

Podcast 11 Worksheet

Football Derbies

By Damian Fitzpatrick (October 17th 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

A derby is a game played between two teams that have a strong rivalry – usually from the same city. This report looks at the history of the word derby as well as looking at some of the biggest derbies in the world.

Teams mentioned in the report

England – Arsenal / Everton / Liverpool / Man C / Man U / Tottenham

Scotland – Celtic / Rangers

Turkey - Fenerbahce / Galatasaray

Spain – Betis / Sevilla

Italy – Roma / Lazio

Vocabulary

Bragging rights – to be able to show off to the opposing fans after your team has won

Form is thrown out the window – league position or current ability counts for nothing

There is little love lost – the two teams or sets of fans hate each other!

A. Listening – main point / note taking

Listen to the whole report and take notes under the following headings.

The history of derbies	
Supporters	
Examples of UK derbies	
Fans' view of Celtic / Rangers	
Celtic and Rangers	

B. Listening – true or false

Listen to the first part of the report (until ‘...disliked neighbours.’) and choose whether the statements below are true or false. Give a reason for your answer.

1. T / F People who know a lot about football feel that winning is not everything.
2. T / F Beating a local rival makes winning even better.
3. T / F The word derby comes from the famous horse race.
4. T / F The folk football matches were played in the entirety of the town.
5. T / F Folk football gave some people the chance to get back at others they did not like.

C. Listening – shadowing

Listen to the next section of the report and complete the sentences below with appropriate information.

Example

1. football / experts / tell / important / game / winning
Football experts will tell you that the most important thing about the game is winning
2. derby / game / provoke / tension / emotion /
3. derby / atmosphere / act / leveler / both / team
4. So / what / big / derby / game / Britain

D. Listening – vocabulary

Listen to the final section of the report (from 'The interviews to the end) and fill in the missing words. Then write down the meanings.

1. '... same competitions and there's a very long _____ history between the'

2. '... the biggest derby in Britain is _____ Celtic versus Rangers.'

3. '... Glaswegian fans are quite, sort of, _____ in their support and they actually generally ...'

4. 'Well, a _____ decision. The Old Firm game in Glasgow between Celtic...'

5. '...speakers suggested, the games _____ something more than just football...'

6. 'That still does not mean that the passion, the noise, the _____, the sense of history...'

7. '...and Galatasaray are playing for the pride of two _____ in their games in Turkey.'

ANSWERS

A. Listening – main point / note taking

Listen to the whole report and take notes under the following headings.

<p>The history of derbies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin is unclear • Possibly from folk football • Violent / revenge • Folk football (whole town)
<p>Supporters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provoke high tension • Sometimes violence • Win- bragging rights • Lose – endure taunts
<p>Examples of UK derbies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everton - Liverpool (Merseyside) • Man City – Man Utd • Tottenham – Arsenal (N. London) • Celtic - Rangers
<p>Fans’ view of Celtic / Rangers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Firm • Biggest teams in Scotland • Sectarian / religious aspect • Always battle for the championship • Vociferous fans • Generally dislike each other
<p>Celtic and Rangers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1888 • Rangers – Protestant • Celtic – Irish background/green/Catholic • Don’t like each other • Decline in violence • Still the biggest derby in football

B. Listening – true or false

Listen to the first part of the report (until ‘...disliked neighbours.’) and choose whether the statements below are true or false. Give a reason for your answer.

1. T / F People who know a lot about football feel that winning is not everything.
Experts feel winning is the most important
2. T / F Beating a local rival makes winning even better.
Beating a rival is sweet
3. T / F The word derby comes from the famous horse race.
From folk football (horses not mentioned)
4. T / F The folk football matches were played in the entirety of the town.
The whole town was involved
5. T / F Folk football gave some people the chance to get back at others they did not like.
A way of taking revenge

C. Listening – shadowing

Listen to the next section of the report and complete the sentences below with appropriate information.

