Fermín López leads Barcelona past Atlético

LEVEL B2


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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever watched a team come from behind to win? What happened?
2. Which footballers do you enjoy watching under pressure? Why?
3. What makes a stadium atmosphere feel intense to you?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

comeback
a return to a good position after being behind

equaliser
a goal that makes the score the same for both teams

breakthrough
a successful moment when progress finally happens

resist
to fight against pressure or not be pushed back

clearance
a defensive action that removes danger from near the goal

chaotic
very confused and without order

goalkeeper
the player who protects the goal and can use their hands

trail
to be behind an opponent in score or position

III. READING

Barcelona moved clear at the top of La Liga with a 2-1 win away at Atlético Madrid, led by two goals from Fermín López. In a fierce, chaotic first half at the Metropolitano, Barcelona trailed after Giuliano Simeone finished a quick break.

Atlético pressed high and created early danger, and Barcelona needed a key clearance to stop a second goal. López produced the equaliser before the interval and, midway through the second half, scored again for the breakthrough. From there, Barcelona resisted heavy pressure.

Jan Oblak, Atlético's goalkeeper, kept his team in it with saves, but Hansi Flick's side showed control when it mattered. The result came after recent defeats to Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid, raising questions about Barcelona's form.

This comeback steadied the mood and strengthened their lead, in a match that featured ten World Cup winners, with first place effectively awaiting the winner. Atlético had won seven in a row before this, and their display suggested the title race remains open.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Barcelona move clear at the top after...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who scored both goals for Barcelona?
2. Which Atlético player put his team ahead?
3. Where was the match played?
4. What did Jan Oblak do to keep Atlético in the game?
5. What recent results had raised doubts about Barcelona?

V. DISCUSSION

1. What helps a team stay calm when the game turns chaotic?
2. Was Barcelona's win more about mentality or tactics? Why?
3. How important is a strong goalkeeper to a title challenge?
4. Which moments usually change big matches like this one?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Future perfect

Use the future perfect to show something will be finished before a future time. Form: will have + past participle. Common signals: by, by the time, before.

> *"By the time the match ends, Barcelona* **will have secured** *three points."*
>
> *"If Atlético score once more before half-time, they* **will have turned** *the game."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the future perfect form of the verb in brackets.

1. By halftime, the visitors (score) ___ once. _____
2. By the next match, the players (recover) ___ from this one. _____
3. By the time they fly home, the win (steady) ___ the mood. _____
4. If Atlético press, they (create) ___ chances by 60 minutes. _____
5. By next week, fans (watch) ___ the highlights many times. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 vocabulary, 12–15 reading, 10 comprehension, 8–10 grammar, 10 discussion.
- Pre-teach key names and terms on the board (Fermín López, Jan Oblak, equaliser, breakthrough) and check pronunciation.
- Run a first silent read for gist, then a second focused read for details; pair-check answers before brief whole-class feedback.
- Extension/differentiation: stronger students outline how momentum shifted; others highlight three sentences that show pressure and control.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. List ideas on the board (talking, breathing, leaders), then ask for short match examples.
2. Split the class: one side argues mentality, the other tactics; switch sides after two minutes.
3. Elicit specific saves and their effects; compare with leadership or communication at the back.
4. Have students rank key turning points (equaliser, substitutions, pressing) and justify the order.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 90-word match report intro that a newspaper could run the next day.

Analysis: Create a timeline of five key events from the match and explain each event's impact in 3–4 lines.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Future perfect

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who scored both goals for Barcelona?
   Fermín López.
2. Which Atlético player put his team ahead?
   Giuliano Simeone.
3. Where was the match played?
   At the Metropolitano stadium.
4. What did Jan Oblak do to keep Atlético in the game?
   He made saves.
5. What recent results had raised doubts about Barcelona?
   Defeats to Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the future perfect form of the verb in brackets.

1. By halftime, the visitors ___ once. **will have scored**
2. By the next match, the players ___ from this one. **will have recovered**
3. By the time they fly home, the win ___ the mood. **will have steadied**
4. If Atlético press, they ___ chances by 60 minutes. **will have created**
5. By next week, fans ___ the highlights many times. **will have watched**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use the future perfect to show something will be finished before a future time. Form: will have + past participle. Common signals: by, by the time, before. (Examples constructed.)

"By the time the match ends, Barcelona **will have secured** *three points."*

"If Atlético score once more before half-time, they **will have turned** *the game."*