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## **Gamer beats soccer star to manager's job**

**25th November, 2012**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has named a 21-year-old video game player as its new manager (coach). They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead of 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is currently top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) to locally-born Huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's decision has shocked the football world. All eyes will now be on Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his ambition is to get his team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football.

Mr Huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing background. He was born in Baku in 1991 and grew up supporting Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different kind of soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated in Business Management. For the past ten years he has been addicted to the video game Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club really liked his knowledge of the game in leading his Football Manager teams to victory. Huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game.

Sources: [http://soccernet.espn.go.com/blog/\\_/name/thetoepoke/id/690?cc=4716](http://soccernet.espn.go.com/blog/_/name/thetoepoke/id/690?cc=4716)  
<http://sports.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201211/97728.php>

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOTBALL MANAGERS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about football managers. Change partners often 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.

*football club / soccer / video game player / manager / experienced / tournament / interesting background / supporter / graduated / business management / victory / wait*

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

**3. EXPERIENCE:** Are these things useful to be a soccer manager? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How useful?	Why?
Video-gaming skill		
Master's degree		
Ex-manager		
World Cup winner		
Fitness coach		
Great knowledge of soccer history		

**4. GAMER:** Students A **strongly** believe gamers who play soccer management games can be as good as ex-players at managing football teams; Students B **strongly** believe no way – That's crazy! Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. COACH:** Who would be the best football coach? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Barack Obama
- Usain Bolt
- Lady Gaga
- Mia Hamm
- Any Brazilian
- A soccer expert
- The #1 passionate fan
- You

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A gamer beat a European Footballer of the Year to a manager's job.  | T / F |
| b. The team is currently bottom of the league.                         | T / F |
| c. The new manager was born near the team he now manages.              | T / F |
| d. The manager's ambition is to not get relegated this season.         | T / F |
| e. The new manager learnt a bit more about football in Sweden.         | T / F |
| f. The guy became the club's advisor and then did a university degree. | T / F |
| g. The club liked the guy's knowledge of soccer via Football Manager.  | T / F |
| h. The article says the club won its first game under the new manager. | T / F |

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

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. top         | a. following   |
| 2. named       | b. hooked on   |
| 3. currently   | c. competition |
| 4. ambition    | d. announced   |
| 5. tournament  | e. past        |
| 6. background  | f. presently   |
| 7. supporting  | g. useful      |
| 8. kind        | h. leading     |
| 9. addicted to | i. dream       |
| 10. valuable   | j. type        |

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

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. named a 21-year-old video game player | a. the football world.     |
| 2. Baku FC, which is currently           | b. Business Management     |
| 3. The club's decision has shocked       | c. in European football    |
| 4. All eyes will now                     | d. footballing background  |
| 5. the second-biggest tournament         | e. job skills and training |
| 6. a short but interesting               | f. be on Huseynzade        |
| 7. grew up                               | g. as its new manager      |
| 8. he graduated in                       | h. teams to victory        |
| 9. leading his Football Manager          | i. top of the Azeri league |
| 10. valuable on-the-                     | j. supporting Baku FC      |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

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

The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a 21-year-old video game player as its new manager (2) \_\_\_\_\_. They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) to (5) \_\_\_\_\_-born Huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ has shocked the football world. All eyes will now be on Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ is to get his team into the Europa League, which is the second-(8) \_\_\_\_\_ tournament in European football.

*decision*

*currently*

*coach*

*biggest*

*named*

*locally*

*instead*

*ambition*

Mr Huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing (9) \_\_\_\_\_. He was born in Baku in 1991 and grew up (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in Business Management. For the past ten years he has been (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to the video game Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club really liked his (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of the game in leading his Football Manager teams to (15) \_\_\_\_\_. Huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him (16) \_\_\_\_\_ on-the-job skills and training. He added that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game.

