

Transfers Between Rivals



1) Discussion

- a) What have been some shock transfers in your country?
 - b) Have any players moved between rival clubs recently?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Jeering | a) Illegally approaching players under contract with other clubs to persuade them to join a different team. |
| 2) Unprecedented (adjective) | b) Relating to division or conflict between different religious or political groups, often involving strong adherence to specific beliefs with hostility or discrimination. |
| 3) To bolster (verb) | c) Strengthen or support something to make it stronger, more effective, or more resilient. |
| 4) Sectarian (adjective) | d) Strong hostility or bitterness toward someone or something, typically arising from past conflicts or rivalries. |
| 5) Tap up (phrasal verb) | e) Something that has never happened before, representing a completely new situation or event without any historical precedent. |
| 6) Animosity (noun) | f) To damage or diminish the value, reputation, or appearance of something. |
| 7) To Tarnish (verb) | g) Loudly mocking or taunting someone in a disrespectful way, often seen in sports when fans express dislike toward opposing players or teams. |



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

Jeer

Unprecedented

To bolster

Sectarian

Tap up

Animosity

To Tarnish

- 1) Lionel Messi's transfer to Paris Saint-Germain was truly _____, as it shattered previous records for player contracts in football history.
- 2) Real Madrid's decision to try and sign Kylian Mbappé aims to _____ their attacking options, adding another world-class talent to their roster.
- 3) The rivalry between Celtic and Rangers has often been marred by _____ tensions, reflecting the deep-seated divisions within Scottish society.
- 4) Despite being bitter rivals on the pitch, there's a surprising lack of _____ between the players of Manchester City and Manchester United off the pitch.
- 5) The controversy surrounding Neymar's transfer to Barcelona involved allegations of _____, with accusations that the club had illegally approached the player while he was still under contract with Santos.
- 6) The fans started _____ and shouting insults at the opposing team's goalkeeper when he made a crucial mistake.
- 7) The corruption scandal _____ FIFA's image as the governing body of world football, casting doubts on its integrity and transparency.



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

a) What transfers does the article talk about?

Playing for the Enemy

Transfers in football often evoke a spectrum of emotions, ranging from elation to betrayal, especially when a player switches to a rival club. Over the years, several high-profile transfers have stirred controversy, dominated headlines, and left a mark on the sport's history.

One such transfer is Luis Figo's move from Barcelona to Real Madrid in 2000. Figo's switch for a then-world record fee sparked outrage among Barcelona faithfuls, with his reception at Camp Nou marked by flying pig heads and intense jeering. The media frenzy surrounding the move amplified tensions between the two Spanish giants, elevating their rivalry to unprecedented levels.

Similarly, Sol Campbell's free transfer from Tottenham Hotspur to Arsenal in 2001 stunned the football world. The move incited fury among Spurs supporters, who viewed Campbell's departure as an act of treachery. Conversely, it bolstered Arsenal's defensive line and fueled their dominance in the Premier League .

In Scottish football, Mo Johnston's transfer from Celtic to Rangers in 1989 sent shockwaves through Glasgow. Johnston's decision to join Rangers, historically associated with the Protestant community, as a Catholic player, sparked intense social and sectarian debate, highlighting the deep-rooted divisions within Scottish society.

Ashley Cole's transfer from Arsenal to Chelsea in 2006 became embroiled in controversy due to allegations of "tapping up." The scandal tarnished Cole's reputation and cast a shadow over the integrity of transfer dealings in the sport, leading to repercussions for both clubs involved.

Meanwhile, Roberto Baggio's transfer from Fiorentina to Juventus in 1990 intensified the rivalry between the two Italian powerhouses. Baggio's switch fueled animosity between fans, adding fuel to the fiery rivalry that continues to shape Italian football .



Moves to rival clubs often transcend mere sporting transactions, leaving lasting impressions on players, clubs, and fans alike.

4) Discussion

- a) Which of the transfers do you think was the most surprising?
Why?
- b) Which one of the transfers do you think was the most successful?
- c) If you could sign one player from your club's rival, who would it be?

