

Podcast 18 Worksheet

Footballing Clichés

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 1st 2007)

Pre-Listening (Background information)

'Match of the Day' is a popular, football TV show on BBC 1 in the UK

Brian Clough was a famous English manager

Adrian manages a non-league team: an amateur team in England.

A. Main idea

Listen to the first part of the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F Players and managers tend to use the same expressions and vocabulary when being interviewed on TV.

2. T / F Adrian thinks clichés are not often correct.

3. T / F 'Over the moon' is a positive example of a cliché.

4. T / F 'Sick as a parrot' is a positive example of a cliché.

5. T / F Adrian admits to using clichés fairly often.

6. T / F Adrian's players do not care as much about football as players from Real Madrid.

B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the next part of the report and fill in the gaps with an appropriate word.

Damian: For example?

Adrian: You know (1) _____, you're trying to wind them up, you're trying to get them going, you know, 'there's no place for losers'; you know, 'winning is an attitude'; 'when you cross the white line', you know, 'you leave it all on the pitch'; I don't want anyone coming off that pitch (2) _____ they haven't 'given 100%'; '110%', you know, I'm no (3) _____ but I don't think you can give 110% but I often ask my players to give me 110% and they very often do, you know.

'You only get out what you put in'; Or maybe you will have a go at them, I mean, I try not to (4) _____ at my players but occasionally you have to kind of gee them up a bit. You know, my (5) _____ can play better than that, you know, or words to that effect. It's (6) _____ you've heard before.

Quite often I don't know if it makes an (7) _____ on the players or not, because, you know, they've heard it time and time again. But I think, if you pitch it right, you know, and you use it...I think sometimes it comes from the heart you just say, you know, what you really mean and they get the (8) _____ even if it's in cliché form. But at the end of the game, great game, OK, didn't go well for us today, game of two halves is always a good one. It only takes a (9) _____ to score a goal – Brian Clough, yes. I mean, some of the managers they are better at it than others. Some of the managers actively (10) _____ cliches but I don't think they're getting the message over any better really, but yes, it's good fun.

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why does Adrian call players and managers, 'stupid'?

2. Give an example of why a player would be 'over the moon', according to the report.

3. Give an example of why a player would be 'sick as a parrot', according to the report.

4. What does he mean when he claims that, 'I am no mathematician.'

5. Overall do you think Adrian is in favour of clichés being used?

6. What do you think the following clichés mean in football? Explain them in your own words.
 - a) sick as a parrot
 - b) over the moon
 - c) a game of two halves
 - d) give 110%
 - e) it only takes a second to score a goal
 - f) winning is an attitude
 - g) fall into the trap
 - h) at the end of the day (not in the report)

Podcast 18 Worksheet - ANSWERS

Footballing clichés

A. Main idea

Listen to the first part of the report and explain if these statements are true or false.

1. T / F Players and managers tend to use the same expressions and vocabulary when being interviewed on TV.
players tend to come out with the same things, managers tend to come out with the same things
2. T / F Adrian thinks clichés are not often correct.
cliches because they are very often true and they're very often right.
3. T / F 'Over the moon' is a positive example of a cliché.
elation of winning
4. T / F 'Sick as a parrot' is a positive example of a cliché..
the opposite of that of course is ...classic, 'sick as a parrot
5. T / F Adrian admits to using clichés fairly often.
I know I fall into the traps when I'm on the sideline
6. T / F Adrian's players do not care as much about football as players from Real Madrid.
they're amateur players but it still means as much to them as it does to Real Madrid, Man United players

B. Listening - vocabulary

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. pre-match | 6. stuff |
| 2. thinking | 7. impact |
| 3. mathematician | 8. second |
| 4. swear | 9. message |
| 5. grandmother | 10. avoid |

C. Comprehension

Listen to the report and answer the following questions.

