Iconic Football Managers

Pre-reading Questions:

1. What do you think the word 'iconic' means?
2. Which international football managers do you know?
3. Do you think being a football manager is difficult? Why/why not?

When we think of football, we often think of famous football players, the top football teams, and their fans. But behind every football team, there is a football manager. And when we think about **iconic** football managers, we don't just look at how many games they have won, but also at the **effect** they had on the team and on football in general. Here are some famous football managers that made a difference in the world of football.

Sir Alex Ferguson

Sir Alex Ferguson is one of the best football managers ever. Why? Most people know that he helped one of the world's biggest football teams, Manchester United, win a lot of **trophies.** But not everyone knows that he was the manager for 26 years! He made Manchester United one of the best teams in football history. He was also a strong **leader** and a lot of his players improved their skills while playing for him. In total, Sir Alex Ferguson won 49 trophies as a manager.

Sarina Weigman

Sarina Weigman played football in the Netherlands, where she was born. She then became the manager of the Netherlands women's team in 2017, and they won the Women's Euros that year. In 2021, she became the manager of the England women's team and she quickly had **success.** Sarina Wiegman helps her team work well together and is very good at making players better. People know her as one of the best managers in women's football today.

Disclaimer: This resource has been made for the purpose of teaching English language learners. We know that students can be learning English in many different places, in many different ways and at any age, so we try to keep these resources as general as possible.

There are many acronyms associated with English language teaching. These include (but are not limited to) ELT, TEFL, EFL, ELL, EAL and ESOL. While the term ESL may not fully represent the linguistic backgrounds of all students, it is the most widely recognised term for English language teaching globally. Therefore, we use the term 'ESL' in the names of our resources to make them easy to find but they are suitable for any student learning to speak English.

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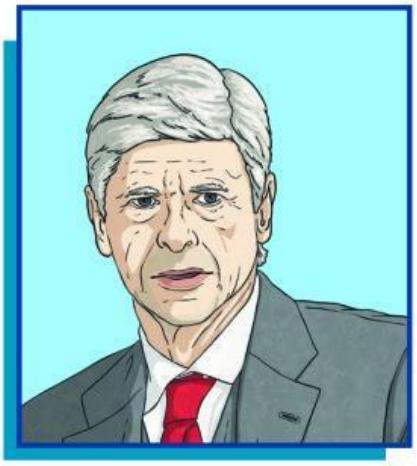
Johan Cruyff

Johan Cruyff is one of the most important people in football history. He won a lot of championships as a football player in the Netherlands. Later he became the manager of Barcelona F.C. in the early 1990's. He helped the team win their first European Cup in 1992, as well as other football trophies in Spain. His way of managing Barcelona changed the way football is played today.

Arsene Wenger



Arsene Wenger is a famous French football manager. People know him for being the manager of Arsenal football club from 1996 to 2018. At the club, he won 10 English football **championships.** One year his team did not lose a single game for the whole season. Arsene Wenger helped his players get better and better. Now he works to improve football around the world.

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Vocabulary Questions

Activity 1

Match the **bold** words in the text to their meanings.

1.	a result of an action
2.	a person who is in control of a group of people.
3.	a high-level competition to see who is the best.
4.	a prize after winning a competition.
5.	something or someone that is very famous or very popular.
6.	the result of getting something you wanted.

Activity 2

Complete the sentences using a word from the box.

manager	improved	Johan Cruyff	biggest	lose
	England	2018	together	

1. A football team includes football players and a football _____.

2. Sir Alex Ferguson helped one of the _____ football teams in the world.

3. A lot of Sir Alex Ferguson's players _____ their skills while playing for Manchester United.

4. Sarina Weigman is now the manager of _____ women's football team.

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5. She helps the team work well _____.

6. _____ helped Barcelona win their first European Cup.

7. Arsene Wenger managed Arsenal F.C. until _____.

8. During a whole season, Arsenal F.C didn't _____ a single game.

Reading Questions

Activity 1

Match these numbers with the information.

2021	1992	26	10

1._____ = The amount of championships Arsene Wenger won with Arsenal.

2._____ = The year Sarina Weignam became the England women's manager.

3._____ = The number of years Sir Alex Ferguson managed Manchester United.

4._____ = The year Barcelona won the European Cup.

Activity 2

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Why is Sir Alex Ferguson one of the best football managers ever?

_____

_____

2. How many trophies did Sir Alex Ferguson win in total?

_____

_____

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3. Where is Sarina Weignam from?

4. Who did she start to manage in 2021?

5. Which football team did Johan Cruyff help win their first European Cup?

6. Which football team went a whole season without losing a game?

Activity 3

Decide if the following sentences are true or false. Tick the boxes

	True	False
1. Johan Cruyff played football in the Netherlands.		
2. Sir Alex Ferguson improved his skills while playing for Manchester United.		
3. At Arsenal, Wenger won 10 international championships.		
4. Sarina Weigman had success quickly with her England team.		
5. Cruyff changed the way people play football.		
6. Now, Arsene Wenger is helping improve football worldwide.		

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Writing Question

Finish these sentences with your own ideas. There is one example.

Example: A **championship** that I would like to win is .....**Wimbledon because I love playing tennis.**

1. A **championship** that I would like to win is _____

_____

2. In my opinion, the most **iconic** football manager is _____

_____

3. A person in my life who I think is a **leader** is _____

_____

4. I think **success** is _____

_____

5. Football has an **effect** on the world because _____

_____

6. A **trophy** I would like to have is _____

_____

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Answers

Vocabulary Questions

Activity 1

1. **effect**
2. **leader**
3. **championship**
4. **trophy**
5. **iconic**
6. **success**

Activity 2

1. **manager**
2. **biggest**
3. **improved**
4. **England**
5. **together**
6. **Johan Cruyff**
7. **2018**
8. **lose**

Reading Questions

Activity 1

1. **10**
2. **2021**
3. **26**
4. **1992**

Activity 2

1. **He's one of the best managers in the world because he helped Manchester United win a lot of trophies and he was their manager for 26 years.**
2. **In total, Sir Alex Ferguson won 49 trophies.**
3. **Sarina Weignam is from the Netherlands.**
4. **In 2021 she started to manage England women's football team.**
5. **Johan Cruyff helped Barcelona win their first European Cup.**
6. **Arsenal went a whole season without losing a game.**

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Activity 3

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **T**
5. **T**
6. **T**

Writing Question

Student's own answers.

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