
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English in the News

Euro 2020 final: England focus turns to Italy



The story

The England football team beat Denmark 2-1 in front of more than 50,000 **ecstatic** England fans at Wembley stadium to reach their first ever European Championship final.

Useful vocabulary

ecstatic – very happy or excited

tournament – competition where teams or individuals play each other until only one winner remains

tense – nervous; worried

controversial – causing discussion and disagreement

penalty - a free shot at goal awarded by the referee to a team after a foul has been committed in the penalty area

fouled – unfairly treated or obstructed by a player from the other team

dubious – not completely correct

victory – winning a game or competition

triumph – great success

jubilation – great excitement and happiness

on the rise - improving

gathering momentum – increasing energy

More about the story...

What has happened?

The England team, managed by Gareth Southgate, has successfully made its way through the Euro 2020 **tournament** to the semi-finals. In a **tense** game against Denmark on Wednesday, Captain Harry Kane hit the winner in extra time to book a place against Italy's national team, the Azzurri, at Wembley stadium in London on Sunday.

Plenty was said about the **controversial** decision to award the **penalty** that led to England's winning goal, after Raheem Sterling had been **fouled** by Joakim

Maehle. "**Dubious** penalty, I'm still not convinced, but who cares? We're in the final," added former England winger Chris Waddle on BBC Radio 5 Live.

How important is this?

The England players know **victory** against Italy will earn them a first major tournament **triumph** for 55 years. They last won the World Cup against West Germany in 1966.

What was the reaction?

The final whistle was greeted by scenes of **jubilation** and celebration in towns and cities across England. "I'm just so pleased for our country," said boss Southgate, who punched the air at the final whistle.

"We know what our country like others has been through and to continue that happiness and journey for another four days, we're so happy."

How good are Italy?

Italy failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup but they have been **on the rise** since former Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini took charge in 2018. They head into Sunday's final unbeaten in 33 matches and have been **gathering momentum** throughout Euro 2020 since their opening win against Turkey. The last time Italy and England met at a major tournament, Italy won 2-1 at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. The Three Lions (England) finished bottom of their group.

Find out more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/57753948>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/57756837>

Questions

1. Where did the semi-final game take place?
2. When did Harry Kane score England's winning goal?
3. Where did England fans celebrate after the game?
4. What has England not won for 55 years?
5. How successful were England when they last met Italy in a major tournament?

Answers

1. Where did the semi-final game take place?

It took place at Wembley stadium in London.

2. When did Harry Kane score England's winning goal?

He scored in extra-time.

3. Where did England fans celebrate after the game?

There were scenes of jubilation and celebration in towns and cities across England.

4. What has England not won for 55 years?

They have not won a major tournament.

5. How successful were England when they last met Italy in a major tournament?

Not very successful. Italy won 2-1 at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, as England finished bottom of their group.

