



LISTENING

THE PREMIER LEAGUE RUN IN

In order to do this task, you should follow these steps:

1. Listen to the podcast.
2. Do the exercises below.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text.
4. The answers to the exercises will be available on the website next week.

• QUESTIONS

Read the following questions and choose the correct answers:

1) What is the main advantage for Manchester City that makes them have more possibilities to win the Premier League?

- a) They still have to play against Liverpool and Everton.
- b) They have played two games less than their rivals and, what's more, they lie in third place.
- c) This season they have spent a huge amount of money on transfers.

2) Chelsea has moved from first to second place on the table because...

- a) They have lost two matches out of their last three ones.
- b) They won their match against Arsenal with a final score of 6-0.
- c) They played against Liverpool and they lost that game.

3) The most important drawback for Liverpool to win the title is that...

- a) Most people think that they will finish the season in fourth place.
- b) They have been beaten in their last eight games.
- c) They still have to play against Manchester City and Chelsea, and defeat them.

4) **What is the difference in points between Arsenal and the team which is in first place on the table?**

- a) 64 points
- b) 7 points
- c) There is no difference because they lie in first place.

5) **According to the predictions, which team is more likely to win the Premier League title this season?**

- a) Liverpool
- b) Arsenal
- c) Manchester City
- d) Chelsea

• **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **To splurge:** to spend a lot of money; to waste a lot of money.
- **Game in hand:** have an extra game; to have played a game less than your rivals.
- **Merseyside:** a region in the north-west of England that contains the City of Liverpool and the teams Everton and Liverpool.
- **Goal difference:** the sum of goals after totaling the goals scored minus goals conceded – important in most leagues when teams have equal points.
- **Plucky underdog:** a brave, unfancied team; a team that tries hard but is not expected to win.
- **To sit pretty:** be in a comfortable position; often in football, in a good position in the league.
- **To pooh-pooh:** to dismiss; to play down; to make less important or less realistic.
- **To grind out:** win by playing compact, defensive football.
- **To slip:** to fall; to drop down.
- **Demolition:** an impressive win with a lot of goals; destroying another team.
- **A bridge too far:** Something that is too difficult to achieve; a position after doing well, where you cannot go further.

- **On the bounce:** one after another; in a row; with no gaps.
- **To score for fun:** to score a lot of goals; to make scoring look easy.
- **To tail off:** to have a run of poor results; a situation when performances become slowly worse; to fall behind.
- **A tilt;** an attempt; a try; a chance.

• **PODCAST TRANSCRIPT**

THE PREMIER LEAGUE RUN IN

The favourites: Manchester City

Winners in 2012, but only twice before that, the Blues from Manchester will be hoping that the huge amounts of money they have **splurged** on talent can win them another title. They have two **games in hand** on the teams around them and currently lie in third place on 67 points. They have eight games remaining and if they win them all, they will be champions. Their biggest challenge will come on **Merseyside**, where they have to travel to Liverpool and Everton, both teams with ambitions, one for the title and one for a Champions League spot. They have a fantastic **goal difference** of plus 52, which could quite possibly prove to be crucial if they drop a few points. City are no longer the **plucky underdogs** of yesteryear (*antaño, pasado*) and could win the title race.

Conclusion: Champions

Faltering (*vacilante, dubitativo*)? Chelsea

A few weeks ago, the London side was **sitting pretty** at the top of the league and, while their manager was **pooh-poohing** their chances, they looked set to **grind out** another title with efficient but mostly unattractive play. But two loses in their last three games have seen them drop points and **slip** into second on 69 points. It would be a brave person to bet against them however, especially considering their 6-0 **demolition** of Arsenal two games ago. The biggest threat to their chances may be the Champions League, which seems to be affecting their league form. They also travel to Liverpool, and Mourinho will fancy his chances of denting (*afectar, hacer mella en*) the Reds chances, just as he went to Manchester City and comfortably beat the pundits' (*comentaristas*) favourites on that day.

Conclusion: second

Dark Horses: Liverpool

Despite the fact that the Merseyside club is currently in first place with 71 points, two ahead of Chelsea and four ahead of Manchester City, it is doubtful that they can stay there. If they win their last six games they will be Champions, but those wins must include defeating Manchester City and Chelsea, which is surely **a bridge too far**. Before the season, most people gave them only an outside chance of finishing 4th, but now they find themselves in the form of their season – winning eight **on the bounce** and **scoring for fun**; 30 in those last eight games. A fact that has made them the favourites of most neutrals.

Conclusion: third and a say in who wins the title

Hanging on by a thread: Arsenal

Arsenal fans must be wishing they could wake up from the nightmare that sees their team again **ailing off** in February and dropping away from the title race. They have 64 points, 7 off the top spot, and have been beaten 6-3 by Manchester City, 5-1 by Liverpool and 6-0 by Chelsea. They do have the consolation of **a tilt** at the FA Cup, which is the best chance the Gunners have of silverware this season.

Conclusion: No chance: 4th.