

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### Introduction

Many football fans enjoy playing fantasy football, which is a game that allows players to manage their own team of international superstars. The game is popular worldwide, and this lesson uses the game as a starting point to introduce descriptive language (adjectives) and practise comparatives and superlatives. The lesson focusses on these areas of language, but there are plenty of opportunities to focus on speaking, too.

### Level

A2-B1 (strong elementary - intermediate)

### Age group

Teenagers and young adults

### Aims

- To select a team from a pool of players.
- To learn more about comparative structures.
- To learn more adjectives based on physical abilities.

### Approximate Time

45 mins + 45 mins

This lesson is flexible and can be used over two different classes or one 90-minute class. You can also extend or shorten some of the steps depending on the level and needs of your students.

### Preparation

- Worksheet 1 - Pre-match presentation
- Worksheet 2 - Player profiles
- Worksheet 3 - Creating your fantasy football team
- Worksheet 4 - Focus on comparatives and discussion

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### Procedure

#### 1. Lead-in to the topic

Write 'football coach' on the board and ask students, in pairs, to brainstorm what a football coach does.

Ask students to write down a famous football or sports coach.

Ask them to add two qualities that a coach needs in his or her job.

Ask students to share a sentence or two. For example:

*"A football coach needs to be **decisive** because he needs to make important decisions quickly."*

Students collect adjectives from the rest of the class and add to a spidergram in their notebooks.

#### 2. Listening for gist

Write the following questions on the board:

- What is special about today's football match?
- When and where is the match taking place?

Answer: It's the first home match of the season.

Tell students that they are going to listen to a coach's pre-match presentation to the media (**worksheet 1**). Students need to answer the questions on the board. Read out the presentation at a natural speed.

### Procedure (cont.)

#### 3. Listening for detail

Dictate the following five questions to your learners. Read out the presentation again. If students find this difficult, you can read it again and give them the multiple-choice options.

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

1. What is the team's formation?

- a. 3-5-2
- b. 4-4-2 (correct)
- c. 5-4-1

2. Why is Mills in goal?

- a. Tallest
- b. Youngest
- c. Fittest (correct)

3. How many players are described as the most consistent?

- a. 3
- b. 2
- c. 4 (correct)

4. Where are the fastest players?

- a. In defence
- b. In midfield
- c. On the wings (correct)

5. Barnes and Twaddle are described as...?

- a. Sharper (correct)
- b. More accurate
- c. More attacking

### 4. Guided Discovery

Hand out **worksheet one** and ask the students to look at the text.

Ask students to underline the comparative structures and circle the superlative structures in the text.

Answers:

Comparatives	Superlatives
fitter	the strongest
more accurate	the most consistent
sharper	

Ask students to think about how and when the words 'than', 'the', 'more' and 'most' are used in comparative and superlative structures.

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### Procedure (cont.)

#### 5. Controlled Practice One

On the board write: GK, DF, MF, FW.

Ask students to say what they mean.

Answers: goalkeeper, defender, midfielder and forward.

Put students in pairs (A's and B's).

Give all the A students worksheet 2A and the B students worksheet 2B.

Students ask each other for the missing information. Encourage students to begin questions with 'How + adjective ...?' For example:

A: How tall is Romelu Lukaku?

B: He's one hundred and eighty-eight centimetres.

Students then complete the text with comparative forms.

Ask students to discuss which player they should select for their team. They need to justify their decision.

Students mingle to compare ideas with other students. A model dialogue:

A: You chose Ronaldo? Why? Lukaku is younger and taller.

B: Yes, but Ronaldo is more experienced, he's scored more goals and he's more valuable.

End of lesson one (45 mins).

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### 6. Controlled Practice 2

Tell students that they are going to choose their perfect player for their favourite football team.

Give out **worksheet three**. Check the meaning of *strength, speed, accuracy and creativity*.

Ask students to write down these nouns and work out the adjectives and put them next to them (**strong, speedy/fast, accurate and creative**).

In pairs, students discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each player and decide which player they would sign and justify their opinions.

Have a class vote to decide which player should be signed.

### Procedure (cont.)

### 7. More Practice (Worksheet 4)

Put the students into four and tell them they have to pick a 5-a-side team from a squad of twelve players. They need to choose the following:

- 1 goalkeeper
- 1 defender
- 1 midfielder
- 1 forward
- 1 free choice

Each player has a value and each team can spend a maximum of £10 million.

Students discuss which players to pick and why. Encourage the use of comparative and superlative structures here.

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### 8. Present your team

Regroup the students so there is one member of each team in each new group. Students compare teams and decide which team they think is the best and why.

Write on the following adjectives on the board so students can use them: strong, fast, accurate, creative, valuable, good and bad.

### Extensions

Create your own fantasy football league. It might be fun to see which 5-a-side team performs best based on real-life matches. You could give players points for how they play:

three points for scoring a goal

three points for providing an assist

three points for a clean sheet (no goals conceded)

one point deducted for each goal conceded

Your class could follow the performances of the teams over a weekend, a month or a whole season in the Premier League or if you could base this lesson on players from the league in your country.

Alternatively, you could give your students a real-life task. They could enter a fantasy football team on the Fantasy Premier League website.

