



LISTENING

BACK TO THE FUTURE II: FOOTBALL IN 2045

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 if necessary.

✓ WORKSHEET

1. **October 21st was the date when...**
 - a. The film Back to the Future was released.
 - b. The characters in the film finished their time travels.
 - c. The characters in the film started their time travels.
2. **One of the predictions is based on the increase of the pitch size because...**
 - a. Players will be in a better physical condition and teams will be more organised.
 - b. Players will become fitter and teams won't be as organised as they are nowadays.
 - c. The number of substitutions made by teams will be higher.
3. **It's unlikely that tickets for matches will be free due to the fact that...**
 - a. Clubs will have to pay for their stadiums.
 - b. Clubs won't reject the possibility of earning lots of money.
 - c. The TV market won't be interested in free games.

4. According to the podcast, in 2045, ...

- a. Clubs will have followed the US model and they will be franchises.
- b. Clubs will have followed the US model and will still keep their own stadiums.
- c. The link between the club and its locale won't be broken at all.

5. In China and India, biotechnology will be used to...

- a. Increase the number of goals scored
- b. Preserve 'traditional' football
- c. Improve players' efficiency and strength

✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

Fitter: comparative form of *fit* -> in good physical condition; in good health

Countering: responding to

Tactics: a plan for attaining a particular goal

Doubtful: unlikely, improbable

Turn down: reject or refuse

Priced out: to make someone pay a great deal of money for something

Enticing: attractive

Locale: a place or area, especially with reference to events connected with it

Franchises: a business established or operated under an authorization to sell or distribute a company's goods or services in a particular area

Break from: escape

Enhance: improve

Performance: the act of doing something successfully; effectiveness

Strength: the quality of being strong

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

BACK TO THE FUTURE II: FOOTBALL IN 2045

As we mentioned in a previous listening post, October 21st was the date when the characters in the 1985 film *Back to the Future* went on their time travels. To celebrate this classic movie date, we are going to take a look at what football may look like in 30 years time.

Who knows what changes in the game of football we might see over the next three decades but here are a few possibilities:

Pitch size increases

As players become **fitter** and teams more organized, then one way of **countering** this is by making the pitch bigger.

More substitutions

Currently, teams can make three substitutions from five who have been named on the bench and this may change in the future to give managers even more choices over **tactics**.

Free tickets

This one may sound **doubtful**; no club will **turn down** the chance of making millions on match-day ticket prices but if fans are **priced out** of the game, then the atmosphere in the stadium will no longer be **enticing** for the TV market.

Club Football

The link between the club and its **locale** will largely be broken. Clubs will be **franchises** along the US model. For example, Manchester City will no longer play in Manchester but somewhere nearer London, so that it can take part more easily in the European Premier League, which consists of the top 20 teams in Europe.

China and India

Asia may **break from** the 'traditional' football of the rest of a world, with a new form of football with a new set of rules. It will be a form of the game that is much more open to new rules, most aimed at increasing the number of goals scored. Matches will regularly see 10 goals. Biotechnology will be used to **enhance** players' **performance** and **strength**.

Let us know if you have any suggestions of what football may look like in 30 years time by posting a comment below.