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**Level 3 – 22nd August 2024**

## **Huge rise in price of Premier League football shirts**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a football fan in England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds to the expense of following your favourite team. The latest soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's national team top for the Euros tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are cashing in on selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has revealed that some teams have increased the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London team Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because of a rise in the price of manufacturing, materials and shipping costs.

Consumer expert Jane Hawkes said the jerseys were overpriced and "not remotely justifiable". She told The Sun: "This is an own goal by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been soaring since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of loyal fans in a cost-of-living crisis is unfair." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with the increasing prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed up with his team changing its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are too greedy."

Sources: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/29936752/shock-surge-price-replica-premier-league-shirts/>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-13754889/Cost-replica-shirts-rockets-past-five-years-one-Premier-League-club-charging-56-2019.html>  
<https://news.sky.com/story/money-blog-most-expensive-premier-league-jerseys-as-26-gap-between-teams-revealed-13040934>

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOTBALL:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about football. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

football / fan / favourite team / jersey / tournament / manufacturing / materials / consumer / expert / mega-rich / pandemic / loyal / fed up / kit / season / greedy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. PRICES:** Students A **strongly** believe the prices of football shirts should be the same as any other shirts; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. TEAMS:** What are your favourite teams or athletes? Why do you like them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Favourite Team / Athlete	Why
Football		
Tennis		
Olympics		
Winter sports		
National sport		
In history		

**5. TEAM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "team". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SPORTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Football
- Skiing
- Cycling
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Formula 1
- Baseball
- Surfing

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. fan (noun)    | a. Shown or made known.                                     |
| 2. expense       | b. The money you need to pay for something.                 |
| 3. jersey        | c. A series of games where teams or players compete to win. |
| 4. tournament    | d. Someone who likes and supports a team, person, or thing. |
| 5. cashing in on | e. The process of making things in a factory.               |
| 6. revealed      | f. A shirt worn by a player on a sports team.               |
| 7. manufacturing | g. To make money from something.                            |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. consumer     | h. Going up very quickly.  |
| 9. expert       | i. Something that can be explained as right or reasonable.                   |
| 10. justifiable | j. When something you plan goes wrong.                                       |
| 11. soaring     | k. A person who buys and uses things.  |
| 12. loyal       | l. A person who knows a lot (everything) about something.                    |
| 13. backfire    | m. Wanting and taking more than you need (so other people have less / none). |
| 14. greedy      | n. Being faithful or true to someone or something.                           |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says playing football in England is expensive. **T / F**
2. The England national shirt is cheaper than a Premier League shirt. **T / F**
3. Some teams put up the price of their shirts by over 50% in five years. **T / F**
4. A London team said shipping costs were one reason for higher prices. **T / F**
5. A consumer expert said the price of shirts was justified. **T / F**
6. The expert said Premier League teams score lots of own goals. **T / F**
7. The expert said the cost-of-living crisis made high shirt prices unfair. **T / F**
8. A Manchester United fan said Premier League clubs were greedy. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>fan</b>           | a. acceptable        |
| 2. <b>expensive</b>     | b. making money from |
| 3. <b>cashing in on</b> | c. specialist        |
| 4. <b>rise</b>          | d. go wrong          |
| 5. <b>manufacturing</b> | e. costly            |
| 6. <b>expert</b>        | f. money-grabbing    |
| 7. <b>justifiable</b>   | g. production        |
| 8. <b>fed up</b>        | h. supporter         |
| 9. <b>backfire</b>      | i. tired             |
| 10. <b>greedy</b>       | j. hike              |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Being a football fan             | a. in on selling shirts    |
| 2. adds to the expense of following | b. latest shirts           |
| 3. cashing                          | c. of manufacturing        |
| 4. because of a rise in the price   | d. on clubs                |
| 5. shipping                         | e. greedy                  |
| 6. This is an own goal by mega-     | f. your favourite team     |
| 7. She said it could backfire       | g. rich football clubs     |
| 8. Hopkins was fed                  | h. in England is expensive |
| 9. my children want the             | i. costs                   |
| 10. Clubs are too                   | j. up with his team        |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a football (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of following your favourite team. The latest soccer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ team top for the Euros tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in on selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that some teams have increased the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because of a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in the price of manufacturing, materials and shipping costs.

