

# The Game Of Soccer

Key Terms. ▶

Everyone loves soccer, the beautiful game. Let's cover key English terms for the game of football everyone loves. So you can talk soccer in English. Let's start with the people on the field.



On a team, there are 11 **players** on the field. One of them is a **goalie** who defends the goal. The game officials include the **referee**, who makes decisions on the field, and two **linesmen** who assist the referee along the sidelines and call off sides. Off the field, the **coach** trains and guides the team. The **owner**, usually very rich, has overall financial control and responsibility for the team.

When a player is taken out of the game for another player, it's a **substitution**. Players waiting to end enter the game are on the **sidelines** or sitting on the bench. **Fans** are supporters of the team and **spectators** are all the people watching the game. In terms of action, to **shoot** is to kick the ball towards the goal. To **score** means putting the ball into the net. To **save** is when the goalie stops the ball from going into the net. A **goal** is the act of scoring or the structure itself. A **red card** is shown to a player for a serious foul resulting in them leaving the game. A **foul** is any unfair act against an opponent.

To **kick** is to strike the ball with the foot. A **penalty kick** is a free shot awarded after a serious foul in the **penalty area** or penalty box. A **throw-in** restarts the game after the ball has gone out of play over the sideline. A **corner kick** is awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over their own goal line. To **dribble** is to move the ball with short touches of the feet. A **header** is hitting the ball with your head. A **free kick** is awarded after a foul. A **goal kick** starts play after the attacking team kicks the ball over the goal line. A **bicycle kick** or scissor kick is an acrobatic shot taken while lying horizontally in the air. To **juggle** is to repeatedly kick the ball up without letting it touch the ground. It's a great way to get skillful.

The **pitch** or field is the playing area. The **stadium** is the venue where the games are played and the pitch is located. Let's move on to **equipment**. The referee uses a **whistle** to control the game. The **water bottle** is essential for player hydration. Players wear **cleats**, specialized boots for traction on the field. Goalkeepers use **gloves** to protect their hands and grip the ball. **Shin pads** protect the lower leg. The **goal or net** is the structure where the ball must go to score.

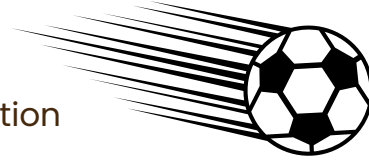
A **win** or victory is the result of scoring more goals than the opponent. A **draw** is when the score is equal at the end of a match. The team celebrates with a **trophy** after winning a competition. A **mascot** is a character, often an animal that represents a team and cheers them on.

Now that we have covered some basic soccer vocabulary, why not watch some matches and enjoy the sport in English? See you on the pitch.

# The Game Of Soccer

## VOCABULARY BUILDER

Match each word with its correct definition



1. referee  the people watching the game in the stadium
2. penalty  the field on which the players play the game
3. dribble  an unfair act against a player
4. the pitch  he controls the game and decides fouls
5. juggle  a free shot awarded after a serious foul in the penalty area or penalty box.
6. draw  restarts the game after the ball has gone out of play over the sideline
7. throw-in  specialized shoes players wear to have traction on the field
8. mascot  when the score is equal at the end of a match
9. spectators  given to a player for a serious foul resulting in them leaving the game.
10. cleats  a character, often an animal that represents a team and cheers them on
11. red card  to repeatedly kick the ball up without letting it touch the ground
12. foul  to move the ball with short touches of the feet

# Vocabulary Challenge

Write sentences using these soccer terms. Use all the words.

penalty

referee

stadium

throw-in

cleats

dribble

kick

header

score

foul

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

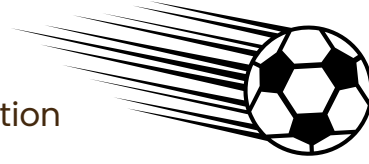
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- penalty 4 the field on which the players play the game
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- throw-in 10 specialized shoes players wear to have traction on the field
- mascot 6 when the score is equal at the end of a match
- spectators 11 given to a player for a serious foul resulting in them leaving the game.
- cleats 8 a character, often an animal that represents a team and cheers them on
- red card 5 to repeatedly kick the ball up without letting it touch the ground
- foul 3 to move the ball with short touches of the feet