*graduated*

*valuable*

*background*

*victory*

*supporting*

*knowledge*

*kind*

*addicted*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

- 1) The top football club in Azerbaijan has named a \_\_\_\_\_ video game player as its new manager.
  - a. 20-year-old
  - b. 21-year-old
  - c. 22-year-old
  - d. 22 1/2-year-old
- 2) They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead of 1991 \_\_\_\_\_ Jean-Pierre Papin.
  - a. Azerbaijan Footballer of the Year
  - b. European Footballer of the Year
  - c. Asian Footballer of the Year
  - d. World Footballer of the Year
- 3) The club is Baku FC, which is currently \_\_\_\_\_ of the Azerbaijan league.
  - a. middle
  - b. out of
  - c. bottom
  - d. top
- 4) It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) \_\_\_\_\_ Huseynzade...
  - a. too low to play
  - b. to locally-born
  - c. to local-born
  - d. to low calorie burning
- 5) The young manager told reporters his ambition \_\_\_\_\_ the Europa League...
  - a. is to get this steam
  - b. is to get his team to win
  - c. was to forget his team lost
  - d. is to get his team into
- 6) Mr Huseynzade has \_\_\_\_\_ interesting footballing background.
  - a. a short and
  - b. a short but
  - c. a shortcut
  - d. a sure but
- 7) He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a \_\_\_\_\_ soccer.
  - a. different kind of
  - b. different sort of
  - c. different type of
  - d. different variety of
- 8) For the past ten years \_\_\_\_\_ video game Football Manager.
  - a. he has been addiction to the
  - b. he has been to the addicted
  - c. he has been addicted to the
  - d. he has addicted been to the
- 9) The club really liked his \_\_\_\_\_ of the game in leading his Football Manager teams to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. victory / knowledge
  - b. knowing / victorious
  - c. knowledge / victory
  - d. knows / victor
- 10) managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable \_\_\_\_\_ and training.
  - a. on-the-job skills
  - b. on-the-skills job
  - c. skills on the job
  - d. job on the skills

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan (1) \_\_\_\_\_-year-old video game player as its new manager (coach). They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade (2) \_\_\_\_\_ European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) to locally-born Huseynzade (4) \_\_\_\_\_ experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's decision has shocked the football world. All (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football.

Mr Huseynzade has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ footballing background. He was born in Baku in 1991 and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about (9) \_\_\_\_\_ soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated in Business Management. For (10) \_\_\_\_\_ he has been addicted to the video game Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club really liked (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the game in leading his Football Manager teams to victory. Huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added that (12) \_\_\_\_\_ select his first team and win his first game.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

1. Which country is this story from?

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2. Who did they choose Huseynzade instead of?

---

3. Where is Baku FC in the Azeri league right now?

---

4. Where was Huseynzade born?

---

5. What's the young manager's ambition?

---

6. Which team did Huseynzade support as a child?

---

7. What did Huseynzade study at university?

---

8. What was Huseynzade's first role at the club?

---

9. What did Baku FC like about Huseynzade?

---

10. What did Huseynzade say was useful (valuable) about playing games?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

1. Where does this story take place?
  - a) FIFA headquarters
  - b) Brazil
  - c) Azerbaijan
  - d) Wembley Stadium, England
2. How old is the new manager?
  - a) 21
  - b) 41
  - c) 61
  - d) 81
3. What did Jean-Pierre Papin win?
  - a) The 1992 soccer Olympics gold medal
  - b) 1991 European Footballer of the Year
  - c) 1990 World Footballer of the Year
  - d) 1992 Ballon d'Or
4. Where was Huseynzade born?
  - a) Boston
  - b) Stockholm
  - c) Ulan Bator
  - d) Baku
5. What's the manager's ambition?
  - a) to win the World Cup
  - b) to win the Asian Nations Cup
  - c) to get into the Europa League
  - d) to avoid relegation
6. What did Huseynzade learn about in Sweden?
  - a) how different his home city was
  - b) a different kind of football
  - c) Alfred Nobel
  - d) IKEA and Volvo
7. What was his degree in?
  - a) the history of world football
  - b) sports health
  - c) English
  - d) Business Management
8. For how long has he been addicted to Football Manager?
  - a) longer than he can remember
  - b) for the past ten years
  - c) since he was eight years old
  - d) almost from when he could walk
9. What did his club like about him?
  - a) his favourite movie was "Bend It Like Beckham"
  - b) his knowledge of the game
  - c) how long he could do keepy-uppy
  - d) his ability to dribble and curl shots
10. What can't the manager wait for?
  - a) to select his first team
  - b) the Brazil 2014 World Cup Finals
  - c) his first pay cheque
  - d) to play against FC Barcelona

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

## **Role A – Huseynzade**

You love your new role as Baku FC coach. Tell the others three reasons why you will do better than other managers. You love Papin but he was good with his feet, not at managing. You know you can win the Europa League in three years. You would like Papin as your assistant manager.

