

## Join in: Football – For Men Only?

### Football – For Men Only?

Is football a sport for men only? Football is becoming more and more popular with all sorts of people, but who are they?

#### Aims

In this article, you will:

- find out who goes to Premier League matches
- learn some new vocabulary
- practise much/many/a lot of
- practise saying difficult numbers
- hear about a match for women and children only!



Girls supporting their team - Action Images: Lee Mills

### Introduction

Think about the following questions:

- What sort of people go to Premier League matches?
- Is it men only?
- Is it just young people?
- Is it mostly white people?

### Before you read

Before you read the article, make sure you know all the difficult words.

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

season ticket   attract   increase   refused   research   sector   ethnic   minority  
attendance   society   includes   safety

1. To do a big study of something is to do \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ people means to interest people in something.
3. All the people in Britain together are called British \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The match \_\_\_\_\_ is the number of people who went to the match.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ of cats are grey - a small part of the total number of cats.
6. There has been an \_\_\_\_\_ in the number of people with Iphones - it is growing.
7. If a baby rides in a car, they need to sit in a special seat for \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If you buy a Manchester United kit, the price \_\_\_\_\_ the socks - you get the socks as well.
9. Carlos Tevez \_\_\_\_\_ to play for Manchester City - he said 'no'.
10. If you want to watch every Arsenal match this year, you must buy a \_\_\_\_\_ - one ticket for the whole year.
11. A part of the population that is different because of skin colour, language or nationality is an \_\_\_\_\_ group.
12. In a football match, one \_\_\_\_\_ of the stadium is for the fans of the home team - the fans of the other team are in a different part of the stadium.

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New research shows that the Barclays Premier League is attracting more and more fans from all parts of society.

- 5 In the past, there was not much information about Premier League fans, but now there is some new research by a company called Populus. They looked at attendance numbers from Premier League matches and found that of the 13.6 million fans who attended, 2.6 million (19%) were female and 1.1 million (8%) were from black or other ethnic minority groups. They also found that, of the 2.3 million people have only been going to matches for the last 5 years, 800,000 (33%) are females and 400,000 (16%) are ethnic minorities. This shows that there is an increase in the number of women and minority groups going to Premier League matches.

#### SAFETY

- 20 It is the extra safety offered by the Premier League clubs that is attracting more and different fans. This extra safety includes more stewards\*, CC TV cameras\*\* and refusing fans who have been in trouble in the past. Black and Asian fans also say that they feel safer as the number of women, children and minorities like themselves going to football matches has started to grow.

#### FAMILIES

- 30 Ticket sales show that in 2009/10, 13% of season tickets went to children. Populus research has found that over  $\frac{1}{4}$  of people who attend matches take their children and about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of those said that they see going to a Barclays Premier League match as a family day out. Almost all of them (97%) feel safe outside the stadium before and after the match, and inside the stadium during the match.  $\frac{3}{4}$  feel that their club is trying to make the match more child-friendly.



Girls supporting their team - Action Images: Lee Mills

- 40 Parents who take their children to watch football are more likely to talk regularly to their children about football and a lot of other issues too.

Research said that it was one of the few times that children were happy to be seen outside the home with their mum or dad!

#### 45 ETHNIC MINORITIES

Among black fans, the increase in the number of black players has made a lot of difference to these fans feeling OK when they attend matches.

- 50 At the moment, there are not many British-born south Asian players at the top of the sport, but Asian groups believe that there will soon be more, like there are in cricket and boxing.

#### RESEARCH

- 55 Richard Scudamore of the Premier League said, "Football is increasingly attractive to more sectors of society, which is fantastic". He went on to say that it was not long ago that football was seen as being for 'young, white males' only. "We now attract more of everyone," he said, "women, children and black and minority ethnic fans".

\* a steward watches the fans at a match and tell the police of any problems

\*\* closed-circuit television cameras to watch the fans

This article is adapted from:

<http://www.premierleague.com/page/Headlines/0,,12306~2133074,00.html>

## Comprehension Check

Did you understand the article? Did it say that only men attend football matches?

Read the statements and decide if they are true or false.

1. Populus studied the different people who attend Barclays Premier League matches.
2. Nearly half of people going to Premier League matches are women.
3. The number of people going to matches from Black or minority ethnic groups has gone up.
4. Extra safety at matches includes tickets for fans who have been in trouble in the past.
5. Cameras watch the fans to make matches safer.
6. 13% of people who go to matches are children.
7. Children don't like to be seen with their parents at a football match.
8. The increase in the number of Black players makes Black fans feel OK to attend matches.
9. There are a lot of British-born south Asian cricket players and boxers.
10. Richard Scudamore said that football is for young, white men only.

