

English for football – week 5

‘Prima donna’

This week's English for Football is **prima donna**. Now the reason for this week's English for Football's phrase is that the Queen of England described English footballers as **prima donnas**. Now, what does it mean? Well, **prima donna** come from the opera expression, 'first lady' so it's from Italian and it means someone who is probably very egotistical or selfish and they have a high opinion of themselves, possibly vain, even irritating. So, Ronaldo from Manchester United could be described as a **prima donna** player. And of course, Carlos Tevez for West Ham, the Argentinian international, who walked out after being substituted may also be described as a **prima donna**. But probably the most irritating and vain player in the whole of the Premier League at the moment has to be Ashley Cole of Chelsea, a clear example of a **prima donna**.

Examples

*"Football's a difficult business and aren't they **prima donnas**?"*

The Queen gives her verdict on the beautiful game to Premier League chairman Sir David Richards.

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