1. Why does Adrian call players and managers, 'stupid'?

Because they repeat the same expressions over and over

2. Give an example of why a player would be 'over the moon', according to the report.

Scoring / winning

3. Give an example of why a player would be 'sick as a parrot', according to the report.

Lost a penalty shoot-out / come second in the League / lose a semi final

4. What does he mean when he claims that, 'I am no mathematician.'

He is being ironic and making the point that 110% is a ridiculous idea – but effective!

5. Overall do you think Adrian is in favour of clichés being used?

Absolutely – I have watched him in action and we play 'cliché bingo' listening to him!

6. What do you think the following clichés mean in football? Explain them in your own words.

a) sick as a parrot

disgusted/so upset

b) over the moon

elated/ so happy

c) a game of two halves

one team dominates for 45 minutes

then the other

d) give 110%

make an extreme effort

e) it only takes a second to score a goal

anything can happen at anytime

f) winning is an attitude

psychology is important in football

g) fall into the trap

make the same mistakes

h) at the end of the day (not in the report)

when all is said and done (another cliché)

Transcript

Footballing clichés

By Damian Fitzpatrick (March 1st 2007)

Damian: Yes, so on today's show we are talking about footballing clichés and to help us understand a little bit more about what they are we interviewed a manager from England, a non-league manager, about what kind of clichés he uses and why.

Damian: Adrian, how are you doing?

Adrian: Yes, very well thanks, Damian.

Damian: OK, talk a little bit about clichés.

Adrian: Well, clichés, I mean they're ... I think the general public they watch 'Match of the Day', you know, players tend to come out with the same things, managers tend to come out with the same things. Clichés you hear them again and again and, you know, it kind of ... people think, ah, stupid footballers, stupid managers, but to be perfectly honest I think the thing about clichés is they're clichés because they are very often true and they're very often right.

Gareth: Which is a cliché in itself

Adrian ...in itself.

Damian: Can you give us an example?

Adrian: Well, you know, 'over the moon' I mean, you know, the elation of scoring, the elation of winning, you know, that's how you feel 'over the moon'.

Damian: And the opposite of that of course is ...

Adrian: The classic, 'sick as a parrot'. I mean, I'm not sure how parrots, you know, generally feel but 'sick as a parrot' has kind of come into the, you know, into the sort of the language of football. Everyone knows what you mean by it, you know, you've just lost a penalty shoot-out, you've just been knocked out of the Cup in the semi-final, you've lost the League on goal difference, you've just missed the play-off place – 'sick as parrot'. Everyone knows what it means, you know, and really it's almost ...

it's so cliched it just ... it just, there's nothing else you can say that would better it almost.

Damian: I then asked Adrian what kind of cliches he uses with his team.

Adrian: I know I fall into the traps when I'm on the sideline or in the changing rooms before with my...they're amateur players but it still means as much to them as it does to Real Madrid, Man United players. You hear yourself saying the same things, you know, you get a bit of ribbing about it but, you know, half time ...

Damian: For example?

Adrian: You know pre-match, you're trying to wind them up, you're trying to get them going, you know, 'there's no place for losers'; you know, 'winning is an attitude'; 'when you cross the white line', you know, 'you leave it all on the pitch'; I don't want anyone coming off that pitch thinking they haven't 'given 100%'; '110%', you know, I'm no mathematician but I don't think you can give 110% but I often ask my players to give me 110% and they very often do, you know.

'You only get out what you put in'; Or maybe you will have a go at them, I mean, I try not to swear at my players but occasionally you have to kind of gee them up a bit. You know, my grandmother can play better than that, you know, or words to that effect. It's stuff you've heard before.

Quite often I don't know if it makes much of an impact on the players or not, because, you know, they've heard it time and time again. But I think, if you pitch it right, you know, and you use it...I think sometimes it comes from the heart you just say, you know, what you really mean and they get the message even if it's in cliché form. But at the end of the game, great game, OK, didn't go well for us today, game of two halves is always a good one. It only takes a second to score a goal – Brian Clough, yes. I mean, some of the managers they are better at it than others. Some of the managers actively avoid cliches but I don't think they're getting the message over any better really, but yes, it's good fun.