

Featured Club – Arsenal

**Arsenal**

Arsenal football is one of the London clubs. Their home stadium is the Emirates stadium and their nickname is The Gunners.

**Aims**

In this article, you will:

- learn some new vocabulary
- practise listening or reading
- learn some interesting information about Arsenal football club



Arsenal - Action Images: Tony O'Brian

**Matching game**

Match the words with the descriptions.

1. capacity	2. impressive	3. top-of-the-range	4. pedestrians
5. merchandise	6. savour	7. reputation	8. borough

- a. describes the best quality that money can buy
- b. people who travel on foot
- c. the opinion that people in general have about someone or something
- d. describes something that you admire or respect
- e. a town or part of a town
- f. the total amount that can be contained or produced
- g. things that are bought or sold
- h. to enjoy food or an experience

**Watch the video**

If you have access to the internet, now watch the Premier League’s video guide to Arsenal. If you don’t have access to the internet, you can read the transcript.

## Featured Club – Arsenal

## Transcript:

Hi, I'm John Dykes. Welcome to the Premier League's video guide to Arsenal Football Club. Here we'll take you behind the scenes at the Emirates Stadium, we'll give you a insight into the match day experience as well as other things to see and do in and around the club.

With a capacity of more than 60,000, the Emirates Stadium is one of the most impressive sporting arenas in Europe. Arsenal's previous ground, Highbury, held just 38,000 and after extension plans were rejected, the search for a new home began.

In November 1999, the club announced proposals to build a new stadium nearby at Ashburton Grove. Work began on the project in August 2002 and in 2006, 93 years of history moved just a few hundred metres down the road to the Emirates Stadium. Keeping the stadium in the borough of Islington maintained the club's heritage and created 1800 new jobs in the area.

In addition, 2000 new homes were built including more than 700 at the old Highbury site. Behind the scenes,

the Emirates boasts top-of-the-range facilities for the players to prepare meticulously match day.

Getting there is simple, London's comprehensive public transport network will take you within a few minutes walk of the ground and clearly located signs will help pedestrians find their way from stations or bus stops. Two bridges were built at the east of the stadium to cater for arrival by rail.

Once you've reached the stadium, why not visit the Armoury, the official club shop, loaded with top quality merchandise to ensure you're kitted out appropriately in Arsenal's famous red uniform. With a reputation for playing the best football, entertainment is always guaranteed at the Emirates. All that's left now is for you to take your seat and savour the rocking atmosphere.

If you'd like to experience the thrill of the Barclays Premier league in person, then why not visit the ticket availability section of premierleague.com or visit the club's website.

## Comprehension Task

Match the numbers with the items from the video.

1. 1800
  2. 2000
  3. 700
  4. 4
  5. 38,000
  6. 93
  7. 2
  8. more than 60,000
- a. The number of flats built in the old Highbury stadium
  - b. The capacity of the Emirates stadium
  - c. The capacity of Arsenal's old home, Highbury
  - d. The number of years Arsenal played at Highbury
  - e. The number of new jobs created at the Emirates stadium
  - f. The number of new homes built as a result of the Emirates Stadium
  - g. The number of years it took to build the Emirates stadium
  - h. The number of bridges built around the Emirates stadium

## Language task – Military Language

Lots of the vocabulary in the video was related to the military. Match the words with the descriptions.

arsenal --- gunner --- kit out --- loaded --- armoury --- uniform

1. \_\_\_\_\_ = the name for a set of clothes that soldiers wear (a football kit is a type of this)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ = to provide someone with equipment
3. \_\_\_\_\_ = a collection of weapons
4. \_\_\_\_\_ = someone who fires a gun (in the army)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ = when a gun has a bullet in it and is ready to fire
6. \_\_\_\_\_ = a place where weapons are stored

## Arsenal and the past simple

Read the text and select the correct form of the past simple.

Arsenal's previous ground, Highbury, (1) **holded** / **held** / **helded** just 38,000 and after extension plans were (2) **reject** / **rejoct** / **rejected**, the search for a new home (3) **beginned** / **begane** / **began**.

In November 1999, the club (4) **announced** / **annonce** / **announct** proposals to build a new stadium nearby at Ashburton Grove.

Work (5) **beginned** / **begane** / **began** on the project in August 2002 and in 2006, 93 years of history (6) **mave** / **mived** / **moved** just a few hundred metres down the road to the Emirates Stadium.

Keeping the stadium in the borough of Islington (7) **maintaint** / **maintained** / **maintainirred** the club's heritage and (8) **create** / **create** / **created** 1800 new jobs in the area.

## Answers

**Matching game:** 1 – f, 2 – d, 3 – a, 4 – b, 5 – g, 6 – h, 7 – c, 8 – e

**Comprehension Task:** Arsenal in Numbers: 1 – e, 2 – f, 3 – a, 4 – g, 5 – c, 6 – d, 7 – h, 8 – b

**Language Task:** 1- uniform, 2 – kit out, 3 – arsenal, 4 – gunner, 5 – loaded, 6 – armoury

**Language Task 2:** 1 – held, 2 – rejected, 3 – began, 4 – announced, 5 – began, 6 moved, 7 – maintained, 8 – created