

## To Throw in the Towel

This week's English phrase for football is to **throw in the towel**. Now, this phrase comes not from football but from another sport – boxing. If a boxer is being hurt badly by his opponent and the boxer has no chance of winning his corner, his team, **throw a towel into** the ring. This means they give up. They stop fighting. When used in football, it means almost the same thing: a team may concede the title to another team, say they cannot win, or they may pick a weak side in a competition because they think they cannot win. In the news recently many people connected to Chelsea and Arsenal have **thrown in the towel** in the championship race – they think they cannot stop Manchester United, while in the UEFA Cup Aston Villa and Tottenham's managers have both **thrown in the towel** in that competition picking weak sides for this week's games to concentrate on the league.

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