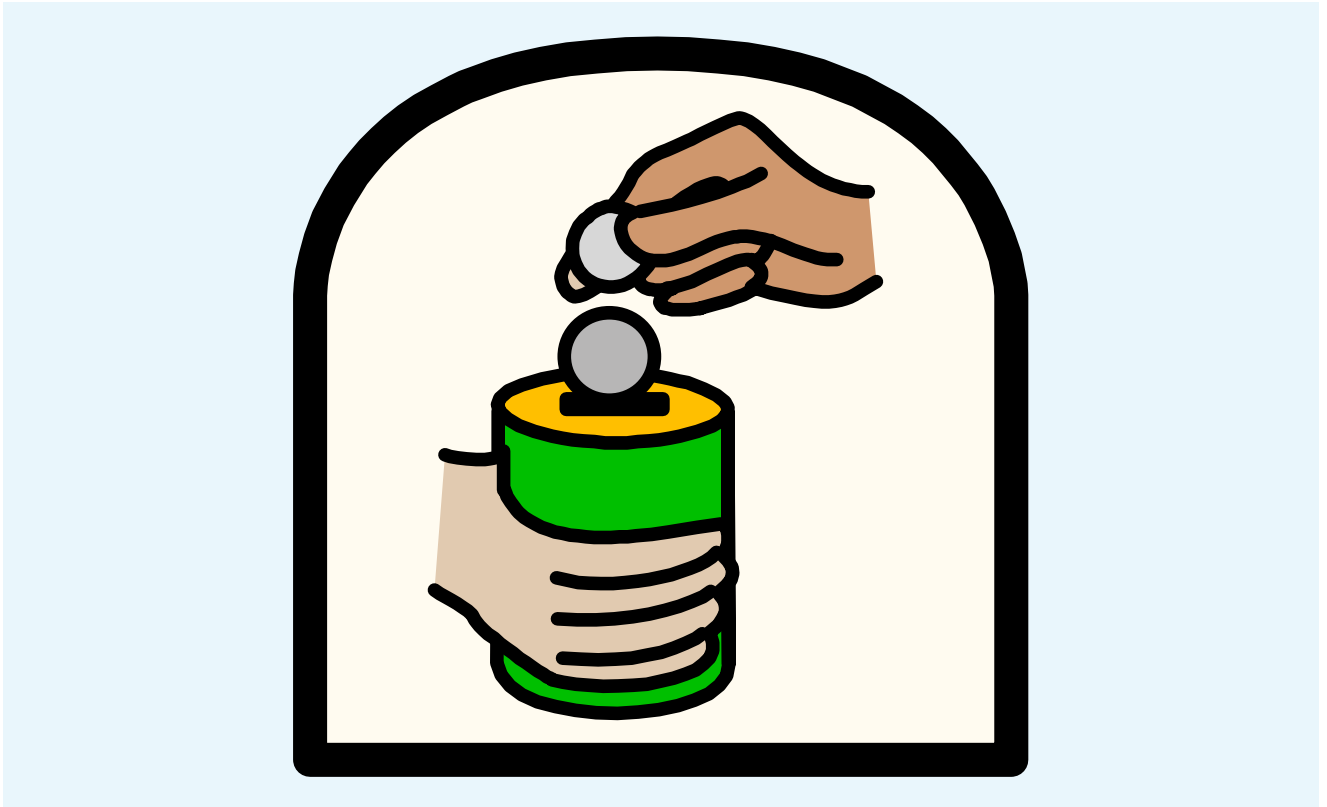


Messi's childhood sweetheart was called Antonella.

They have been together since 2008.

Messi and Antonella have 3 sons together.

Messi and Antonella were married in June 2017.