## **Role B – Papin**

You are very angry. You know you are the best coach for the job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others three reasons why Huseynzade will fail. You feel really sorry for Baku FC's fans. You believe the team will finish in the bottom half this season. You can change that, but ONLY as manager.

## **Role C – Baku FC fan**

You are happy with the new manager. It shows the club is looking at new ways to win. You don't think Papin is good. He doesn't have a good record as a manager. Give Papin three reasons why Huseynzade is best. You want another local coach from Baku to be the assistant coach. You dislike Michel Platini.

## **Role D – Michel Platini**

You are the boss of European football and a good friend of Papin's. You are SHOCKED a video gamer is coach of a European team. Give the others 3 reasons why. You think Huseynzade must go. Papin must be manager. He is a star. He knows football. The Baku FC knows nothing about football!!!

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

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

football	coach

- 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>• top</li><li>• chose</li><li>• 1991</li><li>• hugely</li><li>• eyes</li><li>• second</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• short</li><li>• high</li><li>• past</li><li>• 2012</li><li>• really</li><li>• wait</li></ul>
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# FOOTBALL MANAGERS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

Write five GOOD questions about football managers 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 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
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 MANAGERS 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 'soccer'?
- c) Why is football (soccer) the world's most popular sport?
- d) What do you think of a 21-year-old gamer becoming coach?
- e) What could a gamer do better than a coach experienced on the pitch?
- f) Why did they choose the gamer instead of 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin?
- g) How would you feel if your favourite team made a gamer its manager?
- h) Do you think Huseynzade's passion for his club will see him win?
- i) What questions would you like to ask coach Vugar Huseynzade?
- j) What do you think his answers might be?

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# FOOTBALL MANAGERS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Which word is best – 'soccer' or 'football'?
- c) What do you think of Huseynzade's background?
- d) What football management skills can you and can't you learn from a video game?
- e) What do you think the older Baku FC players will think of their 21-year-old gaming coach?
- f) Have you been addicted to games, the Internet, mobile phone, etc?
- g) What do you think the other teams in the league think about this?
- h) Is this a very creative or very stupid decision by Baku FC?
- i) What questions would you like to ask the Baku FC boss?
- j) What do you think his/her answers might be?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a 21-year-old video game player as its new manager (coach). They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead of 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the (4) \_\_\_\_\_) to locally-born Huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's decision has shocked the football world. All (5) \_\_\_\_\_ will now be on Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his ambition is to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football.

Mr Huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He was born in Baku in 1991 and grew up (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different kind of soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Management. For the past ten years he has been addicted to the video game Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club (10) \_\_\_\_\_ liked his knowledge of the game in leading his Football Manager teams to (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Huseynzade said that (12) \_\_\_\_\_ football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game.

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

- |     |                  |                |                |                   |
|-----|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) gamed        | (b) framed     | (c) shamed     | (d) named         |
| 2.  | (a) option       | (b) choose     | (c) select     | (d) chose         |
| 3.  | (a) currants     | (b) currently  | (c) currency   | (d) current       |
| 4.  | (a) reservations | (b) reserved   | (c) reserves   | (d) reverses      |
| 5.  | (a) eyes         | (b) feet       | (c) heads      | (d) chests        |
| 6.  | (a) get          | (b) let        | (c) met        | (d) bet           |
| 7.  | (a) poster       | (b) video      | (c) ideas      | (d) background    |
| 8.  | (a) supporting   | (b) holding up | (c) comforting | (d) looking after |
| 9.  | (a) on           | (b) in         | (c) of         | (d) if            |
| 10. | (a) very         | (b) such       | (c) really     | (d) many          |
| 11. | (a) draw         | (b) sidelines  | (c) victory    | (d) penalties     |
| 12. | (a) manages      | (b) managing   | (c) managed    | (d) manager       |

Gamer beats soccer star to manager's job – 25th November, 2012

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# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. eistnda of...
2. ycuenrtrl top of the Azerbaijan league
3. the luhyeg experienced Frenchman Papin
4. The club's nideicso has shocked the football world.
5. his maboiitn is to get his team into the Europa League
6. the second-biggest entromaun in European football

