

Famous French People

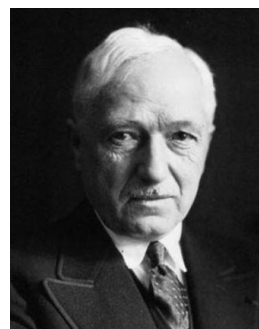
Jules Rimet

by Robert Shepherd

Accompagnement lexical et phonologique : Laurent Dufour ©

Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées*



Hello, you're listening to EnglishWaves and this is Robert Shepherd with the latest **edition** of Famous French.

Now it's time to **focus on** the man who was responsible for introducing the biggest **single-event** sporting **competition** in the world – the FIFA World Cup. He is Jules Rimet.

The son of a **grocer**, Rimet was **actually** born in his father's store in Franche-Comté, eastern France, on 14th October 1873. Rimet showed himself to be **astute** and a **dedicated** student at a very young age and moved to Paris with his family where he studied to become a lawyer.

Rimet was also a talented **amateur** sportsman and his first **involvement** with football **administration** came in 1897, when at the age of 24 he and some associates **setup** Red Star Football Club.

He soon wanted to join football's **top table** and so Rimet helped form FIFA in 1904. When Rimet joined the **fledgling organisation**, it had plans for a global **professional tournament**. However, it was more concerned with running an amateur tournament as part of the 1908 Olympic Games.

Rimet used his **position** at FIFA to push for the World Cup, as opposed to an amateur event at the Games. However, the First World War **put** his and FIFA's plans **on hold**. Rimet served in the French Army as an **officer** and was decorated with a Croix de Guerre. In 1919, after the war had ended, he became president of the French Football **Federation** and then two-years-later Rimet was made president of FIFA.

to focus on (vb.) se concentrer sur

single-event (adj.) dédié à un seul sport

grocer (n.) épicier

actually (adv.) en fait

astute (adj.) astucieux, malin

dedicated (adj.) sérieux, appliqué

involvement (n.) implication

to set up (phrasal vb.) créer, établir

top table (exp.) instances dirigeantes

fledgling (adj.) naissant

to put on hold (phrasal vb.) suspendre

Rimet convinced Olympic organisers that FIFA was now a **competent** enough body to organise an **international** tournament. In 1925 it was agreed by a 25 to 5 vote that a World Cup should be organised every four years. The first was to be held in Uruguay in 1930.

The first trophy was named **Victory**, but later renamed as the Jules Rimet Trophy, in honour of the tournament's **architect**. The trophy was made of **gold plated** sterling silver and lapis lazuli. It also **depicted** Nike, the Greek goddess of victory. The trophy's design remained the same until the end of the 1970 World Cup. It was redesigned after **Brazil** had been crowned world **champions** for the third time. The original Jules Rimet trophy was **stolen** in 1983 and remains missing today.

Rimet remained president until 1954. During that time he **oversaw** five World Cups and his **term** still stands as the longest in the governingbody's history. Rimet is still viewed as one of if not the greatest ever FIFA boss. When he retired from office, FIFA had some 85 members – more than four times the number when he came to office in 1921.

Jules Rimet died in France in 1956 but **earned** a **nomination** for the Nobel PeacePrize in the same year. Even after his death, the honours kept coming in - in 2004 Rimet was posthumously made a member of the FIFA Order of Merit.

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gold plated (adj.) plaque or

to depict (vb.) représenter

to steal (stole – stolen) (vb.) voler

to oversee (oversaw – overseen)
(vb.) superviser

term (n.) mandat

to earn (vb.) obtenir

*** Tip !** Notez l'accentuation des syllables dans ces mots :

adminis**tr**ation, **ch**ampion, competi**ti**on, **ed**ition, federa**ti**on, nomi**na**tion,
posi**ti**on, interna**ti**onal, profes**si**onal

La syllable accentuée, prononcée plus fort et avec plus d'emphasis, précède toujours celle qui contient -ion ou -ional.