

Sidebar

Football · England at the World Cup Cheat Sheet

Every England match at a World Cup final tournament, 1950–2026 — result, scorers, and how each tournament ended. Qualifiers not included. England entered 17 of the 23 tournaments held; missed 1930/34/38 (not FIFA members at the time), 1974/78/94 (failed to qualify).

1950 (BRAZIL)

Eliminated — group stage

- Chile W 2–0 — Mortensen, Mannion
- USA L 0–1 — one of the great World Cup upsets
- Spain L 0–1

1954 (SWITZERLAND)

Eliminated — quarter-final

- Belgium D 4–4 (a.e.t.) — Broadis 2, Lofthouse 2
- Switzerland W 2–0 — Mullen, Wilshaw
- Uruguay (QF) L 2–4 — Lofthouse, Finney

Unusual format: only 2 group games each, and draws went to extra time even in the group stage.

1958 (SWEDEN)

Eliminated — group stage (play-off)

- USSR D 2–2 — Kevan, Finney (pen)
- Brazil D 0–0
- Austria D 2–2 — Haynes, Kevan
- USSR (play-off) L 0–1 — tie-break for 2nd place

1962 (CHILE)

Eliminated — quarter-final

- Hungary L 1–2 — Flowers (pen)
- Argentina W 3–1 — Flowers (pen), Charlton, Greaves
- Bulgaria D 0–0
- Brazil (QF) L 1–3 — Hitchens

1966 (ENGLAND)

 CHAMPIONS

Uruguay	D 0–0
Mexico	W 2–0 — Charlton, Hunt
France	W 2–0 — Hunt 2
Argentina (QF)	W 1–0 — Hurst
Portugal (SF)	W 2–1 — Charlton 2
West Germany (F)	W 4–2 (a.e.t.) — Hurst hat-trick, Peters

1970 (MEXICO)

Eliminated — quarter-final

Romania	W 1–0 — Hurst
Brazil	L 0–1
Czechoslovakia	W 1–0 — Clarke (pen)
West Germany (QF)	L 2–3 (a.e.t.) — Mullery, Peters; led 2–0 before the collapse

1974 & 1978

Did not qualify

Two of only three tournaments (with 1994) England have failed to qualify for since rejoining FIFA in 1946.

1982 (SPAIN)

Eliminated — second group stage

France	W 3–1 — Robson 2, Mariner
Czechoslovakia	W 2–0 — Francis, og
Kuwait	W 1–0 — Francis
West Germany	D 0–0
Spain	D 0–0

Unusual format: a 3-team second group stage, not a single-match knockout — only the group winner advanced. England won every match they could (5 games, undefeated) but still went out on results.

1986 (MEXICO)

Eliminated — quarter-final

Portugal L 0–1

Morocco D 0–0

Poland W 3–0 — Lineker hat-trick

Paraguay (R16) W 3–0 — Lineker 2, Beardsley

Argentina (QF) L 1–2 — Lineker; Maradona's "Hand of God" and "Goal of the Century," same match

1990 (ITALY)

Fourth place

Ireland D 1–1 — Lineker

Netherlands D 0–0

Egypt W 1–0 — Wright

Belgium (R16) W 1–0 (a.e.t.) — Platt, 119th minute

Cameroon (QF) W 3–2 (a.e.t.) — Platt, Lineker 2 (pens)

West Germany (SF) D 1–1 (a.e.t.), lost 3–4 pens — Lineker; Pearce & Waddle missed their spot-kicks

Italy (3rd place) L 1–2 — Platt

1994

Did not qualify

The one time England missed a World Cup they'd have been reigning semi-finalists for.

1998 (FRANCE)

Eliminated — Round of 16

Tunisia W 2–0 — Shearer, Scholes

Romania L 1–2 — Owen

Colombia W 2–0 — Anderton, Beckham

Argentina (R16) D 2–2 (a.e.t.), lost 3–4 pens — Shearer (pen), Owen (the famous solo run)

Beckham was sent off for kicking out at Simeone — England played most of the match with 10 men. Ince and Batty missed in the shootout.

