

Chelsea Managers *March 10, 2012*

Pre-Listening / Background information

Chelsea have had a lot of managers in recent years. Since Roman Abramovich bought the club, the London side have seen eight managers in eight years.

Before you listen to the report, brainstorm words for when someone loses their job.

Example: *he fired.*

A. Listening for Detail

Listen to the report and complete the table below.

	Name	Dates	Games	Win%	Honours	More
		<i>Jun 2004</i> <i>Sep 2007</i>				
	A _____ G _____	<i>Sep 2007</i> <i>May 2008</i>		67%	<i>None</i>	
		<i>Jul 2008</i> <i>Feb 2009</i>	36			
	<i>Ray Wilkins</i>	<i>Feb 2009</i> <i>Feb 2009</i>	1			
	Guus _____	<i>Feb 2009</i> <i>May 2009</i>			<i>The _____</i> <i>Cup</i>	
		<i>Jun 2009</i> <i>May 2011</i>				
		<i>Jun 2011</i> <i>Mar 2012</i>				<i>35-years old</i>
	Di Matteo	<i>Mar 2012</i>				

B. Vocabulary

Listen to the report again as you read the transcript (below or on the website – languagecaster.com).

What synonyms are there for manager?

ANSWERS – Chelsea Managers

A. Listening for Detail

Listen to the report and complete the table below.

	Name	Dates	Games	Win%	Honours	More (<i>answers will vary</i>)
	Jose Mourinho	<i>Jun 2004 Sep 2007</i>	185	67%	2x League Cup 2x League title FA cup	<i>The special one Lots of money spent on squad</i>
	Avram Grant	<i>Sep 2007 May 2008</i>	54	67%	<i>None</i>	<i>Grey Nearly won the CL</i>
	Luiz Felipe Scolari	<i>Jul 2008 Feb 2009</i>	36	56%	<i>None</i>	<i>Player power</i>
	<i>Ray Wilkins</i>	<i>Feb 2009 Feb 2009</i>	1	100%	<i>None</i>	
	Guus Hiddink	<i>Feb 2009 May 2009</i>	22	70%+	<i>The <u>FA</u> Cup</i>	<i>Players liked him Short contract</i>
	Carlo Ancelotti	<i>Jun 2009 May 2011</i>	109	61%	The Double (FA Cup & League title)	<i>Started to change the team</i>
	Andre Villas Boas (AVB)	<i>Jun 2011 Mar 2012</i>	38	48%	<i>None</i>	<i>35-years old</i>
	Di Matteo	<i>Mar 2012</i>	1	100%	<i>None</i>	<i>caretaker</i>

B. Vocabulary

Listen to the report again as you read the transcript (below or on the website – languagecaster.com).

What synonyms are there for 'to manage a team'?

To be in charge / take the reins / to steer / to take the helm

Transcript

This week an amazing stat has been posted on hundreds of forums, blogs and quoted in articles - Fernando Torres, Chelsea's £50 million striker, has had more managers than goals since January last year. Mind you, these numbers are only possible because he plays at a club who seem to love to sack their coaches - eight in five years. No matter who he hires, the owner Roman Abramovich, just can't seem to settle on one. Let's take a look at the line up starting with one Portuguese manager and ending with the firing of another.

1. Jose Mourinho. In charge for 185 games, and hired by the Russian billionaire who had just bought Chelsea, the Portuguese manager who famously called himself 'the special one' when he arrived at Stamford Bridge in 2004, had a win percentage of 67%. He was lucky enough to be at the start of Abramovich's spending spree - Drogba, Essien, Robben, Carvalho to name a few of the players bought. [During his reign](#), he managed a League and Football League Cup double twice, as well as an FA Cup. Silverware every year for his owner and the fans, but he failed to bring the holy grail of the Champions League that the money his boss splashed out on the squad demanded.

2. Following Mourinho was the Israeli, Avram Grant - the polar opposite in terms of character. Where Mourinho was colourful, Grant was grey. Not so interesting off the pitch perhaps, but his 67% win rate is the same as his predecessor's - he managed that over a respectable 54 games. In charge from September 2007 until the end of the season in 2008, Grant came closest to bringing home the Champions League title. In fact, he was a slip away, having got to the final, where Chelsea faced Manchester United, his side lost on penalties as captain, John Terry [slipped and spooned the ball](#) wide off the post. That miss sealed his coach's fate.

3. Taking the reigns from 2008 came Luiz Felipe Scolari, who won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002. He was ruthlessly sacked with over three months of the season left after a defeat at Liverpool - [two goals in 2 minutes](#) by Fernando Torres. His record was 36 games and a win percentage of 56. It was about this time that people began to talk about player power, as Scolari didn't see eye-to-eye with some players, especially Drogba.

4. It doesn't really count, but Ray Wilkins was coached Chelsea as caretaker manager for one game, an FA Cup tie against Watford, which Chelsea won 3-1. Giving him a 100% win record.

5. To steady the boat, remember it was only February when Scolari was axed, Chelsea turned to Guus Hiddink. But the Dutch boss only agreed a short-term contract as he was also the Russian national team coach. He was a big favourite with the established players like Terry and Lampard who wanted him to stay on as coach when his contract was up in May 2009. In 22 games, Chelsea won 16 and only lost one - that was Barcelona in the Champions League semi finals. Along with this impressive 70%+ winning rate, he steered the Blues to an FA Cup win over Everton in his last game. Whenever there is a vacancy at Stamford Bridge, his name is always mentioned.

6. From June 2009 to May 2011, the Italian Carlo Ancelotti took the helm and gave Chelsea some kind of stability as he was in charge for 109 matches. he will go down as [one of the great managers](#) in the eyes of most Chelsea fans due to the fact that he led Chelsea to the coveted Double - the FA Cup and League title in the 2009/10 season. He also started the process of changing the make-up of the ageing Mourinho-era team. His 61% win percentage was also impressive, but again it was the lack of a European cup and no silverware in 2011 that finally led to the dignified Ancelotti being shown the door.

7. The experienced Italian was gone and Abramovich himself played a big role in choosing the young gun, Andre Villas Boas from Portugal to fill his shoes. AVB came on the back of success at Porto - he won the Europa League with them and his team was undefeated in the 2010/11 season. It was hoped he could freshen up the squad, bring a more exciting style of play to Chelsea, and restart Torres' career (the Spanish striker was firing blanks after his big money move from Liverpool). He was fired after just 38 games and a win percentage of 48%. The end of the road came after a defeat at West Bromwich Albion, a draw in the FA Cup against Championship side Birmingham, and a pummeling at the hands of Napoli in the first leg of the Champions League round of 16 - they lost 3-1 but it could have been more. Again, it seems as though player power played a big part in his departure, and at 35 he was only a few years older than players like Lampard, Drogba and Terry - the backbone of Mourinho's side - making it difficult for him to gain their respect.

8. That leaves Roberto di Matteo in charge. He is manager until the end of the season, but don't be surprised if someone is brought in sooner than planned. But for now, after one game and a win over Birmingham in the FA Cup replay, he enjoys a 100% win record - just like Ray Wilkins!