

The North London Derby



1) Discussion

- a) What are the biggest derbies in your country?
 - b) What is your favourite derby?
 - c) Can you think of any derbies from the Premier League? Which ones do you like?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Ignite (verb) | a) The right to show off or boast about something. |
| 2) Courtesy of (phrase) | b) Very firm and not willing to change. |
| 3) Lore (noun) | c) To start a fire or to start something happening. |
| 4) To Terrorize (verb) | d) Given by or thanks to someone or something. |
| 5) Bragging rights (noun) | e) To make someone very scared. |
| 6) To Boast (verb) | f) Traditional stories or knowledge about a subject. |
| 7) Unyielding (adjective) | g) To talk with pride about something you have or have done. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Ignite Courtesy of Lore To Terrorize
Bragging Rights To Boast Unyielding

- 1) Diego Maradona would _____ defenders with his incredible dribbling skills.
- 2) Zlatan Ibrahimović loves to _____ about his amazing goals and career achievements.
- 3) In the 2003-2004 season, Andriy Shevchenko's goals helped _____ AC Milan's title charge and eventual win.
- 4) The _____ of Bayern Munich's European legacy includes many thrilling matches and legendary players.
- 5) Winning the local derby gives teams like River Plate and Boca Juniors _____ for the rest of the season.
- 6) Despite their struggles, the fans' support for Newcastle United remains _____.
- 7) _____ his brilliant performance, Gareth Bale was named Player of the Match in the Champions League final. In his prime,



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

- a) According to the article, in which period were Tottenham dominant in the North London Derby rivalry?

The North London Derby

The North London Derby, a storied clash between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, is one of the most intense rivalries in English football. The history of this fierce competition dates back to 1913 when Arsenal moved from South to North London, settling in Highbury, just four miles from Tottenham's White Hart Lane. This relocation ignited a local rivalry that has only grown more passionate over the decades.

A pivotal moment in the derby's history came in 1971 when Arsenal famously clinched the First Division title at White Hart Lane. The Gunners needed a win or a goalless draw in their final match against Spurs to secure the championship. A 1-0 victory, courtesy of a Ray Kennedy goal, ensured Arsenal's triumph, adding to the derby's lore. History repeated itself in 2004, when Arsenal's 'Invincibles' squad secured the Premier League title at Tottenham's ground with a 2-2 draw, remaining unbeaten throughout the entire season.

The 1991 FA Cup semi-final is another landmark in this rivalry. Tottenham emerged victorious with a 3-1 win, thanks to Paul Gascoigne's stunning free-kick and Gary Lineker's brace. This victory was especially sweet for Spurs, who went on to lift the FA Cup that year.

Throughout the late 1990s and 2000s, Arsenal often dominated the derby. Under Arsène Wenger, the Gunners enjoyed a period of superiority, epitomised by an impressive run of results against Tottenham. Thierry Henry, in particular, terrorised Spurs' defence, becoming a key figure in Arsenal's dominance. However, Tottenham seemed to take over the North London bragging rights from 2017 to 2023 when they finished above Arsenal for 6 consecutive seasons, thanks to stars like Harry Kane and Son Heung-Min.



As of now, Arsenal leads the overall head-to-head record, boasting more wins in competitive matches than their North London rivals. For supporters, the derby is more than just a game. It's a battle for local bragging rights, a clash of identities, and a reflection of years of history and rivalry. For Arsenal fans, victories in the derby symbolise continued supremacy. For Tottenham supporters, a win against Arsenal offers a chance to assert their place in North London's footballing hierarchy. The derby's significance extends beyond the pitch, embodying the passion, pride, and unyielding spirit of North London football.

4) Discussion

- a) What do you think about the North London derby?
- b) Would you like to go to one?
- c) Which team do you prefer, Arsenal or Tottenham?
- d) Who do you think will finish higher next season, Arsenal or Tottenham? Why?
- e) Can you think of any recent classic matches between Arsenal and Tottenham?

