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## Manchester United agree to sell Ronaldo

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## THE ARTICLE

Spanish football giants Real Madrid are to buy world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo for a record \$130 million. This comes a few days after Madrid set the previous record of \$92 million for Brazilian star Kaka. Real Madrid have been after Ronaldo for several years. Their interest in the Portuguese star has led to frosty relations between the Spanish team and Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester's manager, repeatedly warned Madrid that Ronaldo was not for sale. He once told reporters he wouldn't even sell a virus to the Spanish team. United officials announced the transfer news by saying that Ronaldo "has again expressed his desire to leave" and that Real Madrid has permission to talk to him.

Ronaldo joined United from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon in 2003. Despite his huge success with Manchester, Ronaldo never hid his desire to play for Madrid, his childhood heroes. He constantly told the press it would be a "dream move" to play for Real Madrid. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while playing for Manchester United. This season he finished as the club's top scorer and was voted European and world player of the year. He also helped the English side win the Champions League and several English Premier League titles. United supporters will have mixed feelings about his departure. They will certainly miss his goals and skill, but they know his heart was never really in English football.

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOTBALL:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about football. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*giants / Real Madrid / records / frosty relations / warnings / viruses / permissions / huge success / childhood heroes / dream moves / mixed feelings / goals / skill*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. DREAM X:** What dreams do you have? Complete this table. Talk about what you wrote with your partner. Change partners and share what you heard.

| My dream... | is... | because... |
|-------------|-------|------------|
| move        |       |            |
| job         |       |            |
| holiday     |       |            |
| car         |       |            |
| man / woman |       |            |
| house       |       |            |

**4. FOOTBALL:** Students A **strongly** believe football (soccer) is the greatest sport in the world; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. FOOTBALL GIANTS:** Rate these football giants and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = I love them; 1 = I hate them. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- Manchester United
- Real Madrid
- Barcelona
- Liverpool
- Bayern Munich
- Juventus
- Milan
- Benfica

**6. RECORD:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'record'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. Real Madrid will buy superstar Ronaldo for a world record fee.        | T / F |
| b. This is the second time in a week Madrid has broken the world record. | T / F |
| c. Relations between Real and Manchester have been very friendly.        | T / F |
| d. Ronaldo's move to Madrid was very much against his wishes.            | T / F |
| e. Cristiano Ronaldo loved Real Madrid when he was a boy.                | T / F |
| f. Ronaldo was amazingly successful in his days with Manchester.         | T / F |
| g. All Manchester United fans will be very happy with Ronaldo's move.    | T / F |
| h. Ronaldo was passionate about playing football in England              | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. previous   | a. the media  |
| 2. frosty     | b. definitely |
| 3. warned     | c. wish       |
| 4. reporters  | d. cautioned  |
| 5. desire     | e. marksman   |
| 6. huge       | f. earlier    |
| 7. scorer     | g. team       |
| 8. side       | h. leaving    |
| 9. departure  | i. chilled    |
| 10. certainly | j. enormous   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Real Madrid are to buy world           | a. for several years      |
| 2. This comes a few days after Madrid set | b. feelings               |
| 3. Real Madrid have been after Ronaldo    | c. top scorer             |
| 4. frosty                                 | d. player of the year     |
| 5. United officials announced             | e. in English football    |
| 6. Ronaldo never hid his desire           | f. the transfer news      |
| 7. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while     | g. the previous record    |
| 8. he finished as the club's              | h. to play for Madrid     |
| 9. supporters will have mixed             | i. relations              |
| 10. his heart was never really            | j. playing for Manchester |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Spanish football \_\_\_\_\_ Real Madrid are to buy world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo for a record \$130 million. This \_\_\_\_\_ a few days after Madrid set the previous record of \$92 million for Brazilian star Kaka. Real Madrid have been \_\_\_\_\_ Ronaldo for several years. Their interest in the Portuguese star has led to frosty \_\_\_\_\_ between the Spanish team and Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester's manager, repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ Madrid that Ronaldo was not for sale. He once told reporters he wouldn't even sell a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spanish team. United officials announced the transfer news by saying that Ronaldo "has again expressed his \_\_\_\_\_ to leave" and that Real Madrid has \_\_\_\_\_ to talk to him.