## Paragraph 2

7. a short but interesting footballing rndaukcbgo
8. grew up uirtspgpon Baku FC
9. where he gdteurada in Business Management
10. he has been diatddec to the video game Football Manager
11. The club really liked his dweokengl of the game
12. gave him vauallbe on-the-job skills and training



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) as its new manager (coach). They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead of 1991 European Footballer of
- ( ) of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) to locally-born Huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's
- ( ) the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is currently top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position
- ( ) well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his ambition is to get his
- ( ) up supporting Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different kind of soccer. He then
- ( ) team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football.
- ( ) that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game.
- ( ) game in leading his Football Manager teams to victory. Huseynzade said that managing
- ( ) decision has shocked the football world. All eyes will now be on Huseynzade to see how
- ( ) to the video game Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club really liked his knowledge of the
- ( ) Mr Huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing background. He was born in Baku in 1991 and grew
- ( **1** ) The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has named a 21-year-old video game player
- ( ) studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated in Business Management. For the past ten years he has been addicted
- ( ) football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added

Gamer beats soccer star to manager's job – 25th November, 2012

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# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

1. game manager video 21-year-old new a as Named player  
.

---

2. top the league Currently of Azerbaijan.

---

3. decision world has shocked The the club's football.

---

4. League Europa the into team his get to is ambition his.

---

5. European - football biggest tournament The in second.

---

6. interesting background A but footballing short.

---

7. addicted has to video . been He game the

---

8. club his the The liked of really knowledge game.

---

9. on - the - job skills Games gave him valuable.

---

10. couldn't first wait team to select He his.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

The *top / topping* football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has named a 21-year-old video game player *as / has* its new manager (coach). They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead *by / of* 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is *currency / currently* top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the *reservations / reserves*) to locally-born Huseynzade instead *of / at* the *hugely / hugging* experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's *decides / decision* has shocked the football world. All *eyes / ears* will now be on Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his *ambition / ambitious* is to get his team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football.

Mr Huseynzade has a *short / shorten* but interesting footballing background. He was born in Baku in 1991 and *grew / grown* up supporting Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different *kinds / kind* of soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated *at / in* Business Management. For the *past / passed* ten years he has been addicted *of / to* the video game Football Manager. Baku FC *fired / hired* him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club *really / very* liked his knowledge of the game in *pleading / leading* his Football Manager teams to victory. Huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added that he *couldn't / can* wait to select his first team and win his first game.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

Th\_ t\_p f\_\_tb\_ll (s\_cc\_r) cl\_b \_n \_z\_rb\_\_j\_n h\_s  
n\_m\_d \_ 21-y\_\_r-\_ld v\_d\_\_ g\_m\_ pl\_y\_r \_s \_ts n\_w  
m\_n\_g\_r (c\_\_ch). Th\_y ch\_s\_ g\_m\_r V\_g\_r H\_s\_ynz\_d\_  
\_nst\_\_d \_f 1991 \_\_r\_p\_\_n F\_\_tb\_ll\_r \_f th\_ Y\_\_r J\_\_n-  
P\_\_rr\_ P\_p\_n. Th\_ cl\_b \_s B\_k\_ FC, wh\_ch \_s c\_rr\_ntly  
t\_p \_f th\_ \_z\_rb\_\_j\_n l\_\_g\_\_ . t\_g\_v\_ th\_ p\_s\_t\_\_n \_f  
m\_n\_g\_r \_f \_ts " \_ " t\_\_m (th\_r\_s\_rv\_s) t\_l\_c\_lly-b\_rn  
H\_s\_ynz\_d\_ \_nst\_\_d \_f th\_ h\_g\_ly \_xp\_r\_\_nc\_d  
Fr\_nchm\_n P\_p\_n. Th\_ cl\_b's d\_c\_s\_\_n h\_s sh\_ck\_d th\_  
f\_\_tb\_ll w\_rld. \_ll \_y\_s\_w\_ll n\_w b\_ \_n H\_s\_ynz\_d\_ t\_  
s\_\_ h\_w\_w\_ll h\_c\_n m\_n\_g\_ th\_t\_\_m. Th\_y\_\_ng  
m\_n\_g\_r t\_ld r\_p\_r\_t\_rs h\_s \_mb\_t\_\_n \_s t\_g\_t\_h\_s  
t\_\_m \_nt\_ th\_ \_\_r\_p\_ L\_\_g\_\_, wh\_ch \_s th\_s\_c\_nd-  
b\_gg\_st t\_\_rn\_m\_nt \_n \_\_r\_p\_\_n f\_\_tb\_ll.

