

English for football – week 27

Masterclass

Today's English for football phrase is **'to give a masterclass'**.

Now, a **masterclass** is usually a class given by a master musician, a top musician, to students. The teacher is admired for his or her skill and is an example of what a great musician should be. In football, if a team **gives a masterclass** it means that they 'teach' the other team how to play football. It means that they are so good that we should admire their skill and style. It also means that the other team are made to look like students, learners, amateurs. This week, **AC Milan gave Manchester United a masterclass** in how to play a European cup tie. They destroyed the English team with their passing, speed, and attacking flair. They **gave them a masterclass** in how to play football. Liverpool also beat Chelsea in the Champions League and Benitez out-thought his rival Mourinho. He **gave him a masterclass** in tactics.

Masterclass

Example:

*Let me place my cards on the table as regards 'Rafa the Gaffer.' I have felt for years, through watching Benitez manage at Valencia and now Liverpool, that there aren't many better readers of a football match. Tuesday night's managerial **masterclass** in the UEFA Champions League at Anfield merely reinforced this view.*

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