

**transcript**

**level 1**

Try not to look at this until you've done all the exercises that go with the listening.

**The beautiful game**

Jackie: For podcastsineenglish.com this week I'm going to talk to Richard about his love of football. OK Richard?

Richard: Fine by me, fire away!

Jackie: OK? So tell me Richard, why do you like football so much?

Richard: [laughs] Um... the beautiful game, that's what it's called. I love sports, it's a team game, it's a game everybody can play and I think playing a game makes you able to enjoy it more as well.

Jackie: Um... but nowadays, nowadays footballers earn an enormous amount of money. Do you think they get paid too much?

Richard: They entertain millions of people so if you want the best footballers to play for your team you'll have to pay the biggest money; it's economics.

Jackie: Who's your favourite football team?

Richard: Without doubt, Liverpool.

Jackie: Why?

Richard: I come from the Isle of Man which doesn't have it's own football team. Liverpool is fairly close and I think I started watching football ...um when I was very young and I watched the FA cup final in England and it was Arsenal against Liverpool and although Liverpool lost I started supporting them from that time.

Jackie: So, what year was that?

Richard: 1971

Jackie: Can you describe a great game, a great Liverpool game you've watched?

Richard: [laughs] Many, many games but I think ...um obviously... most memorable at the moment is the Champions League win against AC Milan last year when we were three-nil down and came back to win on penalties after drawing three-all.

- Jackie: What's the name of the stadium?
- Richard: Liverpool stadium is called Anfield.
- Jackie: And have you been to Anfield and watched a match there?
- Richard: [laughs] I'm afraid not!
- Jackie: Oh!
- Richard: I've actually... I've been to the other team in Liverpool, they're called Everton, ...um and I've been to their ground which is called Goodison Park but I've never actually been to Anfield!
- Jackie: You've never been to Anfield. Who do you think's the best player?
- Richard: The best players I think. I think at the moment we have two great players and I think the supporters, most of the supporters will agree... Steven Gerrard obviously I think is ...um the most well known, the best player, but also I think true Liverpool fans really like Jamie Carragher as well.
- Jackie: What do you think of the manager?
- Richard: Great! Um... Benitez...um... I think he's fantastic! I think um... He won us the European... the Champions League last year and we got the FA cup and he's brought in a lot of good players, attacking players... I think ...um we were very defensive over the last few years and he's brought in some good attacking style...
- Jackie: OK. So where do you think Liverpool will finish at the end of this season?
- Richard: Um... Manchester United are very strong, a strong start, Chelsea obviously will be there. I must admit I can't see us better than third at the moment. But I hope, I feel confident that we should get third.
- Jackie: OK, well we'll see. Thanks a lot Richard.