



**LISTENING: American football and football**

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.

✓ **WORKSHEET**

**1) Listen to the whole report and answer the following questions.**

**1. Which team does David support?**

- a) New England Patriots
- b) Seattle Seahawks
- c) Cleveland Browns
- d) Baltimore Ravens

**2. According to David, in American sports, teams...**

- a) never get relegated
- b) can get relegated
- c) cannot be sold to another city

**3. According to David, it is easier to be a life-long fan in American sports because...**

- a) fans do not have to suffer relegation or see their team in a lower league
- b) tickets to watch a match are much cheaper
- c) there isn't a huge rivalry among teams

**4. The Cleveland Browns were re-named...**

- a) Baltimore
- b) the Baltimore Ravens
- c) the Browns

**2) Listen to the final part of the report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word.**

David: Yeah, I've noticed football, meaning soccer, teams do not move cities. The team is the team (a) \_\_\_\_\_ that city forever. But in America, in all sports, teams can be sold and move (b) \_\_\_\_\_ another city overnight. I think that's a big difference.

Damian: Are there any examples?

David: Yes, unfortunately the team my family supports the Cleveland Browns (c) \_\_\_\_\_ Cleveland were sold overnight and they moved to Baltimore and the Cleveland Browns were re-named the Baltimore Ravens. And Cleveland, the city, had (d) \_\_\_\_\_ buy a new team and they re-named them the Browns and, unfortunately, the statistics and all the winning plays and losing plays did not follow. The Cleveland Browns today started (e) \_\_\_\_\_ with their statistics and players and all the old... the old team is now in Baltimore and it created a huge rivalry and a lot of bad feeling (f) \_\_\_\_\_ the two cities.

✓ **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **facing off:** playing against
- **the Super Bowl:** the final match of the American football season
- **bumped to a lower league:** relegated
- **invested:** involved
- **started over:** to begin again

✓ **PODCAST TRANSCRIPT**

**American football and football**

It's Super Bowl weekend and so, on this week's listening report, we take a look at some of the differences between American football and football. We have an interview with a fan of both sports, David.

**Damian:** Now this weekend sees the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks **facing off** in Arizona to decide which team will win **the Super Bowl** and so, on this week's main report, we talk to an American colleague, David, about some of the main differences between the two forms of football. We started off by asking David what team he follows when he's at home in the States.

**David:** Normally, I'd watch American football.

**Damian:** OK, do you have a team?

**David:** Yes, unfortunately, my team is the Cleveland Browns; my family has cheered for them for years and they're one of those teams that always just almost makes it to the play-offs and then fails miserably.

**Damian:** That sounds very familiar to a Tottenham fan. He then went on to discuss one major difference between the structure of the two sports.

**David:** For soccer, there's something called relegation and, in American football, we have no such thing as relegation; the teams are the teams in the league all the time no matter if they win or lose; nobody gets **bumped to a lower league**.

**Damian:** What do you think? Would American sports benefit from such a thing?

**David:** I think maybe the fans would benefit because if you're a fan of a team; say my family has supported the Cleveland Browns for years, the threat that they will be relegated is scary and then if they do get relegated to a lower league, you can cheer for them to fight their back and you'll feel a sense of pride – you're **invested** more – instead of knowing that they're always going to be in the National Football League, they're always going to be in the top league. You're a football fan, you're a football fan for life even if they get relegated. If they go down two leagues, you have to maintain that fandom. If you're a fan for life in many American..., I think all American sports, the team's never gonna be relegated and maybe, I don't know, maybe it's a little easier to be a fan for life.

**Damian:** David then went on to highlight one other major distinction between the two sports.

**David:** Yeah, I've noticed football, meaning soccer, teams do not move cities. The team is the team for that city forever. But in America, in all sports, teams can be sold and move to another city overnight. I think that's a big difference.

**Damian:** Are there any examples?

**David:** Yes, unfortunately, the team my family supports, the Cleveland Browns from Cleveland, were sold overnight and they moved to Baltimore and the Cleveland Browns were re-named the Baltimore Ravens. And Cleveland, the city, had to buy a new team and they re-named them the Browns and, unfortunately, the statistics and all the winning plays and losing plays did not follow. The Cleveland Browns today **started over** with their statistics and players and all the old... the old team is now in Baltimore and it created a huge rivalry and a lot of bad feeling between the two cities.