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English for Football – week 23

Potential banana skin

This week's English for football is the expression banana skin which is often preceded by the word potential, so potential banana skin. This means there is a chance of slipping up, falling or making a mistake and it is used in football when a bigger club is worried about playing a smaller club, usually in a cup competition. So when a team is not playing very well and is drawn away against a side from a lower league then there is a chance of an upset, that the bigger team will slip up, that is, they face a potential banana skin of a game. Portsmouth manager Tony Adams saw his side's visit to Bristol City in the FA Cup as a potential banana skin game, while many saw Chelsea's trip to League 1 Southend as another potential banana skin match. Luckily for both of these teams they avoided any shocks or slip ups this time. Potential banana skin.