

1. Read the text about football. Fill in the gaps with a given word. Then check with the proper text below.

## **THE FOOTBALL GAME. FAMOUS NAMES AND BASIC TERMINOLOGY.**

### **From Shopkeepers to Samba Dancers**

*transfer market      ability      league      skillful      wage ceiling*

The idea of kicking something round can probably be traced back to cavemen but the modern day version has its roots in Sheffield as early as the 1850s and 60s with one of the earliest clubs being Sheffield Wednesday, who had started off in 1820 as a cricket club of shopkeepers who played on Wednesdays. The club is still in existence. The first national football \_\_\_\_\_ was formed in 1892 and during the next seventy-five years, many modern clubs from industrial towns enjoyed success, such as Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End, Huddersfield Town and Burnley, one of whose players in the fifties, used to work in the family butcher shop on Saturday mornings and then catch the bus to the ground in the afternoon. Things changed drastically in 1961 when the maximum \_\_\_\_\_ for players was scrapped and the \_\_\_\_\_ opened up, but although England won the World Cup in 1966, football would be influenced by the rhythm of the samba and artistry of the Brazilians, who still have a reputation for being the most \_\_\_\_\_ and flamboyant players. The 1970 World Cup in Mexico showcased the genius known as Pele, (...) with what was, at the time, the unique \_\_\_\_\_ to bend the ball around defensive walls. The Brazilians also set the fashion for individual names such as Socrates, Ronaldinho and Oscar. Brazil aren't quite the force that they once were but they can still run rings around England. Who cares? We still have some of the best beer adverts on telly, which now form part of the essential big business sponsorship package.

### **Footballers off the Rails**

*liver      injured      paw the ball      undoing      fixture      pin-up  
lose the plot      precociously      obesity*

To be a well balanced football viewer these days, you need to be able to off-set the remote control in one hand with a beer in the other. However, before such technology was available, all we had was the bottle and it was all too easy to spiral out of control and into self-destruction. Some footballers also followed this route. The first of these was Gorgeous Georgie, aka George Best, or the Fifth Beatle. From the slums of Belfast in Northern Ireland, George was playing for Manchester United at just seventeen. He was \_\_\_\_\_ talented, once scoring six goals in a game against Spurs, good-looking and football's first pop star \_\_\_\_\_, back in the swinging sixties. Parties and a bevy of beautiful girls followed and soon overshadowed his playing career. During his life, he dated no fewer than six Miss Worlds (...) but it was the demon drink that was his \_\_\_\_\_. He became a life-long alcoholic, interspersing commentary and public speaking with embarrassing drunken appearances on TV. A \_\_\_\_\_ transplant only gave him a second wind on his drinking campaign and he died, broke, at the age of

58. when he once said where his money went, Betsy said, 'I spent a lot of money on booze, birds and fast cars. The rest I just squandered.'

In Britain, the seventies and eighties had a strong drinking culture amongst many teams and George wasn't the only one to \_\_\_\_\_. Arsenal player Paul Merson was once so drunk on an early Saturday kick-off, that he fell over running with the ball with no opponents around him. Colleague, and England team captain, Tony Adams, went one step further. On his way to the airport for an England international \_\_\_\_\_, he stopped for petrol at a service station. He was spotted by some fans who invited him back to barbecue they were having. 'There's just time for a quick one', he thought, but one drink led to another and soon he was in time trouble.

He jumped in his car drunk as a lord, stepped on the gas and ended up rolling it into a ditch. He wasn't badly \_\_\_\_\_ but he did go to jail. He's managed to clean up his act and now works as a coach.

One of the most colorful characters of football history is the diminutive Argentinian legend known as Diego Maradona, who played for Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Napoli. Along with Besty and Brazil's Pele, he competes for the mantle of the world's greatest player ever, but still needed to \_\_\_\_\_ into the net with the first of his two famous goals against England in the 1986 World Cup. When asked if he had handled the ball, he said it was 'the Hand of God'. Perhaps the guilt preyed on his mind, for he descended into drug addiction and even during his playing career was banned for cocaine use. He also had problems with \_\_\_\_\_ and alcoholism, suffered a heart attack and was in intensive care. However, he recovered to manage the Argentine national team for the World Cup in 2010, courting controversy once more for kissing his players as they were substituted and swearing at journalists in press conferences.

### **Some Basic Terminology**

*bad tackle      goalposts      substitutes      offences      outfield player      pitch*  
*stands      penalty box      misconduct      goalie*

The playing field is called the \_\_\_\_\_ and the place where players score, or try to, is called the goal, made up of two \_\_\_\_\_, a crossbar and the net. The pitch is marked out with white lines with perhaps the most important space being the \_\_\_\_\_, in which the \_\_\_\_\_ can handle the ball or, if an \_\_\_\_\_ does so, concedes a penalty – which is a free kick just against the keeper. The fans watch from the \_\_\_\_\_, although usually, these days, they are seated.

Then we have the officials who impose the rules of the game; most important is the referee, otherwise known as ref, 'you idiot' or a whole range of impolite terms; anyway, he's the bloke with bad eyesight. To help him out we have his assistants on the sidelines who say when it should be a throw in or if a player is offside and can flag for \_\_\_\_\_ that the ref may not have seen. There's also a poor soul called the fourth official who stands near the coaches and gets earache from them every time there's a bad decision – quite frequently, then.

The problem is that players are such fakers these days and always diving or pretending that they've been elbowed in the face in order to get a free kick or penalty. I've even taken to watching women's football as they get on with the game and don't roll around like girls. The ref can give a yellow card for a \_\_\_\_\_ or a red for a second offence or serious \_\_\_\_\_. You can't get booked for being offside and it's said that you can't explain the offside rule to women; a sexist view to which I don't subscribe, unless they are women referees.

The players are termed goalkeepers, full backs, centre backs, midfielders, wingers and forwards. There are also \_\_\_\_\_ who sit on the subs 'bench'; in Michael Owen's case, for 50 grand a week. Teams usually have a set formation on outfield players described as, for example, 4-4-2 or 4-5-1. (...)

### General Knowledge Quiz

1. When was the idea of modern football born?
2. Which day of the week was the earliest club named after?
3. What was the daily job of first Sheffield's footballers?
4. Which footballer was called the fifth Beatle?
5. How do you call a 'goalkeeper' in other words?
6. Why do you think today's players are often 'fakers'?

**Answer Key:**

### The Beautiful Game

#### From Shopkeepers to Samba Dancers

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#### **General Knowledge Quiz Answers:**

1. In early 1850s and 60s
2. Wednesday
3. Shopkeepers
4. George Best
5. A goalie
6. They always dive or pretend that they've been elbowed in the face in order to get a free kick or penalty

#### **Bibliografia:**

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