

Football fanatics

Teacher's notes and answer key

Level: Intermediate and above

Age: Adults

Time needed: 45 minutes plus

Procedure: The 'Twelve top tips' will give you extra ideas for using the plays in the classroom.

Notes on language and culture

1. Britain is divided into regions called counties. Yorkshire is a county in northern England and the largest county in the UK. Cities in Yorkshire include York, Leeds, Sheffield and Hull.
2. The 'flask' referred to by Andy is a thermos flask. Many football fans take hot drinks (tea, coffee or even soup) with them to matches, especially in winter.
3. *Since you were in nappies* means *since you were a baby*.
4. *Caff* is the colloquial term for *café*.
5. *CCTV* stands for *closed-circuit television*. The UK has more security cameras per capita than any other country in the world, according to official statistics.
6. The expression *reads the game well* means that the person in question is able to anticipate what is going to happen next in the game and reacts accordingly.

'Summat' has been used in the transcript as a way of writing the word *something* that shows how it sounds in informal speech in some areas of the UK.
7. The expression *Get in there!* is often used to express pleasure when your team scores a goal.
8. Andy uses the present simple tense to describe the goal-scoring chance to make it sound more dramatic. The present simple is also used when telling jokes.
9. *Flaming* is a mildly impolite term used for emphasizing how bad someone or something is.

Twelve top tips

1. Take away the title of the play. Students try to guess the context. Who? Where? Why? What?
2. Ask students to describe the appearance, personality and social status of the characters in the play.



3. Cut the play up into four sections. Students then put it back in the correct sequence.
4. Supply several statements of fact or opinion about the play. Ask students to assess whether each one follows from the play, supports it, contradicts it or is assumed.
5. Use the play alongside a onestopenglish news lesson or news article on the same subject and hold a debate and discussion on the topic to link the content with students' experience or knowledge.
6. Students add their own stage directions, e.g. ... *he said angrily – rising from his chair*.
7. Students can finish the play off in their own words or change its ending.
8. Students interpret the play, perform it and then record and listen to themselves for correct use of stress and intonation.
9. Students perform the play using the same words but in different styles, e.g. a romance, a ghost story, a thriller, etc.
10. Students identify vocabulary that has a negative connotation.
11. Students identify the word/phrase/phrasal verb that means ...
12. Take an adjective or adverb out of a sentence and put it in brackets at the end of the line. Students put it back in the correct place or wherever it will logically fit, for example:

They crack down on 'em hard now. [REALLY]

They crack down on 'em really hard now.

Teacher's notes and answer key

Answer key

1. What is the play about?

1. b; 2. a

2. Vocabulary

1. e; 2. d; 3. a; 4. f; 5. c; 6. b

3. Find the colloquial expression

1. a bite to eat; 2. (you) can't beat it; 3. give someone their due; 4. crack down on; 5. gaffer; 6. gutted

4. Colloquial language: Ellipsis

1. You can't beat it!
2. He always looks a bit shifty to me.
3. He's good at football, though.
4. I thought he couldn't play anymore.
5. It should've been five!
6. It gives your mum a rest.

Football fanatics

Transcript

Scenario: Father and son from Yorkshire, driving south to a football match

Characters: Dad, Andy

- Dad** You brought your scarf?
- Andy** Yeah, course I have!
- Dad** Where is it?
- Andy** In me bag. I'm not wearing it! Not 'til we get into the ground, anyway.
- Dad** Good lad.
- Andy** Did you bring a flask?
- Dad** No, I didn't. You'll be asking for a warm blanket next!
- Andy** Well, it is four or five hours on the road this time, Dad.
- Dad** Six, actually, according to the satnav.
- Andy** Are we gonna be stopping then?
- Dad** If we have to. I love these long hauls. It proves you're a proper, loyal supporter, lad.
- Andy** Right.
- Dad** Do you know I've supported this team since I was in nappies!
- Andy** Yeah, I know.
- Dad** The sooner we get there, the better. We can have a bite to eat at a caff if you like. Double egg, chips, beans, sausage and tomato. Can't beat it!
- Andy** What about the hooligans? This lot have got some bad ones, I've heard.
- Dad** There's not so many about now, haven't you noticed?
- Andy** You know why, don't you?
- Dad** No?
- Andy** CCTV. Everywhere!
- Dad** Oh, course. Give the police their due. They crack down on 'em really hard now.
- Andy** The 'known' hooligans have to hand their passports in to the police before any international games now.
- Dad** How d'you know?
- Andy** Micky told me.
- Dad** Oh, *him!* I've never liked him. A bad sort that one. Always looks a bit shifty to me.
- Andy** Good at football, though. Always on form. Magnificent touch! Reads the game well!
- Dad** Thought he couldn't play anymore. Got a knee injury or summat?
- Andy** No. He's back on form now and better than ever. Scored four goals last week.
- Dad** Get in there! I bet the gaffer was pleased!
- Andy** Should've been five! He goes past the full-back, brings it down and *SMACK!* Hits the top of the crossbar. He was gutted.

Transcript

Dad What was the score?
Andy Four nil.
Dad 'Ere, d'you know, this'll be our tenth away match this year?
Andy Yeah. All these journeys up and down the motorways don't do much for the environment, Dad.
Dad Oh, yes? What's all this then? It's that flaming school again, isn't it? What's wrong with going to away matches? It's what we enjoy, isn't it?
Andy Er, yeah.
Dad And it gets me out of the house. Gives your mum a rest.
Andy Does she have a choice?
Dad She's glad of a bit of peace and quiet, lad.
Andy Is she?
Dad Course she is.

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Worksheet

1 What is the play about?

Here are some words and phrases from the play.

supporter	hooligans	full-back	motorway
satnav	flask	match	environment

1. Where do you think the play is set?

- a. at a football stadium
- b. in a car
- c. in a service station

2. What do you think the play will be about?

- a. going to a football match
- b. pollution
- c. football violence

2 Vocabulary

Match these words from the play with their meanings.

- 1. long haul
- 2. nappy
- 3. shifty
- 4. crossbar
- 5. satnav
- 6. magnificent
- a. looking dishonest
- b. very impressive
- c. a satellite navigation system used in road vehicles
- d. a thick piece of soft cloth or paper worn between a baby's legs
- e. travelling a long distance
- f. the horizontal section of a football goal

3 Find the colloquial expression

Listen to the play and find the following words and phrases. They are in the order in which they appear in the play.

- 1. a four-word expression meaning *a small meal*
- 2. a three-word expression meaning *it's very good*
- 3. a four-word expression used before you say something good about someone
- 4. a three-word phrasal verb meaning *start dealing with something more strictly*
- 5. a noun meaning *manager or boss* (or, in this context, *coach*)
- 6. an adjective meaning *very disappointed*

Worksheet

4 Colloquial language: Ellipsis

Which words are missing from these examples from the play?

1. Can't beat it!
2. Always looks a bit shifty to me.
3. Good at football, though.
4. Thought he couldn't play anymore.
5. Should've been five!
6. Gives your mum a rest.

5 Listen and read

Listen to the recording and read the dialogue aloud in time with the recording.

6 Discussion

Should football and other sports fans be prevented from travelling long distances to sports fixtures in order to limit unnecessary car journeys and reduce greenhouse gases? Why? Why not?

Is there football hooliganism in your country?