

Sir Alex Ferguson



1) Discussion

- a) Who are some famous managers from your country?
 - b) What famous managers do you know from the Premier League?
 - c)
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1) Towering (adjective) | a) To make something or someone look or feel young and energetic again. |
| 2) Tenure (noun) | b) Very tall or very great. |
| 3) To Take the reins (idioms) | c) Wider or more general. |
| 4) To Turn the tide (idioms) | d) A natural ability to do something well or with style. |
| 5) To Rejuvenate (verb) | e) To change a situation from bad to good. |
| 6) Flair (noun) | f) To take control or leadership. |
| 7) Broader (adjective) | g) The period of time when someone holds a job or position. |
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3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What players helped Ferguson to succeed according to the article?

The Greatest Ever Manager

Sir Alex Ferguson, a towering figure in football management, left an indelible mark on the sport. Born in Glasgow in 1941, Ferguson's playing career saw him primarily as a forward. He played for several Scottish clubs, most notably Rangers and Falkirk, demonstrating early on his leadership qualities and fierce competitive spirit.

Ferguson's managerial career began with East Stirlingshire and St. Mirren, but his remarkable success came at Aberdeen. He transformed the club into a Scottish powerhouse, breaking the *Old Firm* dominance of Celtic and Rangers. The pinnacle of his Aberdeen tenure was the 1983 European Cup Winners' Cup victory over Real Madrid, a testament to his tactical acumen and ability to inspire underdog triumphs.

In November 1986, Ferguson took the reins at Manchester United, inheriting a struggling team. His early years were fraught with challenges, including a near-dismissal in 1990. However, an FA Cup win that year turned the tide. The 90s saw Ferguson's United dominate English football, securing their first league title in 26 years in 1993 and 5 league titles plus 4 FA Cups and a League cup in the 90s. The crowning achievement came in 1999 when United won the unprecedented treble: the Premier League, FA Cup, and UEFA Champions League. This era featured iconic players like Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs, and David Beckham.

The 2000s required Ferguson to rejuvenate his squad, and he did so masterfully. He introduced future legends like Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney, maintaining United's competitive edge. This period saw continued success, including three consecutive Premier League titles from 2007 to 2009 and another Champions League victory in 2008.



Ferguson's career concluded in 2013, marking the end of a 27-year tenure at Manchester United. He retired as the most successful manager in British football history, having secured 38 major trophies, including 13 Premier League titles, five FA Cups, and two UEFA Champions League titles. His teams, marked by resilience and flair, featured greats like Paul Scholes, Roy Keane, and later, Nemanja Vidić and Robin van Persie.

Sir Alex Ferguson's legacy is one of unparalleled success and transformative leadership, leaving an enduring influence on Manchester United and the broader football world.

4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Sir Alex Ferguson's career?
- b) What do you think made him so successful?
- c) Do you think he is the greatest Premier League manager ever?
- d) Where does he rank in your top 5 greatest managers?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

