

# **Qatar Hires World Cup Fans to Sing**

## **VOCABULARY WORDS**

1. Chant (Noun) /tʃænt/ a word or phrase shouted or sung by people in a crowd  
Example: The audience was chanting the name of the team's most valuable player.
2. Conduct (Noun) /'kɒ:ndəkt/ the way a person behaves, especially in a particular place or situation  
Example: His rude conduct led him to his termination.
3. Mouthpiece (Noun) /'maʊθpi:s/ a person or organization that speaks for another person or organization  
Example: He's been acting as a mouthpiece for the government on questions of foreign policy.
4. Degrade (Verb) /di'greɪd/ to treat or regard someone with disrespect or great dislike  
Example: The rapper was criticized for degrading women.
5. Abusive (Adjective) /ə'bjʊ:sɪv/ extremely offensive  
Example: He was caught on cam while he was being abusive to animals.
6. Disparage (Verb) /di'spærɪdʒ/ to believe or suggest that someone or something has little or no worth  
Example: Voters don't like political advertisements in which opponents disparage one another.



Up to 1,600 fans of teams playing in this year's World Cup are being offered an all-expenses-paid trip to Qatar to sing at the opening ceremony, while some will promote positive social media content about the soccer tournament and host country. Fans of each of the 32 teams are needed for a five-minute section of the ceremony before Qatar plays Ecuador in the opening match on November 20. They will perform a chant or song specific to each country, chosen by the organizers, according to documents seen by The Associated Press.

The fans will get economy flights and use of apartments to stay until at least December 4 — or for the entire tournament if they choose — plus a daily allowance of around \$68. To take part, fans had to submit a statement or image showing their love of soccer by October 10. "Fan Leaders" in each country, who were chosen by the tournament organizers, have been asked to select 30 to 50 fans to attend the World Cup with them. In return, Fan

Leaders have been asked to sign a code of conduct that asks them to promote the tournament in a positive way on social media by incorporating content provided by Qatari organizers in their posts and "by 'liking' and re-sharing third party posts." They also have to "report any offensive, degrading or abusive comments" on social media to the organizers. Fan Leaders have been warned "we are not asking you to [be] a mouthpiece for Qatar," but "it would obviously not be appropriate for you to disparage" the country or the tournament.

About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar for the month-long tournament, which has faced criticism ever since the emirate was picked by FIFA in December 2010. In particular, Qatar has been criticized for its treatment of migrant workers, who were needed to build World Cup projects like stadiums, roads, hotels and apartments, often in extreme heat.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. What comes to mind when you think of Qatar?
2. Have you been to the Middle East? If so, where did you visit? If not, what country would you most like to visit?
3. What sports tournaments would you like to attend someday? Who would you take with you?
4. Has your country hosted any major tournaments in recent years?
5. What are the biggest sporting events of the year in your country?