

The FA Cup

Background

- The FA Cup is a famous football competition in England with a long history.
- Winners of the FA Cup can compete in the UEFA Cup the next season.

A. Listening for general information

Listen to ALL the podcast. Decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. T / F Only Premier League and Championship teams (league 2) take part in the FA Cup.
2. T / F The FA Cup started in the 19th century.
3. T / F This year, more than 600 teams will take part in the competition.
4. T / F In 1992, Arsenal beat Wrexham (A Welsh side).
5. T / F In 2000-2001, Second Division team, Wycombe Wanderers beat Leicester in the semi-finals.
6. T / F Manchester United have won the most FA Cups.
7. T / F In 2005, Liverpool defeated West Ham in the FA Cup final 3-0.
- 8.

B. Listening for detail

Listen to the BEGINNING of the podcast again and find the EIGHT mistakes in the paragraph below.

The money is made in the Champions' League. The respect is gained by winning the premier league, but for rich history and romance look no further than the FA Cup. This month sees the third round of the English FA Cup. This is the round where the famous teams from the Premier League and the Championship join a mixture of league and non-league teams from England and Scotland who have battled through qualifying rounds and the two early rounds. This is where the minnows go up against the giants, where the amateurs and semi-pros get to share the match with the big names, and where surprise results are certain to happen.

The FA cup is the oldest football competition in Europe. It started in 1871-72, over 130 years ago with 50 teams taking part – this year over 600 have entered. That final was won by Wanderers, a team made up of ex-public school and university students. The FA Cup has inspired other competitions around the world, for example the Emperor's Cup in Japan, won this year by Urawa Reds is a copy. The competition gets its magic from the fact that any team has a chance to win and to make money.

Answers

A. Listening for general information

1. F Non-league teams and all league teams can take part.
2. T The FA Cup started in the 19th century in 1870.
3. T This year, more than 600 teams will take part in the competition.
4. F In 1992, *WREXHAM* beat Arsenal
5. F In 2000-2001, Second Division team, Wycombe Wanderers beat Leicester in the *QUARTER*-finals.
6. T Manchester United have won the most FA Cups – 11 times.
7. F In 2005, Liverpool defeated West Ham in the FA Cup on penalties.

B. Listening for detail

The money is made in the Champions' League. The respect is gained by winning the premier league, but for rich history and romance look no further than the FA Cup. This **weekend** sees the third round of the English FA Cup. This is the round where the **bigger** teams from the Premier League and the Championship join a mixture of league and non-league teams from England and **Wales** who have battled through qualifying rounds and the two early rounds. This is where the minnows go up against the giants, where the amateurs and semi-pros get to share the **pitch** with the big names, and where **shock** results are certain to happen.

The FA cup is the oldest football competition in **the world**. It started in 1871-72, over 130 years ago with **15** teams taking part – this year over 600 have entered. That final was won by Wanderers, a team made up of ex-public school and university students. The FA Cup has inspired other competitions around the world, for example the Emperor's Cup in Japan, won this year by Urawa Reds is a copy. The competition gets its magic from the fact that any team has a chance to win and to make **history**.

Podcast Worksheet (Transcript)

The money is made in the Champions' League. The respect is gained by winning the premier league, but for rich history and romance look no further than the FA Cup. This weekend sees the third round of the English FA Cup. This is the round where the bigger teams from the Premier League and the Championship join a mixture of league and non-league teams from England and Wales who have battled through qualifying rounds and the two early rounds. This is where the minnows go up against the giants, where the amateurs and semi-pros get to share the pitch with the big names, and where shock results are certain to happen.

The FA cup is the oldest football competition in the world. It started in 1871-72, over 130 years ago with 15 teams taking part – this year over 600 have entered. That final was won by Wanderers, a team made up of ex-public school and university students. The FA Cup has inspired other competitions around the world, for example the Emperor's Cup in Japan, won this year by Urawa Reds is a copy. The competition gets it's magic from the fact that any team has a chance to win and to make history.

Famous upsets have included, Wrexham, in 1992, they defeated the league champions Arsenal in the Third Round. The previous season, Wrexham had finished bottom of the Football League. Another huge shock was when non-league team Sutton United in the 1988-1989 FA Cup campaign beat the 1987 winners Coventry City. And recently Wycombe Wanderers, from the Second Division, beat Premier league side Leicester in the quarter-finals of the 2000-01 competition.

Despite the fact that upsets do happen, it is normally the big guns that finally win through. Manchester United are currently the most successful FA Cup side, winning 11 times, followed by Arsenal on 10. Another team with a long FA Cup history, Liverpool won the trophy last year in what many people think was the most exciting FA Cup final ever – overcoming West Ham on penalties after the game was tied 3-3.

This weekend which big name team will fall, which team of semi-pros will gain glory, and in the long run, who will raise the FA cup trophy at the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff in May, the traditional end of the football season?