*warned*  
*comes*  
*relations*  
*desire*  
*giants*  
*permission*  
*after*  
*virus*

Ronaldo joined United from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon in 2003. Despite his \_\_\_\_\_ success with Manchester, Ronaldo never hid his desire to play for Madrid, his \_\_\_\_\_ heroes. He constantly told the press it would be a "dream \_\_\_\_\_" to play for Real Madrid. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while playing for Manchester United. This season he finished as the club's \_\_\_\_\_ scorer and was voted European and world player of the year. He also helped the English \_\_\_\_\_ win the Champions League and \_\_\_\_\_ English Premier League titles. United supporters will have \_\_\_\_\_ feelings about his departure. They will certainly miss his goals and skill, but they know his \_\_\_\_\_ was never really in English football.

*childhood*  
*several*  
*side*  
*heart*  
*huge*  
*move*  
*mixed*  
*top*

## **LISTENING:** Listen and fill in the gaps.

Spanish football giants Real Madrid \_\_\_\_\_ player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo for a record \$130 million. This comes a few days after Madrid \_\_\_\_\_ of \$92 million for Brazilian star Kaka. Real Madrid have been after Ronaldo for several years. Their interest in the Portuguese star \_\_\_\_\_ relations between the Spanish team and Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester's manager, repeatedly warned Madrid that Ronaldo \_\_\_\_\_. He once told reporters he wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spanish team. United officials announced the transfer news by saying that Ronaldo "has again expressed \_\_\_\_\_" and that Real Madrid has permission to talk to him.

Ronaldo joined United from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon in 2003. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ Manchester, Ronaldo never hid his desire to play for Madrid, his childhood heroes. He constantly told \_\_\_\_\_ be a "dream move" to play for Real Madrid. Ronaldo \_\_\_\_\_ while playing for Manchester United. This season he finished as the club's top \_\_\_\_\_ European and world player of the year. He also helped the English side win the Champions League and several English Premier League titles. United supporters will \_\_\_\_\_ about his departure. They will certainly miss his goals and skill, but they know his heart \_\_\_\_\_ English football.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'previous' and 'record'.

| previous | record |
|----------|--------|
|          |        |

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• giants</li><li>• comes</li><li>• frosty</li><li>• sale</li><li>• virus</li><li>• desire</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hid</li><li>• dream</li><li>• top</li><li>• helped</li><li>• mixed</li><li>• heart</li></ul> |
|---|--|

# STUDENT FOOTBALL SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about football in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# FOOTBALL DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'football'?
- c) Why do you think football (soccer) is the world's most popular sport?
- d) What do you think of Cristiano Ronaldo?
- e) Do you think \$130 million is a silly price to pay for a footballer?
- f) What do you think about football (soccer)?
- g) How popular is football in your country?
- h) What do you think about Sir Alex Ferguson's "virus" comment?
- i) Who is your world player of the year and why?
- j) Do you have frosty relations with anyone?

*Manchester United agree to sell Ronaldo – 12th June, 2009*  
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# FOOTBALL DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Would you leave a team with whom you had huge success?
- c) What do you think it's like to be a superstar football (soccer) player?
- d) Who are your childhood heroes? Why?
- e) Have you ever hidden your desire to do something?
- f) What would your "dream move" be?
- g) When was the last time you had mixed feelings about something?
- h) Which country has the best football league?
- i) Is your heart in everything you do?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Cristiano Ronaldo?

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# LANGUAGE

Spanish football giants Real Madrid (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo for a record \$130 million. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a few days after Madrid set the previous record of \$92 million for Brazilian star Kaka. Real Madrid have been after Ronaldo for several years. Their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Portuguese star has led to frosty relations between the Spanish team and Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester's manager, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ warned Madrid that Ronaldo was not for sale. He once told reporters he wouldn't even (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a virus to the Spanish team. United officials announced the transfer news by saying that Ronaldo "has again expressed his desire to leave" and that Real Madrid has permission (6) \_\_\_\_\_ talk to him.

