

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210422-european-super-league.html>

The plan created by Europe's top football clubs to create a breakaway super league seems to be falling apart less than 48 hours after it was launched. A group of 12 of the richest football teams in Europe announced they would take part in the European Super League (ESL) starting in August. This created fury among fans, players, managers, Premier League teams and even the British Prime Minister and Britain's Prince William. They all said the new league would destroy football. They said it was created by greedy club owners. There has been so much anger that top clubs Chelsea and Manchester City are already preparing to withdraw from the ESL due a backlash from fans.

Six of England's richest teams agreed to participate in the breakaway ESL, including Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal. Top teams from Spain (including Barcelona) and Italy also signed up. No teams from Germany and France are involved, making the ESL less European. In Germany, teams are 51-per-cent owned by fans, so fan power is bigger in Germany than in England. The UK government said it will take "whatever action is necessary," including legal options, to stop the ESL. Fourteen Premier League clubs said they would take legal action to expel the six English clubs from the Premier League. Football's governing bodies FIFA and UEFA said players who played in the ESL could be banned from the World Cup.

**\* At the time of uploading this lesson, nine of the 12 teams have withdrawn from the ESL.**

Sources: <https://www.espn.com/soccer/manchester-united/story/4365066/man-united-man-city-players-voice-super-league-concerns-to-clubs-sources>  
<https://sports.yahoo.com/super-league-faces-potential-legal-215850700.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/apr/19/european-super-league-government-fa-and-uefa-unite-to-denounce-plans>

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOTBALL / SOCCER:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about football / soccer. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

plan / football / clubs / league / fury / fans / greedy / owners / withdraw / backlash / teams / participate / European / fan power / legal action / necessary / bodies / players

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

**3. THE BEST GAME:** Students A **strongly** believe football is the best game in the world; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. COMPETITIONS:** What do you know about these competitions? What are the good and bad things about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	Good Things	Bad Things
Premier League			
Tour de France			
Formula 1			
Olympics			
Wimbledon tennis			
Sumo basho			

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

**6. SPORTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Football
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Skiing
- Sailing
- Marathon
- Rugby
- Basketball

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. falling apart | a. Leave a place or situation.   |
| 2. launched      | b. Started.  |
| 3. fury          | c. Completely break; put an end to.  |
| 4. destroy       | d. Breaking up.  |
| 5. greedy        | e. A strong, angry and negative reaction to something by a large number of people. |
| 6. withdraw      | f. Big, big anger.   |
| 7. backlash      | g. Having a huge and selfish desire for money, cakes, power, etc.                  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8. participate | h. About the law.   |
| 9. involved    | i. A person who has a strong interest in or love of a person or thing.        |
| 10. fan        | j. Force someone to leave a place, especially a school or a country.          |
| 11. legal      | k. Join in; take part.  |
| 12. option     | l. Of a situation or event - include something as a necessary part or result. |
| 13. expel      | m. Officially or legally stopped.   |
| 14. banned     | n. A thing that is or may be chosen or selected.                              |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210422-european-super-league.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. It took European clubs 48 hours to think of the European Super League. **T / F**
- b. The European Super League once had 12 of Europe's richest clubs in it. **T / F**
- c. The UK's Prime Minister strongly supported the European Super League. **T / F**
- d. People said greedy club owners created the European Super League. **T / F**
- e. Six teams from England initially joined the European Super League. **T / F**
- f. No teams from France and Germany joined the European Super League. **T / F**
- g. The UK government said it would not take legal action against the ESL. **T / F**
- h. Players from the ESL would have played in the FIFA World Cup. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>plan</b>          | a. included      |
| 2. <b>falling apart</b> | b. ruin          |
| 3. <b>fury</b>          | c. breaking up   |
| 4. <b>destroy</b>       | d. because of    |
| 5. <b>due to</b>        | e. organizations |
| 6. <b>participate</b>   | f. supporters    |
| 7. <b>involved</b>      | g. scheme        |
| 8. <b>fans</b>          | h. throw out     |
| 9. <b>expel</b>         | i. anger         |
| 10. <b>bodies</b>       | j. join          |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. create a breakaway                    | a. could be banned      |
| 2. falling apart less than               | b. a backlash from fans |
| 3. This created fury                     | c. is necessary         |
| 4. created by greedy                     | d. 48 hours after       |
| 5. withdraw from the ESL due to          | e. by fans              |
| 6. Six of England's richest teams agreed | f. among fans           |
| 7. teams are 51-per-cent owned           | g. super league         |
| 8. it will take whatever action          | h. action               |
| 9. they would take legal                 | i. club owners          |
| 10. players who played in the ESL        | j. to participate       |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210422-european-super-league.html>

1. How long did it take the European Super League to fall apart?
2. How many teams launched the European Super League (ESL)?
3. When was the European Super League due to start?
4. What did the UK Prime Minister say the ESL would do to football?
5. Who did people say created the ESL?
6. How many teams from England joined the ESL?
7. How many teams from Germany and France joined the ESL?
8. What does the article say is bigger in Germany than in England?
9. What does the article say Premier League clubs wanted to take?
10. What did FIFA say ESL players could be banned from?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210422-european-super-league.html>

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

football	fan

- 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>• plan</li><li>• group</li><li>• players</li><li>• greedy</li><li>• much</li><li>• due</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• agreed</li><li>• signed</li><li>• 51</li><li>• options</li><li>• expel</li><li>• banned</li></ul>
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# FOOTBALL / SOCCER DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'football'?
3. What do you think of football?
4. What is the better word - 'football' or 'soccer'?
5. Why is football so popular?
6. What do you think of a European Super League?
7. What do you think of the ESL falling apart within 48 hours?
8. What do you think of fan power?
9. What do you think of billionaire club owners?
10. How important is football in your country?

*Football fan fury over European Super League – 22nd April, 2021*  
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# FOOTBALL / SOCCER DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'fan'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of England's Premier League?
15. What is the world's greatest football club?
16. Should football fans own their clubs?
17. Are greedy club owners harming football?
18. What can clubs do to make football better?
19. What three adjectives best describe this story?
20. What questions would you like to ask the club owners?