

Podcast 22 Worksheet

Relegation

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 29th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

Teams and players mentioned in the report

There are lots of teams mentioned from The English Premier League, Serie A in Italy, The Bundesliga in Germany and La Liga in Spain.

Pre-Listening (Vocabulary)

A **share of the pie** means to have a share of the riches – the money connected to the Premier League.

A. Main idea - correct the false statements

Listen to the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

1. Many European leagues have just started.
2. Spain, Italy, France and Germany have different relegation systems to the English Premier League.
3. Argentinian football has the same system of relegation in its football leagues.
4. When a team is relegated it can be seen more on television.
5. The only problem with relegation is that rival supporters tease you.
6. Chelsea won £50 million last year for winning the English Premier League.

B. Main idea – connecting ideas

Listen to the report, take notes and write down the connection between the following words and phrases.

Example: talking point / champion / interest / relegated

The main talking point is finding out which team will be champions and there is great interest in which teams will be relegated

1. relegation / team / finishing / bottom / position / down / lower / league

2. supporter / suffer / pain / defeat

3. everything / football / today / problem / money / rather / lack

4. winner / receive / £50 million / team / bottom / £30 million

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

With most of the European leagues (1) _____ the end of the season the main talking point involves finding out who will become champions but there is also great (2) _____ in seeing which teams will go down to the lower divisions, will be relegated.

Now, relegation means that the teams finishing in the bottom positions in the league (3) _____ move down to a lower league the following season. So, for example in the English Premier League three teams each year are relegated,

which is the same in Italy, Spain, France and Germany with the three top teams from the lower division then taking their place. This is called (4) _____. However, other countries have different systems with Argentina, for example, relegating the teams with the least amount of points averaged over three seasons.

Now a club is (5) _____ in many ways if it is relegated. For example, the supporters suffer the pain of defeat and are (6) _____ by rival fans. With their team also playing at a lower level the following season, it means there will be poorer pitches to play on, lesser-quality players to play against, smaller crowds to play in front of and much less TV (7) _____. But, as is the case with everything in football today, the main problem is money, or rather, the lack of it. Not only will the number of fans going to matches go down, which means that club revenues decrease, but the team misses out on the (8) _____ of the top division.

With TV companies spending more and more money on football each year, the clubs (9) _____ to be involved in the top divisions if they wish to get their share of the pie. For example, last year Chelsea received £30 million for winning the Premier League title and Sunderland, who finished bottom, received £16 million. For next season, those figures will rise (10) _____ with the winners receiving £50 million and the team finishing bottom receiving £30 million. No wonder the battle to avoid the drop is such a tense one.

D. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Give examples of some of the ways that a club is affected by relegation according to the report.
2. Why do teams need to be involved in the top division according to the report?
3. Why does Damian say that the relegation battle is a tense affair?

A. Main idea - correct the false statements

Listen to the report and explain why all of these statements are false.

1. Many European leagues have just started.

Approaching the end of the season

2. Spain, Italy, France and Germany have different relegation systems to the English Premier League.

The same as England

3. Argentinian football has the same system of relegation in its football leagues.

Other countries have different systems, Argentina...

4. When a team is relegated it can be seen more on television.

Much less TV exposure

5. The only problem with relegation is that rival supporters tease you.

A club is affected in many ways

6. Chelsea won £50 million last year for winning the English Premier League.

Last year Chelsea received £30 million for winning the Premier League title

B. Main idea – connecting ideas

Listen to the report, take notes and write down the connection between the following words and phrases.

Example: talking point / champion / interest / relegated

The main talking point is finding out which team will be champions and there is great interest in which teams will be relegated

1. relegation / team / finishing / bottom / position / down / lower / league
relegation means that the teams finishing in the bottom positions in the league must move down to a lower league the following season.
2. supporter / suffer / pain / defeat
the supporters suffer the pain of defeat
3. everything / football / today / problem / money / rather / lack
as is the case with everything in football today, the main problem is money, or rather, the lack of it.
4. winner / receive / £50 million / team / bottom / £30 million
those figures will rise dramatically with the winners receiving £50 million and the team finishing bottom receiving £30 million

C. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. approaching | 6. taunted |
| 2. interest | 7. exposure |
| 3. must | 8. need |
| 4. promotion | 9. riches |
| 5. affected | 10. dramatically |

D. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Give examples of some of the ways that a club is affected by relegation according to the report.

**Supporters suffer pain/ supporters suffer taunts
Poor pitches / lesser-quality players / smaller crowds / less TV exposure
Club revenue decreases / team misses out on riches**

2. Why do teams need to be involved in the top division according to the report?
to get their share of the pie / to win more money

3. Why does Damian say that the relegation battle is a tense affair?
Teams want to stay up to earn more money next year.

Transcript

With most of the European leagues approaching the end of the season the main talking point involves finding out who will become champions but there is also great interest in seeing which teams will go down to the lower divisions, will be relegated.

Now, relegation means that the teams finishing in the bottom positions in the league must move down to a lower league the following season. So, for example in the English Premier League three teams each year are relegated, which is the same in Italy, Spain, France and Germany with the three top teams from the lower division then taking their place. This is called promotion. However, other countries have different systems with Argentina, for example, relegating the teams with the least amount of points averaged over three seasons.

Now a club is affected in many ways if it is relegated. For example, the supporters suffer the pain of defeat and are taunted by rival fans. With their team also playing at a lower level the

following season, it means there will be poorer pitches to play on, lesser-quality players to play against, smaller crowds to play in front of and much less TV exposure. But, as is the case with everything in football today, the main problem is money, or rather, the lack of it. Not only will the number of fans going to matches go down, which means that club revenues decrease, but the team misses out on the riches of the top division.

With TV companies spending more and more money on football each year, the clubs need to be involved in the top divisions if they wish to get their share of the pie. For example, last year Chelsea received £30 million for winning the Premier League title and Sunderland, who finished bottom, received £16 million. For next season, those figures will rise dramatically with the winners receiving £50 million and the team finishing bottom receiving £30 million. No wonder the battle to avoid the drop is such a tense one.