

English for Football – week 4

To come a cropper

This week's English for football phrase is to **come a cropper**. Originally, this phrase was used by people riding horses. It meant a heavy fall, coming off the horse. Nowadays it is used to mean to fail badly at something. This week there are many World Cup qualifiers around the world and some of the big teams are sure **to come a cropper**, some will probably be beaten by smaller teams. For example, Scotland travel to Macedonia. Scotland are ranked 16th in the world by FIFA while Macedonia are a lowly 56th. However, it is easy to see **Scotland coming a cropper** against the east-European side. Or how about Ireland against Georgia? Will the Irish **come a cropper**? **To come a cropper.**