

Best Free Transfers



1) Discussion

- a) Can you think of any big transfers recently?
 - b) What have been some big Free Transfers in recent years?
-

2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) To Bolster (verb) | a) Never done or experienced before. |
| 2) Profound (adjective) | b) To make someone liked or loved. |
| 3) Unprecedented (adjective) | c) To regain or take back something that was lost or taken away. |
| 4) No-brainer (noun) | d) Deep or intense. |
| 5) Imposing (adjective) | e) Having a commanding presence or appearance. |
| 6) To reclaim (verb) | f) Something that is obvious or requires little thought. |
| 7) To endear (verb) | g) To make stronger or improve. |
-



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

To Bolster Profound Unprecedented No-brainer
Imposing To Reclaim To Endear

- 1) Real Madrid's quest to _____ their dominance in Europe led them to sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Manchester United in 2009.
- 2) Bayern Munich signed Matthijs de Ligt from Juventus in 2022 to _____ their defence.
- 3) With his towering physique and commanding presence, Virgil van Dijk has been _____ at the heart of Liverpool's defence.
- 4) The loyalty and dedication shown by Francesco Totti throughout his career _____ him to the Roma faithful, making him a club legend.
- 5) Lionel Messi's move to Paris Saint-Germain was seen as a _____ decision by the club, given his immense talent and global appeal.
- 6) Arsenal's signing of Dennis Bergkamp had a _____ impact on the club's future and fortunes.
- 7) Manchester City's 100 points in the 2017-2018 season was an _____ achievement.



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

a) What free transfers are mentioned in the article?

Best Free Transfers

Clubs often seek to bolster their squads without paying large transfer fees, making free agents an attractive option. Over the years, there have been some incredible transfers that have proved more than great business.

In 2014, Bayern Munich secured one of the most sensational free transfers in recent memory when they signed Robert Lewandowski from rivals Borussia Dortmund. The Polish striker arrived at the Allianz Arena as one of Europe's deadliest forwards. Lewandowski's impact was immediate and profound. He went on to make 375 appearances for Bayern, becoming the club's all-time leading foreign goalscorer, with 344 goals. His time in Munich saw an abundance of trophies including Bundesliga titles and DFB-Pokal victories. Additionally, Lewandowski played a pivotal role in Bayern's treble-winning campaign in 2019-20, clinching the Bundesliga, DFB-Pokal, and UEFA Champions League titles.

Esteban Cambiasso's arrival at Inter Milan in 2004 from Real Madrid. Cambiasso quickly became a fan favourite with his tenacity, vision, and leadership qualities. The Argentine midfielder formed a formidable partnership with Javier Zanetti in midfield, guiding Inter to a period of unprecedented success under the stewardship of Jose Mourinho. During his tenure at the San Siro, Cambiasso played a pivotal role in Inter's treble-winning campaign in 2009-10, securing the Serie A title, Coppa Italia, and UEFA Champions League.

Michael Ballack's arrival at Chelsea in 2006 was a no-brainer for the London club. The German midfielder, who joined the Blues on a free transfer from Bayern Munich, brought a wealth of experience to Stamford Bridge. Ballack's imposing presence in midfield provided Chelsea with a formidable spine, as they embarked on a period of sustained success in English football. During his four-year spell with the club, Ballack made over 160 appearances and played an important role in Chelsea's triumphs in the Premier League, FA Cup, and League Cup.



In 1999, Steve McManaman made history by becoming the first English player to join Real Madrid on a free transfer. The midfielder arrived at the Santiago Bernabeu from Liverpool with much fanfare, with his arrival symbolising Real Madrid's ambition to reclaim their status as European giants. McManaman's technical brilliance and flair endeared him to the demanding *Los Blancos* fans, as he played an important role in the club's successes during his four-year spell in Spain. He played over 150 matches for Real Madrid, helping them clinch two La Liga titles, two UEFA Champions League trophies, and a UEFA Super Cup.

Sol Campbell's controversial move from Tottenham Hotspur to Arsenal in 2001 remains one of the most memorable free transfers in Premier League history. The towering defender's decision to cross North London sent shockwaves through English football, but it proved to be a masterstroke for Arsenal. Campbell's arrival bolstered Arsenal's defensive solidity and provided the team with invaluable experience and leadership at the back. During his time with the Gunners, Campbell played a pivotal role in their successes, including two Premier League titles and two FA Cup triumphs.

In conclusion, the impact of free transfers in football cannot be overstated. These five players exemplify the transformative effect that clever buys can have on a club's fortunes.

4) Discussion

- a) What do you think about these free transfers? Which one is the best and which was the most surprising?
- b) Can you think of any other great free transfers?
- c) Are there any players coming to the end of their contract that you would like your club to sign for free?

