



LISTENING

WHO WILL WIN THE 2015/2016 PREMIER LEAGUE?

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. How many Premier League titles has Arsenal won in its whole history?
 - a. They have won 14 league titles.
 - b. They have won 13 league titles.
 - c. They have won four league titles.
2. The team that was about to be relegated last season is...
 - a. Leicester City
 - b. Tottenham
 - c. None of the two teams mentioned above
3. Tottenham has not won the Premier League title for...
 - a. 16 years
 - b. 31 years
 - c. 55 years
4. The players in Tottenham...
 - a. Are happy with the manager
 - b. Would like to have a different manager
 - c. Often have arguments with their manager
5. Predictions say that the favourite teams to win the Premier League title are...
 - a. Leicester City and Spurs
 - b. Manchester City and Arsenal
 - c. Manchester United and Arsenal

✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

- **Challengers:** players who compete to get a title or championship
- **Key players:** essential players
- **On goal difference:** teams who are level (=equal) on points are separated by goal difference
- **Will fancy their chances of:** think they can win
- **Hold on to:** grasp
- **Come the end:** at the end
- **The Gunners:** the nickname of Arsenal
- **Assists:** a passage of play that helps a team-mate in scoring a goal
- **All appear winnable:** they should win these games
- **Unscathed:** undefeated
- **Joint top:** two teams that are top of the table
- **The Foxes:** the nickname of Leicester City
- **Pundits:** critics or commentators
- **To falter:** to fail
- **Swift:** moving or be able to move with great speed
- **Fixtures:** series of scheduled meets
- **Holders:** owners
- **To stroll to the title:** to easily win
- **A point off the top of the table:** they have one point less than the leaders
- **To contend with:** to deal with
- **Assembled:** gathered in one place
- **Spurs:** the nickname of Tottenham
- **Run-ins:** the last few games of the season
- **Four points adrift of first place:** four points behind the leaders
- **Settled squad:** team with not too many changes in which players appear to be happy
- **A smash and grab victory:** united defended game and with their only shot they won the match
- **The Red Devils:** the nickname of Manchester United
- **Be ruled out:** to be eliminated

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

WHO WILL WIN THE 2015/2016 PREMIER LEAGUE?

We are over half way through the English Premier League season and still we are no closer to knowing which team will be champions in May. Seven points separate the top five teams with 16 games to go, so let's take a look at the title **challengers**.

Arsenal

The London side has not won the Premier League trophy since 2004, but is in a great position to win their 14th league title this season. Despite missing **key players** such as Sanchez, Coquelin and Wiltshire, they are currently top **on goal difference** and **will fancy their chances of holding on** to first place **come the end** of the season. Star player for **the Gunners** has been Mesut Özil, who has provided the most **assists**, that's 16 in 18 games, this season. Their next few games **all appear winnable** but they face a tough ten days in February/ March with matches against Leicester, Manchester United, Tottenham and Barcelona in the Champions League. If they get through that period **unscathed**, then Arsenal fans may well be celebrating before their penultimate match against Manchester City in May.

Leicester City

Not even the most optimistic Leicester City fan could have expected their team to be **joint top** of the Premier League after 22 games. **The Foxes** have only lost twice this season, home to Arsenal and away at Liverpool, and despite many **pundits** tipping them to **falter**, their tough defense and **swift** counter-attacking style has proved to be a winning combination. Their next set of **fixtures** sees them up against Stoke City, Manchester City, Liverpool and Arsenal but if they were to come through those tough games, then why can't the team who miraculously escaped relegation last season dream about Champions League qualification or even winning the title for the first time in the club's history?

Manchester City

With **holders** Chelsea struggling this season, it appeared open for Manchester City **to stroll to the title** but the blue-half of Manchester has struggled to find any consistency this season. Their cause has not been helped by injuries to key players, most notably Sergio Agüero, David Silva and the club captain Vincent Kompany, but they are still only **a point off the top of the table**. They will also have

Champions League games **to contend with**, so their expensively-**assembled** squad will be tested but, for many experts, City are still favourite to lift the trophy.

Tottenham

Spurs have not won the league title since 1961, only their second ever, so the north London side does not have the experience needed for title challenges or **run-ins**. However, the youngest squad in the division finds themselves **four points adrift of first place** and very much part of the title race. They have a **settled squad**, a strong back four and a manager who the players seem to enjoy playing for. They have also been slightly fortunate with injuries and will be hoping this continues until the end of the season, particularly with leading scorer Harry Kane.

Manchester United

After Louis Van Gaal's side beat Liverpool at Anfield in what can only be described as a **smash and grab victory** at the weekend, the manager suggested that **the Red Devils** can still win the title. Fans and pundits alike lament the style of play that the Dutch manager has instilled at the club; yet they are only seven points behind the leaders and have winners throughout the team. They also have the easiest run-in on paper, so they cannot **be ruled out** at all.

Predictions

There will be many ups and downs before the title is decided but it surely has to be between City and Arsenal, though Leicester and Spurs fans can still dream on for a little while longer.