

English for Football – week 7

A howler

This week's English for football phrase is make **a howler**. **A howler** is a big mistake, a huge error. The mistake is so bad it makes people laugh in disbelief: people **howl** with laughter. In football, this phrase is usually used to talk about a striker missing an easy chance, a goalkeeper letting in a goal or a referee making a terrible decision. This week, referee Stuart Attwell, after advice from his assistant, awarded a goal to Reading in a match against Watford. The decision was **a howler** as, everybody, the players and fans, managers and ball boys, all saw that the ball was at least a metre from the goal and had simply crossed the line for a goal kick. No one could believe the decision, but the goal was given. The referee **made a howler**.