# Premier Skills English

## Picking a winning team

Using adjectives to compare and contrast

### Worksheet 1

Read the text quickly and discuss these questions:

1. What is special about today's football match?
2. When and where is the match taking place?

*Good afternoon everyone, as it's the first game of the season there are quite a few surprises in today's line up.*

*Let's begin with today's goalkeeper, we have chosen Mills to play in goal. He has shown he is fitter in training lately. Our defence will be Harris, Kane, Dublin and Smith. All four players have proved to be the strongest and most consistent. In central midfield, MacDonald and Walters have been selected for being more accurate with their passing than the other players in the squad. On the wings, our fastest players, Barnes and Twaddle will supply crosses. Up front, Sterling and Albion will play as both have been sharper than any other player in training.*

*Thank you and I hope you enjoy the game.*

## Worksheet 2A

Ask and answer questions to complete the information in the player profiles.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Petr Cech</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Arsenal</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>GK</b>
<b>Age</b>	36
<b>Height</b>	196 cm
<b>Weight</b>	92 kilos
<b>Caps</b>	124
<b>Goals</b>	0
<b>Trophies</b>	19
<b>Value</b>	FREE

<b>Name</b>	<b>David De Gea</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Manchester Utd</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>GK</b>
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Height</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	
<b>Caps</b>	
<b>Goals</b>	
<b>Trophies</b>	
<b>Value</b>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Virgil van Dijk</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>DF</b>
<b>Age</b>	27
<b>Height</b>	193 cm
<b>Weight</b>	90 kilos
<b>Caps</b>	25
<b>Goals</b>	27
<b>Trophies</b>	3
<b>Value</b>	£60 million

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vincent Kompany</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Manchester City</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>DF</b>
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Height</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	
<b>Caps</b>	
<b>Goals</b>	
<b>Trophies</b>	
<b>Value</b>	



Name	N'Golo Kante
Club	Manchester City
Position	MF
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Caps	
Goals	
Trophies	
Value	

Name	David Silva
Club	Manchester City
Position	MF
Age	32
Height	170 cm
Weight	66 kilos
Caps	125
Goals	100
Trophies	17
Value	£15 million

Name	Harry Kane
Club	Tottenham Hotspur
Position	FW
Age	24
Height	184 cm
Weight	82 kilos
Caps	38
Goals	158
Trophies	2
Value	£95 million

Name	Romelu Lukaku
Club	Manchester United
Position	FW
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Caps	
Goals	
Trophies	
Value	

## Worksheet 2B

Ask and answer questions to complete the information in the player profiles.

<b>Name</b>	<b>David De Gea</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Manchester Utd</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>GK</b>
<b>Age</b>	27
<b>Height</b>	192 cm
<b>Weight</b>	80 kilos
<b>Caps</b>	35
<b>Goals</b>	0
<b>Trophies</b>	9
<b>Value</b>	£50 million

<b>Name</b>	<b>Petr Cech</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Arsenal</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>GK</b>
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Height</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	
<b>Caps</b>	
<b>Goals</b>	
<b>Trophies</b>	
<b>Value</b>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vincent Kompany</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Manchester City</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>DF</b>
<b>Age</b>	32
<b>Height</b>	190 cm
<b>Weight</b>	88 kilos
<b>Caps</b>	84
<b>Goals</b>	29
<b>Trophies</b>	12
<b>Value</b>	£5 million

<b>Name</b>	<b>Virgil van Dijk</b>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Liverpool</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>DF</b>
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Height</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	
<b>Caps</b>	
<b>Goals</b>	
<b>Trophies</b>	
<b>Value</b>	

Name	N'Golo Kante
Club	Manchester City
Position	MF
Age	27
Height	168 cm
Weight	65 kilos
Caps	31
Goals	15
Trophies	4
Value	£40 million

Name	David Silva
Club	Manchester City
Position	MF
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Caps	
Goals	
Trophies	
Value	

Name	Harry Kane
Club	Tottenham Hotspur
Position	FW
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Caps	
Goals	
Trophies	
Value	

Name	Romelu Lukaku
Club	Manchester United
Position	FW
Age	25
Height	188 cm
Weight	88 kilos
Caps	60
Goals	175
Trophies	5
Value	£65 million

## Worksheet 4

Look at the player profiles in worksheet two and complete the dialogue with the correct name.

A: I think we should choose \_\_\_\_\_ as our forward because he's younger and worth more money.

B: Yeah, but, \_\_\_\_\_ is bigger and stronger, and cheaper too. Just because \_\_\_\_\_ is more expensive doesn't mean we should buy him.

A: What about midfield? I think we should go with \_\_\_\_\_. He's got much more experience than \_\_\_\_\_ and he's won more trophies.

B: I agree. \_\_\_\_\_ has scored more goals too and \_\_\_\_\_ is more expensive.

A: Let's look at our defenders. I want to choose \_\_\_\_\_ because he has won more trophies than \_\_\_\_\_ and he's much cheaper than \_\_\_\_\_, too.

B: I'm not so sure. \_\_\_\_\_ is much younger so I think he would be better although he is much more expensive.

A: Last is our goalkeeper. I think we should go with \_\_\_\_\_ because he's got more experience and won more trophies.

B: \_\_\_\_\_ is much older than \_\_\_\_\_, in fact I think he's too old that's why we should pick the younger goalkeeper.

## Discuss

Decide which goalkeeper, defender, midfielder and forward you would choose for your team.

Tell at least three classmates about the players that you chose.

Justify your decisions based on the information in worksheet one.

Use comparative structures similar to the ones in the dialogue in the previous exercise.