Ronaldo joined United from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon in 2003. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ his huge success with Manchester, Ronaldo never hid his desire to play for Madrid, his childhood heroes. He constantly told (8) \_\_\_\_\_ press it would be a "dream move" to play for Real Madrid. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while playing for Manchester United. This season he finished (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the club's top scorer and was voted European and world player of the year. He also helped the English side (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the Champions League and several English Premier League titles. United supporters will have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ feelings about his departure. They will certainly miss his goals and skill, but they know his heart was never really (12) \_\_\_\_\_ English football.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |              |                |               |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) being       | (b) is       | (c) be         | (d) are       |
| 2.  | (a) comes       | (b) coming   | (c) come       | (d) newcomer  |
| 3.  | (a) interesting | (b) interest | (c) interested | (d) interests |
| 4.  | (a) repetitive  | (b) repeats  | (c) repeatedly | (d) repeated  |
| 5.  | (a) sale        | (b) sold     | (c) sell       | (d) selling   |
| 6.  | (a) by          | (b) to       | (c) with       | (d) for       |
| 7.  | (a) Desperate   | (b) Spiteful | (c) Spite      | (d) Despite   |
| 8.  | (a) the         | (b) a        | (c) every      | (d) this      |
| 9.  | (a) was         | (b) as       | (c) has        | (d) pas       |
| 10. | (a) won         | (b) wins     | (c) winning    | (d) win       |
| 11. | (a) mixture     | (b) mixing   | (c) mixed      | (d) mixes     |
| 12. | (a) in          | (b) among    | (c) between    | (d) from      |



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Cristiano Ronaldo. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. FOOTBALLERS:** Make a poster about your favourite footballers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. DREAM MOVE:** Write a magazine article about Cristiano Ronaldo's dream move. Include imaginary interviews with Cristiano and fans from Manchester United and Real Madrid.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Cristiano Ronaldo. Ask him three questions about his time at Manchester United. Give him three pieces of advice about what he should do at Real Madrid. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. F      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. previous   | a. earlier    |
| 2. frosty     | b. chilled    |
| 3. warned     | c. cautioned  |
| 4. reporters  | d. the media  |
| 5. desire     | e. wish       |
| 6. huge       | f. enormous   |
| 7. scorer     | g. marksman   |
| 8. side       | h. team       |
| 9. departure  | i. leaving    |
| 10. certainly | j. definitely |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Real Madrid are to buy world           | a. player of the year     |
| 2. This comes a few days after Madrid set | b. the previous record    |
| 3. Real Madrid have been after Ronaldo    | c. for several years      |
| 4. frosty                                 | d. relations              |
| 5. United officials announced             | e. the transfer news      |
| 6. Ronaldo never hid his desire           | f. to play for Madrid     |
| 7. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while     | g. playing for Manchester |
| 8. he finished as the club's              | h. top scorer             |
| 9. supporters will have mixed             | i. feelings               |
| 10. his heart was never really            | j. in English football    |

## GAP FILL:

### Manchester United agree to sell Ronaldo

Spanish football **giants** Real Madrid are to buy world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo for a record \$130 million. This **comes** a few days after Madrid set the previous record of \$92 million for Brazilian star Kaka. Real Madrid have been **after** Ronaldo for several years. Their interest in the Portuguese star has led to frosty **relations** between the Spanish team and Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson, Manchester's manager, repeatedly **warned** Madrid that Ronaldo was not for sale. He once told reporters he wouldn't even sell a **virus** to the Spanish team. United officials announced the transfer news by saying that Ronaldo "has again expressed his **desire** to leave" and that Real Madrid has **permission** to talk to him.

Ronaldo joined United from Portugal's Sporting Lisbon in 2003. Despite his **huge** success with Manchester, Ronaldo never hid his desire to play for Madrid, his **childhood** heroes. He constantly told the press it would be a "dream **move**" to play for Real Madrid. Ronaldo enjoyed huge success while playing for Manchester United. This season he finished as the club's **top** scorer and was voted European and world player of the year. He also helped the English **side** win the Champions League and **several** English Premier League titles. United supporters will have **mixed** feelings about his departure. They will certainly miss his goals and skill, but they know his **heart** was never really in English football.

## LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a