*national*  
*expense*  
*team*  
*cashing*  
*fan*  
*rise*  
*jerseys*  
*revealed*

Consumer expert Jane Hawkes said the jerseys were (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and "not remotely justifiable". She told The Sun: "This is an own (10) \_\_\_\_\_ by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been soaring since the [coronavirus] (11) \_\_\_\_\_." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of loyal fans in a cost-of-living (12) \_\_\_\_\_ is unfair." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed up with his team changing its (14) \_\_\_\_\_ every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest shirts. They love their (15) \_\_\_\_\_. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are too (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*crisis*  
*overpriced*  
*pandemic*  
*club*  
*goal*  
*greedy*  
*kit*  
*increasing*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

- 1) Being a football fan in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. England is inexpensive
  - b. England is expensive
  - c. England is expensively
  - d. England is expansive
- 2) The price of football shirts also adds to the expense of following \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. your favourite teamster
  - b. your favourite team
  - c. your favourite teamed
  - d. your favourite team
- 3) revealed that some teams have increased the cost by 56% over the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. passed five years
  - b. parsed five years
  - c. past five years
  - d. post five years
- 4) A spokesperson for the London team Tottenham explained \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the high crosses
  - b. the high prices
  - c. the high bars
  - d. the high kicks
- 5) because of a rise in the price of manufacturing, materials \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and shopping costs
  - b. and shooting costs
  - c. and swerving costs
  - d. and shipping costs
- 6) Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of loyal fans in a cost-of-living \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. throw-in is unfair
  - b. drop kick is unfair
  - c. crisis is unfair
  - d. kick-off is unfair
- 7) She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the transfer prices
  - b. the hot dog prices
  - c. the increasing prices
  - d. the programme prices
- 8) Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed up with his team changing its \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. kit at half time
  - b. kit every year
  - c. kit when away
  - d. kit to blue
- 9) He said: "Naturally, my children want \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. the latest shirts
  - b. the Arsenal shirts
  - c. the fake shirts
  - d. the signed shirts
- 10) that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are too boring
  - b. are too negative
  - c. are too greedy
  - d. are too dirty

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of following your favourite team. The latest soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's national team top for the Euros tournament (3) \_\_\_\_\_ over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has revealed that some teams have increased the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London team Tottenham (5) \_\_\_\_\_ prices. He said it was because of a rise in the price of manufacturing, materials (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Consumer expert Jane Hawkes said (7) \_\_\_\_\_ overpriced and "not remotely justifiable". She told The Sun: "This is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been soaring since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ fans in a cost-of-living crisis is unfair." She said it could "(10) \_\_\_\_\_". Fans are unhappy with the increasing prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ his team changing its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs (12) \_\_\_\_\_."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

1. How much do Premier League shirts cost?
2. What costs over \$160?
3. By how much have some shirts risen in price in the past five years?
4. Where is the team Tottenham based?
5. What caused higher prices besides manufacturing and materials costs?
6. What is Jane Hawkes' job?
7. Who did Jane Hawkes say scored an own goal?
8. Who are shirt prices out of the reach of?
9. What is Shane Hopkins fed up with?
10. What did Shane Hopkins call clubs?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

- 1) How much do Premier League shirts cost?
  - a) exactly \$100
  - b) over \$100
  - c) around \$100
  - d) just under \$100
- 2) What costs over \$160?
  - a) a ticket to see a football game
  - b) a special football
  - c) a season ticket
  - d) the England national shirt
- 3) By how much have some shirts risen in price in the past five years?
  - a) 54%
  - b) 55%
  - c) 56%
  - d) 57%
- 4) Where is the team Tottenham based?
  - a) London
  - b) Birmingham
  - c) Manchester
  - d) Liverpool
- 5) What caused higher prices besides manufacturing and materials costs?
  - a) transfer fees
  - b) shipping costs
  - c) agents' fees
  - d) ground prices
- 6) What is Jane Hawkes' job?
  - a) She's a consumer expert.
  - b) She's a referee.
  - c) She's a journalist.
  - d) She's a commentator
- 7) Who did Jane Hawkes say scored an own goal?
  - a) Tottenham
  - b) Manchester United
  - c) mega- rich football clubs
  - d) a famous goalkeeper
- 8) Who are shirt prices out of the reach of?
  - a) loyal fans
  - b) children
  - c) babies
  - d) referees
- 9) What is Shane Hopkins fed up with?
  - a) his children
  - b) his team losing
  - c) no goals
  - d) his team changing its kit every year
- 10) What did Shane Hopkins call clubs?
  - a) the best
  - b) exciting
  - c) too greedy
  - d) amazing

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

## **Role A – Football**

You think football is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): skiing, cycling or Formula 1.

