

B1-B2 English Worksheet: Funny Football Phrases At The World Cup - 12 June 2026

Article

Football fans are travelling to North America for the World Cup, and they are bringing many football phrases with them. Some phrases are funny, but they can be confusing for new fans. For example, squeaky bum time means the nervous final minutes of a close match.

Other phrases describe how teams and players behave. Parking the bus means defending very deeply and trying not to lose. A worldie is an amazing goal, and a nutmeg happens when a player kicks the ball through another player's legs. These phrases help fans talk about the game quickly.

Football language is part of fan culture. It can make matches more exciting and help people feel included. However, it can also make new fans feel lost at first. The World Cup is a good chance for people to learn new football words, enjoy the jokes and understand how fans talk about the beautiful game.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. Football fans are travelling to North America for the World Cup.
2. The article says football phrases are always easy for new fans.
3. Squeaky bum time means the nervous final minutes of a close match.
4. Parking the bus means attacking with many players.
5. A worldie is an amazing goal.
6. A nutmeg happens when the ball goes through another player's legs.
7. Football language can help people feel included.
8. The article says the World Cup is a bad chance to learn football words.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. football fans	A. defending with many players near the goal
2. World Cup	B. people who are new to watching something
3. football phrases	C. a very good goal
4. new fans	D. a major international football tournament
5. close match	E. feel confused
6. parking the bus	F. a game where the score is very close
7. not to lose	G. the shared habits and language of supporters
8. amazing goal	H. people who support football teams
9. fan culture	I. to avoid being defeated
10. feel lost	J. expressions used to talk about football

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. travelling	A. worried
2. funny	B. opportunity
3. confusing	C. journeying
4. nervous	D. protecting
5. final	E. unclear
6. describe	F. comprehend
7. defending	G. explain
8. included	H. last
9. chance	I. involved
10. understand	J. amusing

Use the new language

Choose 5 words or phrases from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Do you like watching football?
2. Which football phrases do you know in English?
3. Do sports commentators use funny phrases in your language?
4. What makes a match exciting to watch?
5. Have you ever felt lost because people used special vocabulary?
6. Is it useful to learn slang when you learn English?
7. Do you prefer serious commentary or funny commentary?
8. What sports words from your language are difficult to translate?

Student B

1. Why do sports fans create so many special phrases?
2. Can football language make people feel part of a group?
3. Is slang helpful or confusing for language learners?
4. Should commentators explain football phrases to new fans?
5. Why do funny expressions become popular so quickly?
6. Can learning football phrases make watching the World Cup more enjoyable?
7. How is fan culture different from country to country?
8. What sports phrase from your country should English speakers learn?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=T, 7=T, 8=F

Phrase Match: 1=H, 2=D, 3=J, 4=B, 5=F, 6=A, 7=I, 8=C, 9=G, 10=E

Synonym Match: 1=C, 2=J, 3=E, 4=A, 5=H, 6=G, 7=D, 8=I, 9=B, 10=F

Example sentences with the phrases

1. Football fans often sing before a big match.
2. The World Cup brings many countries together.
3. Football phrases can be funny and colourful.
4. New fans may need help with special vocabulary.
5. A close match can be very stressful to watch.
6. Parking the bus is not always exciting, but it can work.
7. Some teams defend deeply because they do not want to lose.
8. Everyone remembers an amazing goal in a final.
9. Songs and jokes are part of fan culture.
10. At first, some learners feel lost when fans speak quickly.