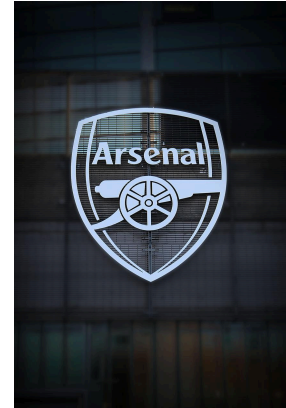


## Wenger's Dream



### 1) Discussion

- a) What are some of the biggest football achievements in your country?
- b) What is the best team in the history of your country?
- c) Who are some of the best managers to manage in your country?

### 2) Vocabulary

#### a) Match the vocabulary with the definition.

- |                                |                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Invincible (noun/adjective) | a) Refers to a team that goes through a season without losing any matches/Impossible to beat. |
| 2) Flair (noun)                | b) The ability to recover quickly from difficulties or toughness in facing challenges.        |
| 3) Formidable (adjective)      | c) The quality of being stylish or original, especially in one's approach or skill.           |
| 4) Resilience (noun)           | d) Refers to a scheduled match or game.                                                       |
| 5) Fixture (noun)              | e) The concluding or final part of an event or performance.                                   |
| 6) Finale (noun)               | f) Something that inspires fear or respect due to its strength, power, or excellence.         |



**b) Complete these sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

- 1) The Italian football team's \_\_\_\_\_ was on display in the 2006 World Cup final as they faced Zidane's France, but still won.
- 2) In world football, the Brazilian squad is renowned for its attacking prowess and creative \_\_\_\_\_, making them a formidable force in international competitions.
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ between Spain and Portugal ended in a 2-2 draw.
- 4) Despite having to play against a \_\_\_\_\_ opponent, the defensive lineup of the German national team proved to be one of the strongest in the recent FIFA World Cup.
- 5) Liverpool looked \_\_\_\_\_ during the 2019-2020 Premier League season, and didn't lose until the end of February.
- 6) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the 2018 World Cup for France came in the final, where they defeated Croatia 4-2.



### 3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) Why were Arsenal so good during the 2003-2004 Premier League season?

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## The Invincibles

In football history, Arsenal's Invincibles of the 2003-2004 season stand out. Led by Arsène Wenger, they made a special mark by not losing any game in the Premier League – a rare achievement that was the first since 1888-1889 in English football.

Wenger wanted his team to play stylish, attacking football and focus on developing players. His emphasis on young talent and foreign flair turned Arsenal into a strong team. The 2003-2004 squad showed Wenger's football style, combining skill, speed, and precision.

Key players played important roles. Thierry Henry, the French striker, was the top scorer. Dennis Bergkamp and Patrick Vieira added experience and strength. The defence, led by Sol Campbell and Kolo Touré, was one of the strongest the Premier League has seen. Their left side was formidable with Ashley Cole at left-back, Robert Pires at left-wing and Thierry Henry joining them in attacks.

The team's mental strength was evident in navigating intense fixtures. The season had tough matches, like a critical one at Old Trafford. Ruud Van Nistelrooy's last-minute penalty miss helped Arsenal secure a tense 0-0 draw against a strong Manchester United, showing the team's resilience.

In April 2004, Arsenal faced rivals Tottenham Hotspur and managed a 2-2 draw, keeping their unbeaten run. It also meant that Arsenal were able to be crowned Premier League champions at the home of their local rivals.

The finale came on May 15, 2004, when Arsenal beat Leicester City 2-1, completing the whole season undefeated. This achievement continues to inspire football fans, making the 2003-2004 Arsenal team one of the greatest in English football history, thanks to Wenger's vision and the players' skill and determination.



#### 4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Arsenal's Invincible season?
- b) Who was your favourite player from this team?
- c) What do you think of Arsène Wenger as a manager?
- d) Can you think of any other special achievements in football?