## **Role B – Skiing**

You think skiing is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): football, cycling or Formula 1.

## **Role C – Cycling**

You think cycling is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): skiing, football or Formula 1.

## **Role D – Formula 1**

You think Formula 1 is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): skiing, cycling or football.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'football' and 'shirt'.

football	shirt

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• adds</li><li>• national</li><li>• cashing</li><li>• 56</li><li>• London</li><li>• shipping</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• jerseys</li><li>• own</li><li>• since</li><li>• fed</li><li>• latest</li><li>• season</li></ul>
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# FOOTBALL SHIRTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Write five GOOD questions about football shirts in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# FOOTBALL SHIRTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'football'?
3. What do you know about the Premier League in England?
4. Why do people buy football shirts?
5. How much would you spend on the shirt of your favourite team?
6. Why are the football shirts so expensive?
7. Should teams make cheap shirts for poorer fans?
8. Is it better to watch a football match on TV or at a stadium?
9. Why is football the most popular game in the world?
10. What advice do you have for Premier League teams?

*Huge rise in price of Premier League football shirts – 22nd August 2024*  
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# FOOTBALL SHIRTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'shirt'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of football?
15. Is the word 'football' or 'soccer' better?
16. Is the Premier League the best in the world?
17. Why might expensive shirts be an 'own goal' by mega-rich clubs?
18. Will Arsenal win the Premier League this season?
19. Are clubs being too greedy?
20. What questions would you like to ask Premier League bosses?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a football fan in England is expensive. The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the expense of following your favourite team. The latest soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's national team (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for the Euros tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are cashing in on (4) \_\_\_\_\_ shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that some teams have increased the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London team Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because of a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the price of manufacturing, materials and shipping costs.

Consumer expert Jane Hawkes said the jerseys were overpriced and "not remotely (7) \_\_\_\_\_". She told The Sun: "This is an own goal by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been (8) \_\_\_\_\_ since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of loyal fans in a cost-of-living crisis is unfair." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with the increasing prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ up with his team changing its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are too (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                 |               |               |              |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) costs       | (b) cost      | (c) costed    | (d) costly   |
| 2.  | (a) at          | (b) to        | (c) by        | (d) in       |
| 3.  | (a) middle      | (b) side      | (c) bottom    | (d) top      |
| 4.  | (a) shooting    | (b) selling   | (c) swerving  | (d) saving   |
| 5.  | (a) shot        | (b) booked    | (c) fouled    | (d) revealed |
| 6.  | (a) free kick   | (b) red card  | (c) rise      | (d) corner   |
| 7.  | (a) justifiable | (b) goals     | (c) officials | (d) refereed |
| 8.  | (a) soars       | (b) soared    | (c) soaring   | (d) soar     |
| 9.  | (a) studs       | (b) shin pads | (c) whistle   | (d) reach    |
| 10. | (a) fed         | (b) heads     | (c) match     | (d) toss     |
| 11. | (a) latest      | (b) away      | (c) keeper's  | (d) signed   |
| 12. | (a) greedy      | (b) offside   | (c) onside    | (d) dirty    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. Being a football fan in England is ieenvpxes
2. adds to the pensexex
3. soccer srsyjee
4. the Euros untreaotnm this summer
5. eearvled that some teams have increased the cost
6. a rise in the price of ruaacnfugtnim

## Paragraph 2

7. overpriced and not lremteoy justifiable
8. Shirt prices have been sairngo
9. in a cost-of-living csrsii
10. it could ecarikfb on clubs
11. spend over \$400 at the start of each ensoas
12. Clubs are too egreyd