## Language Focus – much/many/a lot of

In the article there were some expressions to talk about quantity:

“there was not <b>much</b> information ...”
“ parents talk about football and <b>a lot of</b> other issues too”
“ the number of black players has made <b>a lot of</b> difference”
“there are not <b>many</b> British-born Asian players”

What is the difference between **much/many/a lot of**?

**A lot of** can be used in all sentences (but **not** questions with ‘how much’ or ‘how many’)

**Many** is used for things we can count e.g. apples and hours

**Much** is only used for things we can't count (uncountable) e.g. fruit and time

To learn more about **countable** and **uncountable** words, have a look here:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/nouns/uncount-nouns>

To make things more difficult, **much** is usually used only in **questions** and **negative sentences**, so:

	positive sentences	questions and negatives sentences
<b>countable words</b>	a lot of many	a lot of ( <b>not</b> questions with ‘how many’) many
<b>uncountable words</b>	a lot of	a lot of ( <b>not</b> questions with ‘how much’) much

## Correct the mistakes

Read the sentences and decide if they are correct or not. Can you correct the ones that are wrong?

1. I have many work to do today.
2. There are not much American players in the Premier League.
3. Premier League players must not eat too much food before a match.
4. Premier League players don't have a lot of free time
5. The manager gives the players much advice before a match.
6. How much teams are there in the Premier League?
7. Manchester United has a lot of fans.
8. How a lot of matches do Arsenal play every year?
9. Some Premier League clubs do not have many money.
10. A lot of women and children go to football matches.
11. How a lot of French players are there in the Premier League?
12. I don't have many time to finish this game!

## Saying difficult numbers

How do you say the numbers? Click on the correct answer.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 13.6 million               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. thirteen comma six million</li> <li>b. thirteen point six millions</li> <li>c. thirteen point six million</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. 19%               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. nineteen per cent</li> <li>b. ninety per cent</li> <li>c. nineteen percentage</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. 1/4               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a quart</li> <li>b. a quarter</li> <li>c. a four</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. 97%               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. nineteen-seven per cent</li> <li>b. nine and seven per cent</li> <li>c. ninety-seven per cent</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. 400,000               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. four hundred thousand</li> <li>b. four hundred point zero</li> <li>c. four hundred thousands</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. 2/3               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. two threes</li> <li>b. two third</li> <li>c. two thirds</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The year 2009               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. two thousand and nine</li> <li>b. twenty-nine</li> <li>c. two oh oh nine</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. 3/4               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. three over four</li> <li>b. three fours</li> <li>c. three quarters</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. The year 2010               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. twenty one zero</li> <li>b. two zero ten</li> <li>c. twenty ten / two thousand and ten</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. 2.3 million               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. two point three millions</li> <li>b. two point three million</li> <li>c. two comma three million</li> </ol> </li> <li>11. 1/2               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a half</li> <li>b. a halve</li> <li>c. a demi</li> </ol> </li> <li>12. 800,000               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. eight hundred point zero</li> <li>b. eight hundred million</li> <li>c. eight hundred thousand</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## Time to Chat

Did you know that on Tuesday 20th September 2011 there was a football match played in front of only women and children fans?! Fans of the Turkish club Fenerbahçe ran onto the pitch during a friendly match in July, so the game had to be stopped.

To stop it happening again, the Turkish Football Federation refused entry to the 20th September match to all men over the age of 12. More than 41,000 women and children attended and it was a big success!

What do you think?

Was it a good idea to refuse entry to men?

Should it be done more often?

How can you stop trouble at football matches?

Write to us and tell us what you think.

### Answers

**Before you read:** 1 – research, 2 – attract, 3 – society, 4 – attendance, 5 – minority, 6 – increase, 7 – safety, 8 – includes, 9 – refused, 10 – season ticket, 11 – ethnic, 12 – sector

**Comprehension Check:** 1 – true, 2 – false, 3 – true, 4 – false, 5 – true, 6 – false, 7 – false, 8 – true, 9 – true, 10 – false, -

**Correct the mistakes:** 1 - I have a lot of work to do today, 2 - There are not a lot of/may American players in the Premier League. Both are correct. 3 – correct, 4 – correct, 5 - The manager gives the players a lot of advice before a match. 6 - How many teams are there in the Premier League? 7 – correct, 8 - How many matches do Arsenal play every year? 9 - Some Premier League clubs do not have much/a lot of money. Both are correct. 10 – correct, 11 - How many French players are there in the Premier League? 12 - I don't have much/a lot of time. Both are correct.

**Saying difficult numbers:** 1 – c, 2 – a, 3 – b, 4 – c, 5 – a, 6 – c, 7 – a, 8 – c, 9 – c, 10 – b, 11 – a, 12 – c