



LISTENING

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

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

1. Listen to the podcast until minute 5'57.
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 Damian, there was no Premier League football that weekend because...**
 - a. They took a day off.
 - b. There were international matches.
 - c. They got a lot of snow.
 - d. They were late than usual.
2. **In the matches England versus the Netherlands and Ireland versus Turkey...**
 - a. England won and Ireland lost.
 - b. The Netherlands won and Turkey lost.
 - c. England lost and Ireland won.
 - d. Both matches ended in a draw.
3. **The team that lost against Brazil was...**
 - a. Japan
 - b. Mali
 - c. Russia
 - d. Moscow
4. **Manchester United has recently established a profesional women's team because...**
 - a. It is the most successful club in England.
 - b. It was good news for women.
 - c. The manager decided to do so.
 - d. It was the only club in the Premier League that didn't have a professional women's team.



✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

- **International friendlies:** games between two national football teams without being competing
- **Covering:** the reporting or broadcasting of news
- **Highlight:** the most exciting or memorable part of an event or period of time
- **Caps:** an appearance for your country, the number of times that someone plays in international games
- **To thrash:** to beat another team easily by scoring a lot of goals. This is most often used in the passive: to be thrashed, to lose by a lot of goals.
- **Venue:** the place where the game is placed (the stadium, the pitch)
- **To salvage a draw:** to save a point by either having some luck in scoring the equaliser or that their goal came very late
- **Last-gasp equaliser:** goal that happens in the last minutes or seconds of a game and that causes a draw
- **Boo:** to cry “boo” at someone to express disapproval
- **Counter-attack:** a style of playing that involves breaking quickly from any part of the pitch when the ball is recovered from the opponent
- **Slide-rule pass:** an extremely accurate pass
- **To backheel:** to kick the ball with the heel (or the back) of the foot
- **Feint:** to make a movement to deceive an opponent
- **Put it on a plate:** to present a player with a good scoring opportunity

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

DB: You are listening to Languagecaster’s football-language podcast. Hello football fans and welcome to the show. If you love football and are maybe interested in improving your English, too, well, you’re at the right place! My name’s Damon and I’m based in Tokyo, which has just started cherry blossom viewing. Yes, the trees are blossoming and everyone is out with friends drinking and eating underneath the flowers. I love this time of year. Way over the continents of Asia and Europe is Damian in London. Damian, how are things?

DF: Hello Damon and hello to all our listeners. As you may have noticed, we are a little later than usual this week; the international break means no Premier League football this weekend, so we took a day off!

DB: We did

DF: Damon, I miss the cherry blossom season in Japan. What is the name of this season in Japan again?

DB: Well, in Japan, it’s called *hanami*; basically, looking at flowers.



DF: That's right. Well, the weather here in London is a little grey and overcast but it looks like we may be getting more snow. It is supposed to be spring time!

DB: Have you seen any of the **international friendlies**, by the way? I haven't seen any unfortunately, as the **coverage** is not so good here in Japan.

DF: Well, I caught some of the **highlights** of the Friday night games: the English media were happy with the 1-0 win over the Netherlands, though they also recognised that this Dutch side is not so strong, while I was disappointed that Ireland lost 1-0 away in Turkey, although the Irish team was experimental; not the full-strength team as there were some new **caps** playing.

I also noticed that hosts Russia **were thrashed** 0-3 by an in-form Brazil side in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, and this is the **venue** for the opening game in the World Cup and, of course, the final as well. Damon, how did Japan do in their friendly?

DB: Well, they drew 1-1 with Mali. They **salvaged a draw with a last-gasp equaliser**. People over here weren't too impressed. OK, what do we have on the show this week?

Line up

DF: OK, well let's start the show with a few stories from the week in football in the good, the bad and the ugly section. And we'll follow that with the second part of the show, that's football language and a quiz question before our final section: predictions. And we've got Spain versus Argentina, mouthwatering if this was a competitive match; England v Italy, of course, Italy didn't make it to the World Cup this year; and Germany v Brazil, 7-1 anyone?

DB: Great stuff. Right, let me kick off with some good news.

Good

DB: So, it was good news for women's football in England, as Manchester United finally decided to establish a professional women's team. The most successful club in England and one of the biggest clubs in the world was also the only Premier League club not to have a professional women's team. Hopefully this will help raise the profile even more for women's football. Late but good from Manchester United.

Also good for Germany and Spain, who drew in a friendly this week 1-1. This means neither team has been defeated since the Euro 2016 Championships. That's 22 games unbeaten for Germany and 17 without a loss for Spain. Both teams feature in our predictions later and face stiff tests: Germany facing Brazil and Spain against Argentina. Can they keep their unbeaten runs going?

Bad

DF: Yeah, amazing from those two teams and both will feature, I'm sure, in the latter stages of the World Cup later this year; only 80 days until the start of the competition. Now, hopefully something that won't feature is the bad behaviour of England's fans



who embarrassed their country again with some appalling, terrible behaviour in Holland, as the national side took on the Dutch. Over 100 were arrested for drunkenness and anti-social and violent behaviour, while sections of England fans also **booed** the Dutch national anthem before the game. Poor from this group, who hopefully are not representative of most England fans.

One more bad, and this time for Scotland, who were beaten at home by Costa Rica 1-0 in their friendly. Now, Scotland were famously beaten by Costa Rica by the same **scoreline** in the 1990 World Cup, which was a huge shock at the time. I was in Genoa that day and met some Scottish fans who I remember were stunned, oh, they were so upset. The sad thing for Scotland is that this defeat is not felt as a shock anymore with the Central American side sitting above the Scots in FIFA's rankings. Bad for Scotland and their new manager, Alex McLeish. And ugly Damon?

Ugly

DB: Yes, that was poor from Scotland. Another team to lose was France, 3-2 against Colombia but they scored a stunning counter-attacking goal, so not ugly for me this week but fantastic. Please, watch it if you have a chance, but I'd like to describe it as it is full of great football language too! First, there is a **counter-attack** with the ball being brought forward by Djibril Sidibe. He plays a **slide-rule pass** just beyond the Colombian defence to Griezmann, who **backheels** the ball into the path of Kylian Mbappé. Mbappé **feints** to pass, taking the defender out the game, before **putting it on a plate** for Thomas Lemar to smash home from just outside the six-yard area. Brilliant, and we'll be talking about the phrase 'to put on a plate' later in the show.