



LISTENING

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.
4. The answers to the exercises will be available on the website next week.

• **QUESTIONS**

Read the following questions and choose the correct answer:

- 1) It seems that Bayern Munich will sign up...
 - a) Henrikh Mkhitaryan
 - b) Lewandowski
 - c) Klopp
- 2) Commentators think that the rival of Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga will be...
 - a) La Liga and The Premier League
 - b) Bayer Leverkusen
 - c) Borussia Dortmund
- 3) The coach of Bayer Leverkusen will be...
 - a) Sami Hyypiä
 - b) Sami Hyypiä and Lewandowski
 - c) André Schürrle
- 4) The team that is fighting to stay in the top division is...
 - a) Bayer Leverkusen
 - b) Schalke 04
 - c) Braunschweig
- 5) In the Bundesliga, the teams which are on the frame to win are...
 - a) Braunschweig and Nürnberg
 - a) Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund
 - b) Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen

- **VOCABULARY SUPPORT**

- **one-horse race**: a competition with only one team that can win.
- **firepower**: attacking strength; in football, good strikers, the ability to score goals.
- **to poach**: steal; take something without another's permission.
- **to slip up**: make a mistake; lose a game.
- **playmaker**: usually an attacking midfielder; someone who has the ability to control a game, to pass intelligently.
- **frailties**: weaknesses; weak points.
- **undoing**: a person or team's reason for failing.
- **to dine at the top table**: be comfortable with being at the top of the league.
- **uphill struggle**: a very difficult task; something that takes a lot of effort.
- **the top flight**: the top division; the top league.
- **the summit**: the top place; first place.
- **to hit the ground running**: start well; win the first few games; get points from the first games.
- **to ship goals**: to give away goals; to allow the opponent to score.
- **a long haul**: a long campaign; a long season with few victories; a struggle.

- **PODCAST TRANSCRIPT**

After Damian looked at Ligue 1 in France last week, this week I am going to focus on the Bundesliga. Which teams are in the frame to win? And who is tipped for the drop?

The Bundesliga

With its well-run clubs, huge attendances and relatively cheap tickets, many people are looking at German football with envy. Add to that two teams in the final of the Champions League last season, and perhaps the German Bundesliga can be considered as a challenger to the two most popular leagues in Europe, La Liga and The Premier League.

The favourites

Who are the favourites for this year's title? It looks a **one-horse race**. Last season, Bayern Munich won the treble – the Champions League, the league and the German Cup and they were 25 points ahead of nearest rivals, Dortmund. Now with Pep Guardiola installed as manager, they also added **firepower** to the squad with Dortmund's Götze. It also looks as though Bayern will **poach** Lewandowski from Dortmund, weakening last year's closest rivals even more. Most pundits believe the challenger will be Borussia Dortmund, but they will need to rely on Munich's new manager **slipping up** and they will hope that their new **playmaker**, Henrikh

Mkhitaryan, shines. Their manager, Klopp, has built an exciting attack-minded side, but defensive **frailties** may be their **undoing**.

In with a shout

While top spot is unlikely, Bayer Leverkusen showed enough progress last season to convince many that they are ready to **dine at the top table**. This season, Sami Hyypiä will manage the team on his own after sharing the job with Lewandowski for 2012/13. Leverkusen certainly has a united team, but have no big name stars, especially after André Schürrle's exit. They have invested heavily in youth and will be hoping that, as they have no huge expectations, they can play without pressure and build on last season.

Whipping boys

The team that faces an **uphill struggle** to stay in the **top flight** is Braunschweig. Although they have been champions before, which was back in 1967, and they haven't been back at the **summit** for decades. The Lions finished 2nd to earn promotion last year, and will need to **hit the ground running** to stand any chance of staying up. Unfortunately, in the first six games of the season they have only picked up 1 point, **shipping** 14 goals. It's going to a **long haul** for Torsten Lieberknecht's men.