2002 (S. KOREA/JAPAN)

Eliminated — quarter-final

Sweden D 1–1 — Campbell

Argentina W 1–0 — Beckham (pen)

Nigeria D 0–0

Denmark (R16) W 3–0 — Ferdinand, Owen, Heskey

Brazil (QF) L 1–2 — Owen

2006 (GERMANY)

Eliminated — quarter-final

Paraguay W 1–0 — og

Trinidad & Tobago W 2–0 — Crouch, Gerrard

Sweden D 2–2 — J. Cole, Gerrard

Ecuador (R16) W 1–0 — Beckham (free kick)

Portugal (QF) D 0–0 (a.e.t.), lost 1–3 pens — only Hargreaves scored; Lampard, Gerrard & Carragher missed

Rooney was sent off for a stamp on Carvalho — England played extra time with 10 men.

2010 (SOUTH AFRICA)

Eliminated — Round of 16

USA D 1–1 — Gerrard

Algeria D 0–0

Slovenia W 1–0 — Defoe

Germany (R16) L 1–4 — Upson; England's heaviest-ever World Cup defeat, plus the disallowed Lampard "over the line" goal

2014 (BRAZIL)

Eliminated — group stage

Italy L 1–2 — Sturridge

Uruguay L 1–2 — Rooney

Costa Rica D 0–0

First group-stage exit for England since 1958.

2018 (RUSSIA)

Fourth place

Tunisia W 2–1 — Kane 2

Panama W 6–1 — Stones 2, Kane 3 (2 pens), Lingard

Belgium L 0–1

Colombia (R16) D 1–1 (a.e.t.), won 4–3 pens — Kane (pen); England's first-ever World Cup shootout win

Sweden (QF) W 2–0 — Maguire, Alli

Croatia (SF) L 1–2 (a.e.t.) — Trippier, early free kick

Belgium (3rd place) L 0–2

2022 (QATAR)

Eliminated — quarter-final

Iran W 6–2 — Bellingham, Saka 2, Sterling, Rashford, Grealish

USA D 0–0

Wales W 3–0 — Rashford 2, Foden

Senegal (R16) W 3–0 — Henderson, Kane, Saka

France (QF) L 1–2 — Kane (pen); missed a second penalty that would have leveled it

2026 (USA/CANADA/MEXICO)

Third place

Croatia	W 4–2 — Kane 2 (1 pen), Bellingham, Rashford
Ghana	D 0–0
Panama	W 2–0 — Bellingham, Kane
DR Congo (R32)	W 2–1 — Kane 2, came from behind
Mexico (R16)	W 3–2 — Bellingham 2, Kane (pen); 10 men from the 54th minute
Norway (QF)	W 2–1 (a.e.t.) — Bellingham 2, incl. a 93rd-minute winner
Argentina (SF)	L 1–2 — Gordon
France (3rd place)	W 6–4 — Rice, Konsa, Saka hat-trick (1 pen), Bellingham

First tournament with a Round of 32 — the expansion to 48 teams added an extra knockout round.

RECORDS & PATTERNS

Only title	1966, as hosts
Best other finishes	4th (1990, 2018), 3rd (2026)
Quarter-final exits	7 times — 1954, '62, '70, '86, 2002, '06, '22
Shootout record	Lost 1990, '98, '06 — won 2018 (first-ever)
Missed entirely	1974, 1978, 1994 (plus pre-FIFA-membership 1930/34/38)

FORMAT CHANGED MORE THAN ONCE — "QUARTER-FINAL" ISN'T ALWAYS LITERAL

Not every England exit above was a clean single-match knockout round the word "quarter-final" implies today. 1954 gave every team only 2 group games, with draws settled by extra time. 1982 replaced the usual knockout bracket with 3-team mini-leagues — England went undefeated in all 5 matches that tournament and still didn't advance, because only the group winner went through. 1958's exit came via a straight play-off match for 2nd place, not a defeat in a "real" knockout tie. Where the format genuinely differs from the modern bracket, the note under that tournament says so rather than forcing it into a label that would overstate how it actually worked.