

**soccer**['sɒkə] *n*

футбол(по правилам Национальной ассоциации футболистов Великобритании)

soccer player - футболист

**soccer**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**soc·cer** *BrE* ['sɒkə(r)] <sup>ˈ</sup> *NAmE* ['sɑːkə] <sup>ˈ</sup> (*BrE* also **foot·ball**) (also *BrE* formal**As, sociation** 'football') (also *BrE* informal **footy**, **footie**) **noun**

uncountable



a game played by two teams of 11 players, using a round ball which players kick up and down the playing field. Teams try to kick the ball into the other team's goal

- soccer players
- a **soccer pitch/team/match**

See also: ↑**Association football** ▪ ↑**football** ▪ ↑**footie** ▪ ↑**footy**

Word Origin:

late 19th cent.: shortening of ↑**Assoc.** + ↑**-er**.

Culture:**football – British style** [football British style soccer]

Football is the most popular sport in Britain, particularly among men. It is played by boys in most schools. Most towns have an **amateur** football team which plays in a **minor league**. Football is also the most popular **spectator sport** in Britain. Many people go to see their favourite professional team playing **at home**, and some go to **away matches**. Many more people watch football on television.

The rules of football are relatively simple: two teams of 11 players try to get a round ball into the opposing team's **goal** and to prevent their opponents from scoring. The ball may be kicked or **headed**, but never **handled**, except by the **goalkeepers**. The ↑**Football Association** was founded in 1863 to decide the rules of football and the resulting game became known formally as **association football**. It is sometimes also called **soccer**. Many of today's leading **clubs** were established shortly afterwards. Most professional clubs represent large cities, or parts of London. They include ↑**Everton**, Liverpool, ↑**Manchester United**, **Arsenal**, ↑**Chelsea** and ↑**Tottenham Hotspur**. The most famous Scottish clubs include ↑**Rangers** and ↑**Celtic**. In 1992 football was reorganized so that the best 20 teams in England and Wales play in the **Premiership**, while 70 other teams play in three **divisions**, run by the ↑**Football League**. There is a ↑**Scottish Premier League** and three divisions run by the Scottish Football League. At the end of each season, the top few teams in each division are **promoted** and the bottom teams are **relegated**. As well as the **Premiership**, the main competitions are the ↑**FA Cup** and the **League Cup**. A few of the most successful sides have won **the Double**, the Premiership and the FA cup in the same year. The biggest clubs are now run as major businesses, and top players earn large **salaries**. They are frequently **transferred** between clubs for millions of pounds. Many foreign stars also now play for British teams.

England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland all have their own national sides. England won the World Cup in 1966, when its stars included Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst.

An increase in **football hooliganism** in the 1970s and 1980s frightened many people away from football matches. English fans got a bad reputation in Europe and football violence became known as 'the English disease'. Disasters such as that at ↑**Hillsborough**, in which many people died, also discouraged people from going to matches. Formerly, football grounds had **terraces**, where supporters stood packed close together, and **stands** containing rows of seats which were more expensive. These grounds have now almost all been replaced by **all-seater stadiums**, but people complain about the rising cost of tickets. Many clubs have their own **fanzine** (= a magazine about the club written and published by the fans). Some supporters also buy a copy of their team's **strip** (= shorts and shirt in team colours).

This type of football is known in the US as soccer to distinguish it from the American game. Enthusiasm increased after 1994 when the World Cup was played for the first time in the US. In 1999 the US won the Women's World Cup. In 1996 **Major League Soccer (MLS)** was established, and teams compete for the **MLS Cup**. Students in colleges and universities also play soccer in three ↑**NCAA** divisions. The nation's oldest **tournament** is the US Open Cup. About 18 million American children now play regularly, and the expression **soccer mom** (= a mother who spends a lot of time taking her children to sporting activities) has entered the language.

Example Bank:

- He played on the Irish junior soccer team.
- He was wearing a yellow Brazil soccer jersey.
- The kids are at soccer practice.
- a pair of soccer cleats

**soccer**

**soc**cer /'sɒkə \$ 'sɑ:kət *BrE* *AmE* noun [uncountable]

[Date: 1800-1900; Origin: association (football); because it was originally played under the rules of the English Football Association]  
 a sport played by two teams of 11 players, who try to kick a round ball into their opponents' goal **SYN** football *British English*

**soccer**

Freakuency Pack

12500 **5545**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **2758**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **6k** **SOCCER** <sup>9854</sup>

soccer <sup>9854</sup>

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COCA 500k Unlemmatized

4126 **4089**<sup>9846</sup> *nn1*

8 **294658**<sup>8</sup> *np1*