



LISTENING

THE RELEGATION ZONE

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

1. Listen to the podcast until minute 3'51.
2. Do the exercises below. There is only one correct answer for each question.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text if necessary.

✓ WORKSHEET

1. **According to the podcast, the match between West Ham and Shrewsbury Town...**
 - a. was really boring because none of them was able to take the lead during the match
 - b. was really poor because there was no extra time
 - c. was exciting
 - d. was poor because they were able to break the deadlock
2. **Some of the good news was that...**
 - a. female football fans in Saudi Arabia have been banned from going to football stadiums
 - b. children fans in Saudi Arabia are now allowed to go and watch football at stadiums
 - c. male football fans in Saudi Arabia have been banned from going to football stadiums
 - d. women in Saudi Arabia are now allowed to go to football stadiums
3. **In the match between Liverpool and Manchester City...**
 - a. the result was a draw
 - b. Liverpool beat Manchester City
 - c. Liverpool was defeated by Manchester City
 - d. Manchester City beat Liverpool
4. **VAR (Video Assistant Referee)...**
 - a. is widely accepted by the football community
 - b. is not accepted at all in football
 - c. raise different reactions among football lovers and professionals
 - d. is accepted by everyone



✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

- **Replay:** extra game played to decide a drawn match in a knock-out competition
- **Tier:** level, rank, division
- **Extra time:** time added on to a cup or knock-out match that has finished in a draw to try to find a winner, usually 30 minutes
- **To break the deadlock:** to take the lead
- **Defeat:** to beat another team
- **VAR:** Video Assistant Referee, that is to say, technology that help referees with difficult decisions including goals, penalty decisions, red card incidents and wrongful identity

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

THE RELEGATION ZONE

DB: You are listening to Languagecaster's football language podcast. Hi, there. My name's Damon. I hope you are enjoying the weekend and thanks for listening. I'm in a chilly Tokyo; funny that, it's winter, and I'm still buzzing after my team, Liverpool, beat Manchester City 4-3 last weekend! Football is great, isn't it? Another thing that's great is Damian, and hopefully he's down the line in London. Damian. How are things over in the UK?

DF: Hello Damon, and hello to you and to all our listeners. Good to hear from you and yes, things are good here in London. As you said, it's winter, so pretty chilly, but that didn't stop me from going along to watch some football last week. I managed to catch West Ham's third round FA Cup **replay** against League One side, Shrewsbury Town; that's the third **tier** in the English game at the London Stadium here in East London.

DB: You're a brave man. It must have been chilly on the stands. How was the game?

DF: It was freezing. The game was poor, really poor, and went to **extra time** as neither side had been able **to break the deadlock**, but eventually the Premier League side scored a very late goal to win 1-0. And they face another League One side, Wigan Athletic who surprisingly won the trophy in 2013, in the fourth round.

DB: That's right.

DF: Now Damon, what's on the show this week?

Line up

DB: Well, regular listeners will know that we have three main sections on this podcast: a look back at the footballing news, a chat about some football phrases and a look

forward to some of the games in our predictions. Now, this show will follow that format and we'll throw in our usual quiz question, too!

Good

DF: Now, let's start by looking at some good news from last week in the world of football. It was good for female football fans in Saudi Arabia, as the ban on allowing them to go and watch football at stadiums was lifted, which means that Saudi women are now free to go and watch their favourite players and teams. It was also good for Liverpool and really the Premier League, as the Reds **defeated** Manchester City 4-3 in the Premier League last weekend. The result will probably not affect the title race with City so far ahead but it did provide the League with a thrilling encounter, as both teams attacked from the kick-off. A great game to watch as a neutral; I wonder what it must have been like for a Liverpool fan like yourself Damon?

DB: Well, it was fabulous to watch although City scored two in the last 10 minutes, I was hiding behind the sofa at that point!

DF: OK, how about bad from the week in football, Damon?

Bad

DB: Well, you mentioned **VAR** – Video Assistant Referee – last week and it was in the news again for the wrong reasons last week in an FA Cup replay between Chelsea and Norwich. There were a string of debatable decisions which makes people wonder what the point of having VAR is. I think in a game like football, VAR just doesn't suit the fluid nature of football, and I'm hoping it doesn't last too long. Now, anything else, Damian?

DF: Well, before I come on to that, I kinda' disagree. I think there's teething problems at the start; I think it could be useful as long as there's a little bit more control. So, for example, in the NFL they have one or two chances to use VAR but I agree at the moment there's been some issues around it, yes.