



## LISTENING

### 2016 EUROPA LEAGUE LAST 16 PREVIEWS

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. In the return leg against Shakhtar Donetsk, Anderlecht is expected to...
  - a. Finish the match with a draw
  - b. To defeat Shakhtar
  - c. To be defeated by Shakhtar
2. The team that has won four matches consecutively is...
  - a. Manchester United
  - b. Liverpool
  - c. Aston Villa
3. Borussia Dortmund and Tottenham have met four times in friendly matches. Who has won three out of the four matches?
  - a. None of them. They have always ended in a tie.
  - b. Borussia Dortmund
  - c. Tottenham
4. In which country will the Europa League final be played?
  - a. In Switzerland
  - b. In Italy
  - c. In Spain

**5. The team that was banned for two seasons because of a corruption scandal was...**

- a. Fenerbahçe
- b. Sporting Braga
- c. Bayer Leverkusen

✓ **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **Not relish:** not look forward to
- **Outscore:** to defeat an opponent by focusing on offence
- **Attacking flair:** have an exciting attacking style of play
- **On the bounce:** in a row; one after the other
- **Netting:** scoring
- **Isn't too shabby:** is not bad; is quite good
- **Clash:** to coincide
- **A slip up:** drop points; lose unexpectedly
- **Fighting on two fronts:** be involved in two competitions (in this case, the league title and the Europa League)
- **Too close to call:** too difficult to decide a winner
- **The bookies:** the companies that take bets on games; professional gambling companies
- **Uphill struggle:** a very difficult challenge
- **Pull off a shock:** surprise people
- **Evenly:** on the same level
- **Lie in fourth place:** are in fourth position
- **Conceded:** were scored against; allowed a goal to be scored
- **Outsiders:** competitors not considered likely to win
- **Carry a bigger goal threat:** are stronger in attack; more likely to score

## ✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

### 2016 EUROPA LEAGUE LAST 16 PREVIEWS

This week's listening practice report looks ahead to some of the last 16 games of the Europa League that are taking place next week.

16 teams: four Spanish, three English, two German and one each from Portugal, Ukraine, Turkey, Belgium, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Italy. The last 16 of the Europa League has some intriguing fixtures.

#### **Shakhtar Donetsk – Anderlecht**

Anderlecht will **not relish** the 1,400 kilometre trip to play Shakhtar, but Shakhtar do not have a great record playing at home. The Belgium side may hope to come away with a draw and **outscore** the Ukrainian side in the return leg. Prediction: Anderlecht to progress

#### **Liverpool – Manchester United**

Inconsistent Liverpool come up against a Manchester side that seem to have found some **attacking flair** recently. The Red Devils have won four **on the bounce**, **netting** 11 goals. Liverpool's recent record **isn't too shabby** either, though, as they recently put three past Manchester City and six past Aston Villa. Prediction: Liverpool to get one over their northwest rivals.

#### **Borussia Dortmund – Tottenham**

Tournament favourites Dortmund **clash** with a strong Tottenham side. The sides have met four times in friendlies and the London team have won three and drawn one, so they may feel confident, despite a **slip up** in the league when they lost 1-0 to London rivals West Ham. Both teams are second in their domestic leagues, so are **fighting on two fronts**, and both also face massive games this weekend; Dortmund against Bundesliga leaders, Munich, and Tottenham against their fierce North London rivals, Arsenal. Prediction: **too close to call**, but the **bookies** have Dortmund to win.

#### **FC Basel – Sevilla**

Sevilla have won this competition a remarkable four times in a decade and have lifted the trophy for the last two years, so FC Basel face an **uphill struggle**. If the Swiss side do progress, they could be playing the final in their home stadium, as that is

the venue this year for the final. Sevilla have a poor away record in the competition so far, while Basel have not lost at home. Basel are also the only domestic champions still in the tournament. Prediction: Basel **to pull off a shock**.

### **Athletic Bilbao – Valencia**

Both these Spanish teams are mid-table in La Liga, so this is a great chance for one of them to go for some glory this season. **Evenly** matched, the bookies have Athletic Club Bilbao slight favourites, probably based on the fact that Athletic beat Valencia at Valencia 3-0 earlier in the league. Athletic also have the tournament's top score, Aritz Aduriz, so will be confident, especially at home. Prediction: Athletic to go through.

### **Fenerbahçe – Sporting Braga**

Fenerbahçe have some injuries going in to this tie; Ba and Markovic are out and Meireles is a doubt. The Turkish side had been banned for two seasons following a corruption scandal, but they did manage a semi final appearance in the Europa League in 2013, while this is the first time Braga have featured in the last 16. Prediction: a comfortable win for Fenerbahçe.

### **Villarreal – Bayer Leverkusen**

Based on domestic form, Villarreal should just be favourites for this tie. They **lie in fourth place**, in a Champions League position, while Bayer Leverkusen are seventh in the Bundesliga. The Spanish side are extremely strong at home, with no goals **conceded** in the last four home games in Europe. Bayer are also poor on the road, with one win against Sporting Clube. Prediction: a narrow win for Villarreal.

### **Sparta Prague – Lazio**

The bookies have Sparta as the **outsiders** at 50 to one to win the cup. Neither side has lost since the group stage started, but Lazio **carry a bigger goal threat**: 17 goals to 14 from Sparta. Sparta also go in to this tie with the worst disciplinary record of any other teams in the competition. Prediction: the Italian team to get to the quarters.