Example

1. football / experts / tell / important / game / winning
Football experts will tell you that the most important thing about the game is winning
2. derby / game / provoke / tension / emotion /
the derby game can often provoke high tension and emotion,
3. derby / atmosphere / act / leveler / both / team
the derby atmosphere acts as a great leveler for both teams.
4. So / what / big / derby / game / Britain
So, what is the biggest derby game in Britain?

D. Listening – vocabulary

Listen to the final section of the report (from 'The interviews to the end) and fill in the missing words. Then write down the meanings.

1. '... same competitions and there's a very long **sectarian** history between the'
related to religion
2. '... the biggest derby in Britain is **undoubtedly** Celtic versus Rangers.'
Without a doubt / 100%
3. '... Glaswegian fans are quite, sort of, **vociferous** in their support and they actually generally ...'
loud / vocal / enthusiastic
4. 'Well, a **unanimous** decision. The Old Firm game in Glasgow between Celtic...'
No dissenting voice / undisputed
5. '...speakers suggested, the games **represent** something more than just football...'
mean / stand for
6. 'That still does not mean that the passion, the noise, the **excitement**, the sense of history...'
enthusiasm
7. '...and Galatasaray are playing for the pride of two **continents** in their games in Turkey.'
Asia and Europe

Transcript

Football experts will tell you that the most important thing about the game is winning. It does not matter how well or how badly you play as long as you win, as there is nothing greater than winning. Well, maybe there is one thing, beating one of your local rivals for example, which then makes that victory even sweeter.

Though the origin of the term is a little unclear, it is generally accepted that the word derby originated from folk football times in the UK. These were matches between two different parts of a village that took place over the whole day, throughout the whole town and involved everyone in the area. The games were often violent as players defended their local honour while others saw the match as a way of taking revenge on disliked neighbours.

This feeling has continued through the ages right up to the present time and the derby game can often provoke high tension and emotion, which sometimes leads to violence among the supporters. Derbies are rarely described as cooperative or celebratory but rather as fierce or highly charged affairs and the supporters know that they will have bragging rights if they win but that they will have to endure taunts if they lose, until the next game comes round of course. These games are so tense that form is often thrown out of the window as the derby atmosphere acts as a great leveler for both teams.

So, what is the biggest derby game in Britain? Perhaps the Merseyside derby between Liverpool and Everton? Manchester United versus Manchester City or the North-London derby game between Tottenham and Arsenal? We asked some football fans what they thought.

Tim: I'd have to say The Old Firm, so Rangers-Celtic is the biggest derby. I think because they are not only the biggest teams in Scotland, they're also always competing for the same competitions and there's a very long sectarian history between the two fans.

Paul: There are a lot of big derbies around, of course, there's Everton-Liverpool, Man United-Man City and lots and lots of them in London but I've got to say the biggest derby in Britain is undoubtedly Celtic versus Rangers. Both teams are big teams they're both battling for the championship every year and there's the huge religious divide as well.

Simon: I would say Celtic-Rangers simply because, not just the history I mean all derbies have got history, but there's the religious aspect to it all. I think the Scottish fans, and in particular the Glaswegian fans are quite, sort of, vociferous in their support and they actually generally dislike each other I think.

Well, a unanimous decision. The Old Firm game in Glasgow between Celtic and Rangers is generally regarded as the biggest derby game in Britain. It's been played since 1888 and, as the earlier speakers suggested, the games represent something more than just football. This can be seen from looking at their respective histories, with Rangers receiving most of their support from the Protestant community in Glasgow while Celtic were founded by Irishmen, wear green and their fan base is generally Catholic. There is little love lost between the two sets of fans, though there has been a decline in the violence that affected these games. That still does not mean that the passion, the noise, the excitement, the sense of history and of course, the bragging rights have diminished. Not at all.

Boca Juniors versus River Plate in Argentina may claim to affect 90% of all supporters in the country when they play, fans from Roma and Lazio in the Italian capital or Sevilla and Betis in Andalucia in southern Spain may argue that they hate their opponents more, while Fenerbahce and Galatasaray are playing for the pride of two continents in their games in Turkey, but I have to agree with the earlier comments, the biggest derby in football? If you know your history, it has to be The Old Firm game between Rangers and Celtic.