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) up with his team changing its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest
- ( ) are cashing in on selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has revealed that some teams have increased
- ( ) since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of loyal fans in a cost-of-
- ( ) team Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because
- ( ) the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London
- ( ) of a rise in the price of manufacturing, materials and shipping costs.
- ( ) with the increasing prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed
- ( ) to the expense of following your favourite team. The latest soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost
- ( ) justifiable". She told The Sun: "This is an own goal by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been soaring
- ( ) living crisis is unfair." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy
- ( ) shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are too greedy."
- ( **1** ) Being a football fan in England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds
- ( ) over \$100. England's national team top for the Euros tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League
- ( ) Consumer expert Jane Hawkes said the jerseys were overpriced and "not remotely

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

1. England Being is expensive. a in football fan
2. is high. The to matches of going cost
3. favourite of expense team. The following your
4. latest soccer the The jerseys top teams. for
5. manufacturing rise of the price A in materials.
6. own goal clubs. An mega-rich by football
7. backfire it on She said clubs. could
8. unhappy are increasing with the Fans prices.
9. up changing Fed his with kit. its team
10. children latest my shirts. want Naturally, the

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a football *fun / fan* in England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is *height / high*. The price of football shirts also adds to the expense of *following / followed* your favourite team. The *latest / least* soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's national team *bottom / top* for the Euros tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are *crashing / cashing* in on selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has revealed that some teams have increased the cost *of / by* 56 per cent over the past five years. A spokesperson *to / for* the London team Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because of a rise *in / to* the price of manufacturing, materials and *shopping / shipping* costs.

Consumer *expert / expat* Jane Hawkes said the jerseys were overpriced and "not remotely *justify / justifiable*". She told The Sun: "This is an *own / touchdown* goal by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been *soaring / scoring* since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of *royal / loyal* fans in a cost-of-living crisis is *offside / unfair*." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with the increasing *penalties / prices*. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed up with his team *substituting / changing* its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to *spend / tackle* over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are *much / too* greedy."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

B\_\_ng \_ f\_\_tb\_ll f\_n \_n \_ngl\_nd \_s \_xp\_ns\_v\_. Th\_ c\_st \_f g\_\_ng t\_ \_ m\_tch \_s h\_gh. Th\_ pr\_c\_ \_f f\_\_tb\_ll sh\_rts \_ls\_ \_dds t\_ th\_ \_xp\_ns\_ \_f f\_ll\_w\_ng y\_\_r f\_v\_\_r\_t\_ t\_\_m. Th\_ l\_t\_st s\_cc\_r j\_rs\_ys f\_r th\_ t\_p \_ngl\_sh t\_\_ms c\_st \_v\_r \$100. \_ngl\_nd's n\_t\_\_n\_l t\_\_m t\_p f\_r th\_ \_\_r\_s t\_\_rn\_m\_nt th\_s s\_mm\_r c\_st \_v\_r \$160. T\_\_ms fr\_m \_ngl\_nd's Pr\_m\_\_r L\_\_g\_\_ \_r\_c\_sh\_ng \_n \_n s\_ll\_ng sh\_rts. "Th\_ S\_n," \_ \_K n\_wsp\_p\_r, h\_s r\_v\_\_l\_d th\_t s\_m\_ t\_\_ms h\_v\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_d th\_ c\_st by 56 p\_r c\_nt \_v\_r th\_ p\_st f\_v\_ y\_\_rs. \_ sp\_k\_sp\_rs\_n f\_r th\_ L\_nd\_n t\_\_m T\_tt\_nh\_m \_xpl\_\_n\_d th\_ h\_gh pr\_c\_s. H\_ s\_\_d \_t w\_s b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f \_r\_s\_ \_n th\_ pr\_c\_ \_f m\_n\_f\_ct\_r\_ng, m\_t\_r\_\_ls \_nd sh\_pp\_ng c\_sts.

