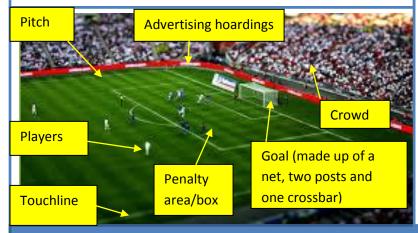


## English Language Newsletter

# November 2014 Edition

### Sporting idioms used in business

- **1)** On the ball. You have a strong understanding of the situation.
- 2) To kick start something. You start a project (sometimes used when a process/project/team has been temporarily inactive.)
- **3) Stay ahead of the game**. You are the leaders in a particular field or business environment.
- **4) Approaching the finishing line**. When you are nearing the end of a project/activity.
- 5) Plain sailing. An easy or simple situation.
- **6) Missed an open goal**. You have failed to achieve an easy target/take an easy opportunity.
- **7) A two horse race.** A close contest between two people/groups/teams/companies.
- 8) On the ropes. You are in a very bad/difficult situation.
- **9)** Score an own goal. You make a mistake which has the opposite effect from what was hoped.
- **10)** A level playing field. A situation which is the same for everyone.
- **11)** In a league of their own. You are currently much better than your competition/rivals/peers.
- **12) Hit it out of the park/home run**. You have achieved great success in a particular project/activity.
- 13) Taken your eye of the ball. You have lost your concentration/focus and have started to make mistakes.
- **14) Drop the ball**. You have made a mistake/disappointed the people around you.



## Some useful sporting phrasal verbs

- *Kick off.* To start something.
- Call off. To cancel something.
- Time out. To take a break.
- Work out. To do some exercise.
- Work off. To lose some weight.
- Warm up. To stretch/prepare for something.
- Knock out. To eliminate the competition.

### The best sporting quotes (ever)

#### In no particular order

- "It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up." Vince Lombard
- "It ain't over till it's over." Yogi Berra
- "What to do with a mistake: recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it." **Dean Smith**
- "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."
   Michael Jordan
- "Without self-discipline, success is impossible, period." Lou Holtz
- "To uncover your true potential you must first find your own limits and then you have to have the courage to blow past them." Picabo Street
- "When you win, say nothing, when you lose, say less." **Paul Brow**
- "Persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement." Matt Biondi
- "One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it." Knute Rockne

#### **Grammar corner – Embedded questions**

An embedded question is positioned within a statement or another question. It is a polite way to ask a question.

#### For example:

Normal question: Do you like football?

Embedded question: I would be interested to know if

you like football.

Normal question: Who is coming to the party?

Embedded question: I wonder who is coming to the party.