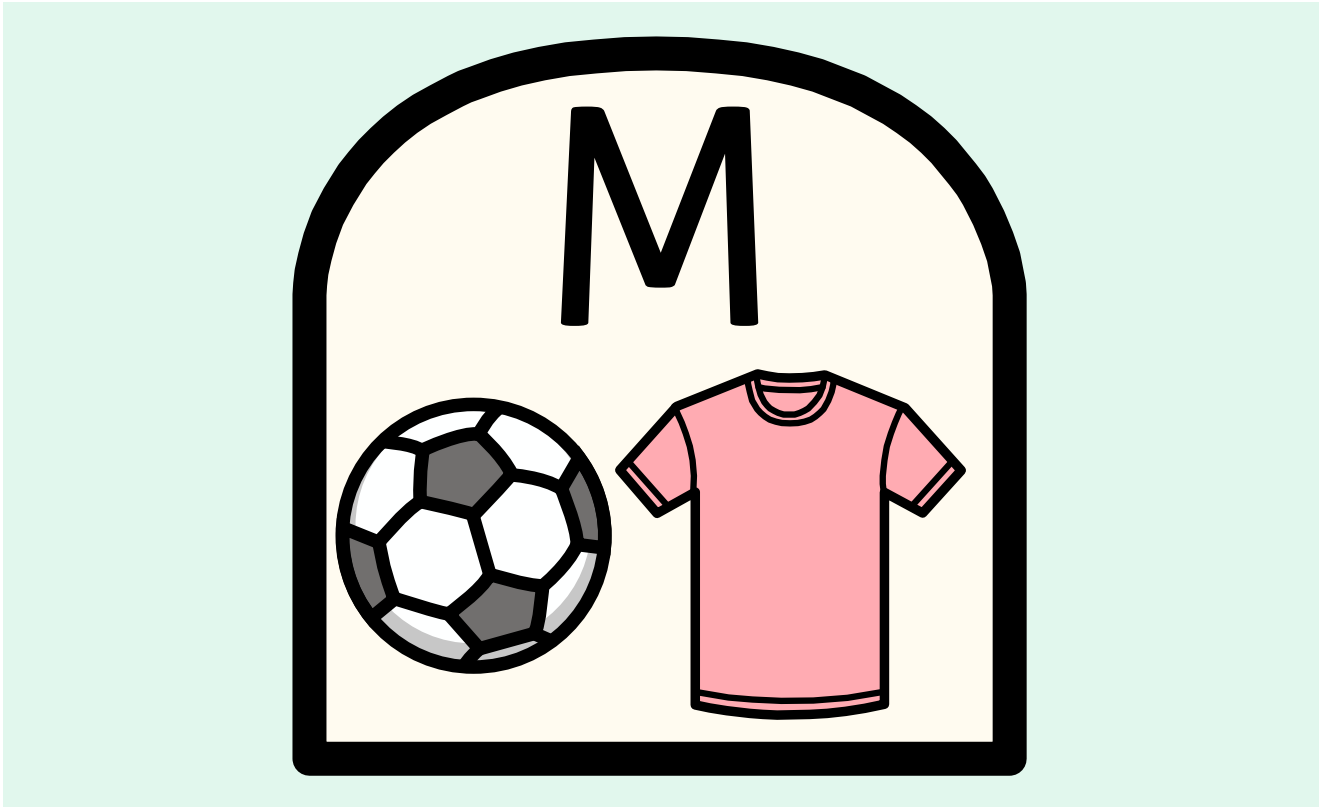


Throughout his career Messi has worked with charities.

Messi has worked to help vulnerable children.

Messi has helped UNICEF and started his own charity.

The Leo Messi Foundation helps vulnerable children.



In 2021 Messi left Barcelona after 21 years.

He signed a 2 year contract with Paris Saint-Germain.

In 2023 Messi left European football.

Messi signed with American side Inter Miami.



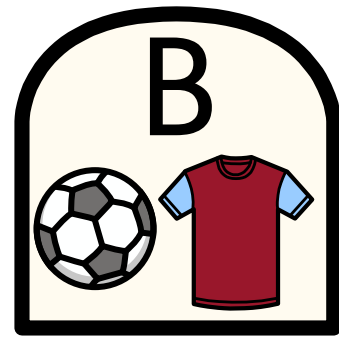
Lionel Messi



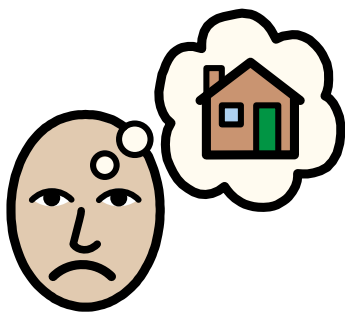
play football



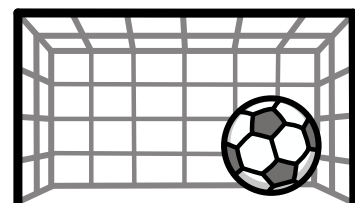
treatments



Barcelona



homesick



goals



dribbling



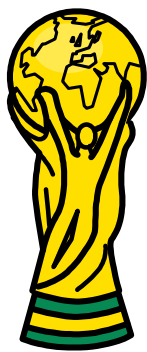
passing



penalties



Argentina



World Cup



charity