C\_ns\_m\_r \_xp\_rt J\_n\_ H\_wk\_s s\_\_d th\_ j\_rs\_ys w\_r\_ \_v\_rpr\_c\_d \_nd "n\_t r\_m\_t\_ly j\_st\_f\_\_bl\_". Sh\_ t\_ld Th\_ S\_n: "Th\_s \_s \_n \_wn g\_\_l by m\_g\_-r\_ch f\_\_tb\_ll cl\_bs. Sh\_rt pr\_c\_s h\_v\_ b\_\_n s\_\_r\_ng s\_nc\_ th\_ [c\_r\_n\_v\_r\_s] p\_nd\_m\_c." Sh\_ \_dd\_d th\_t: "Pr\_c\_ng [sh\_rts] \_\_t \_f th\_ r\_\_ch \_f l\_y\_l f\_ns \_n \_ c\_st-f-l\_v\_ng cr\_s\_s \_s \_nf\_\_r." Sh\_ s\_\_d \_t c\_\_ld "b\_ckf\_r\_ \_n cl\_bs". F\_ns \_r\_ \_nh\_ppy w\_th th\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_ng pr\_c\_s. M\_nch\_st\_r \_n\_t\_d f\_n Sh\_n\_ H\_pk\_ns w\_s f\_d \_p w\_th h\_s t\_\_m ch\_ng\_ng \_ts k\_t \_v\_ry y\_\_r. H\_ s\_\_d: "N\_t\_r\_lly, my ch\_ldr\_n w\_nt th\_ l\_t\_st sh\_rts. Th\_y l\_v\_ th\_\_r cl\_b. B\_t th\_t m\_\_ns \_ h\_v\_ t\_ sp\_nd \_v\_r \$400 \_t th\_ st\_rt \_f \_\_ch s\_\_s\_n. Cl\_bs \_r\_ t\_\_ gr\_\_dy."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

being a football fan in england is expensive the cost of going to a match is high the price of football shirts also adds to the expense of following your favourite team the latest soccer jerseys for the top english teams cost over 100 englands national team top for the euros tournament this summer cost over 160 teams from englands premier league are cashing in on selling shirts the sun a uk newspaper has revealed that some teams have increased the cost by 56 per cent over the past five years a spokesperson for the london team tottenham explained the high prices he said it was because of a rise in the price of manufacturing materials and shipping costs

consumer expert jane hawkes said the jerseys were overpriced and not remotely justifiable she told the sun this is an own goal by megarich football clubs shirt prices have been soaring since the coronavirus pandemic she added that pricing shirts out of the reach of loyal fans in a costofliving crisis is unfair she said it could backfire on clubs fans are unhappy with the increasing prices manchester united fan shane hopkins was fed up with his team changing its kit every year he said naturally my children want the latest shirts they love their club but that means i have to spend over 400 at the start of each season clubs are too greedy

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Being a football fan in England is expensive. The cost of going to a match is high. The price of football shirts also adds to the expense of following your favourite team. The latest soccer jerseys for the top English teams cost over \$100. England's national team top for the Euro tournament this summer cost over \$160. Teams from England's Premier League are cashing in on selling shirts. "The Sun," a UK newspaper, has revealed that some teams have increased the cost by 56 percent over the past five years. A spokesperson for the London team Tottenham explained the high prices. He said it was because of a rise in the price of manufacturing, materials and shipping costs. Consumer expert Jane Hawkessaid the jerseys were overpriced and "not remotely justifiable". She told The Sun: "This is a now goal by mega-rich football clubs. Shirt prices have been soaring since the [coronavirus] pandemic." She added that: "Pricing [shirts] out of the reach of loyal fans in a cost-of-living crisis is unfair." She said it could "backfire on clubs". Fans are unhappy with the increasing prices. Manchester United fan Shane Hopkins was fed up with his team changing its kit every year. He said: "Naturally, my children want the latest shirts. They love their club. But that means I have to spend over \$400 at the start of each season. Clubs are too greedy."

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Write about **football shirts** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240822-premier-league-football-shirts.html>

Football shirts should be the same price as non-football shirts. Discuss.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. FOOTBALL SHIRTS:** Make a poster about football shirts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SAME PRICE:** Write a magazine article about requiring football shirts to be the same price as non-football shirts. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on football shirts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on the high price of soccer shirts. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d    2. b    3. f    4. c    5. g    6. a    7. e  
8. k    9. l    10. i    11. h    12. n    13. j    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. d	10. f

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Over \$100
- The England national shirt
- 56%
- London
- Shipping costs
- She's a consumer expert.
- Mega-rich football clubs
- Loyal fans
- His team changing its kit every year
- Too greedy

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- Being a football fan in England is expensive.
- The cost of going to matches is high.
- The expense of following your favourite team.
- The latest soccer jerseys for the top teams.
- A rise in the price of manufacturing materials.
- An own goal by mega-rich football clubs.
- She said it could backfire on clubs.
- Fans are unhappy with the increasing prices.
- Fed up with his team changing its kit.
- Naturally, my children want the latest shirts.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)