**FOOTBALL EXPRESSIONS KEY**

**Back of the net!**to score a goal

* *You should’ve seen it, it was such a great goal.****Back of the net!***

**Man on!** this is usually shouted out during a match to warn someone that a player of the other team is right behind them. Often a call to pass the ball.

* *Quick!****Man on!****Pass the ball to Jones!*

**We were robbed:** a phrase used to express that a defeat was unjust, possibly due to an injustice committed by somebody else.

* *The referee didn’t see that foul. If he’d given that player a yellow card he wouldn’t have scored that goal.****We were robbed!***

**He’s (she’s) got a sweet left foot:**referring to a player who is very skillful at kicking the ball with his / her left foot (most players use the right foot)

* *She’s one of the best players on the team, and she’s****got a sweet left foot.***

**He (she) pulled off a great save, what a save!**referring to a very quick, acrobatic stop of a shot by the goalkeeper.

* ***What a save****by the goalie. That was fantastic!*

**Hit the woodwork:**when a player intends to shoot into the goal but hits the crossbar or the post of the goal instead, and was very unlucky not to have scored.

* *He almost had it, but unfortunately****it hit the woodwork****.*

**Ran the defence ragged:**referring to an attacking player who made the defenders from the opposing team look uncomfortable or incompetent.

* *He deserves to be Man of the Match. He scored a hat-trick and****ran the defence ragged!***

**He (she’s) got a lot of pace:** avery fast player

* *Jones is definitely a great player, he’s****got a lot of pace****.*

**The goalkeeper made a howler:**used when the goalkeeper makes a very basic mistake (and probably lets the other team score a goal).

* *They were in the lead, but then****the goalkeeper******made a howler****and the other team scored.*

**It’s a game of two halves:**an expression referring to the fact that a football match can change unexpectedly throughout the 90 minutes. Especially between the first half and second half of the match.

* *Well, they may be losing now, but****it’s a game of two halves****!*

**FOOTBALL-RELATED IDIOMS**

Idioms are different from the above expressions because they can be used in conversation about any topic and not just football.

**Get the ball rolling:**to get something started. Begin a process.

* *We need to have everything ready for the party by next week, so if you could please****get the ball rolling****by inviting everyone, that would be really helpful.*

**Get a kick out of something:**to enjoy watching or doing something.

* *If you****get a kick out of****horror movies, then you’ll love the new Quentin Tarantino film!*

**To kick something off, to kick-start something:**to begin or cause something to begin.

* *We’re going to****kick-start****the summer with a lovely weekend trip to the countryside.*
* *If you want to be a successful businessman, you need to****keep your eye on the ball****all the time.*
* *He****took his eye off the ball****when he shouldn’t have done, and the rival company managed to snatch the deal from him*.

**To watch from the sidelines:**a position where someone is observing a situation rather than being directly involved in it.

* *You never supported me when I needed you. You just****watched from the sidelines****!*

**To move the goalposts:**to unfairly change the rules or conditions of a procedure during its course.

* *Jessica quit her job because her boss kept****moving the goalposts****about her promotion prospects.*

**To be on the ball:**someone who is very quick to respond and very aware of new ideas and methods.

* *What’s wrong with you? You used to****be on the ball****with your work all the time*.

**A political football:**a topical issue that is the subject of continued argument or controversy.

* *Retirement age is a big****political football****in the European Union’*

**At this (late) stage in the game:**this simply means ‘at this point’.

* *There’s nothing we can do****at this stage in the game****. You should’ve told me earlier.*

**To kick someone around:**to treat someone roughly or disrespectfully.

* *I don’t think it’s fair the way you****kick him around****all the time. He deserves some respect.*

**To score an own goal:**an act that unintentionally harms one’s own interests.

* *Unfortunately, Sarah****scored an own goal****by quitting her job before signing her new contract.*

**To take sides:**to support one person, or stand against another, in a dispute or contest.

* *I’m not****taking sides****. I think you’re both wrong, so I’m not getting involved!*

**League:**a class or category of quality or excellence.

* *When it comes to achieving perfection, John is in****a league****of his own.*

**To blow the whistle on someone:**to bring an illicit activity to an end by informing on the person responsible.

* *She was offered a lot of money as a bribe, because she threatened****to blow the whistle*** *on the company’s illegal activities.*

**A game plan:**a strategy worked out in advance

* *We need to come up with a better****game plan****; this idea will never work!*

**Know the score:**to be aware of the essential facts about a situation.

* *I don’t need to explain anything else to my boss,****he knows the score****.*

**A game changer:**an idea, procedure or event that significantly changes the current way of doing or thinking about something.

* *The new software had become known as the new****‘game-changing’****entertainment experience.*