Mr H\_s\_ynz\_d\_ h\_s \_sh\_r\_t b\_t \_nt\_r\_st\_ng f\_\_tb\_ll\_ng  
b\_ckgr\_\_nd. H\_w\_s b\_rn \_n B\_k\_ \_n 1991 \_nd gr\_w\_p  
s\_pp\_r\_t\_ng B\_k\_ FC. H\_w\_nt t\_h\_gh sch\_\_l \_n Sw\_d\_n  
\_nd l\_\_rnt \_b\_\_t \_d\_ff\_r\_nt k\_nd \_f s\_cc\_r. H\_th\_n  
st\_d\_\_d \_t B\_st\_n \_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_n th\_ \_S\_, wh\_r\_ h\_  
gr\_d\_\_t\_d \_n B\_s\_n\_ss M\_n\_g\_m\_nt. F\_r th\_ p\_st\_t\_n  
y\_\_rs h\_ h\_s b\_\_n \_dd\_ct\_d t\_ th\_ v\_d\_\_ g\_m\_  
F\_\_tb\_ll M\_n\_g\_r. B\_k\_ FC h\_r\_d h\_m \_n F\_br\_\_ry 2012  
\_s \_n \_dv\_s\_r. Th\_ cl\_b r\_\_lly l\_k\_d h\_s kn\_wl\_dg\_\_ \_f  
th\_ g\_m\_ \_n l\_\_d\_ng h\_s F\_\_tb\_ll M\_n\_g\_r t\_\_ms t\_  
v\_ct\_ry. H\_s\_ynz\_d\_ s\_\_d th\_t m\_n\_g\_ng f\_\_tb\_ll  
t\_\_ms \_n s\_m\_l\_t\_\_n g\_m\_s g\_v\_ h\_m v\_l\_\_bl\_ \_n-  
th\_-j\_b sk\_lls \_nd tr\_\_n\_ng. H\_\_dd\_d th\_t h\_c\_\_ldn't  
w\_\_t t\_s\_l\_ct h\_s f\_rst t\_\_m \_nd w\_n h\_s f\_rst g\_m\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

the top football (soccer) club in azerbaijan has named a 21-year-old video game player as its new manager (coach) they chose gamer vugar huseynzade instead of 1991 european footballer of the year jean-pierre papin the club is baku fc which is currently top of the azerbaijan league it gave the position of manager of its "a" team (the reserves) to locally-born huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced frenchman papin the club's decision has shocked the football world all eyes will now be on huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team the young manager told reporters his ambition is to get his team into the europa league which is the second-biggest tournament in european football

mr huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing background he was born in baku in 1991 and grew up supporting baku fc he went to high school in sweden and learnt about a different kind of soccer he then studied at boston university in the usa where he graduated in business management for the past ten years he has been addicted to the video game football manager baku fc hired him in february 2012 as an advisor the club really liked his knowledge of the game in leading his football manager teams to victory huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training he added that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football\\_manager.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121125-football_manager.html)

The top football (soccer) club in Azerbaijan has named a 21-year-old videogame player as its new manager (coach). They chose gamer Vugar Huseynzade instead of 1991 European Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin. The club is Baku FC, which is currently top of the Azerbaijan league. It gave the position of manager of its "A" team (the reserves) to locally-born Huseynzade instead of the hugely experienced Frenchman Papin. The club's decision has shocked the football world. All eyes will now be on Huseynzade to see how well he can manage the team. The young manager told reporters his ambition is to get his team into the Europa League, which is the second-biggest tournament in European football. Mr Huseynzade has a short but interesting footballing background. He was born in Baku in 1991 and grew up supporting Baku FC. He went to high school in Sweden and learnt about a different kind of soccer. He then studied at Boston University in the USA, where he graduated in Business Management. For the past ten years he has been addicted to the videogame Football Manager. Baku FC hired him in February 2012 as an advisor. The club really liked his knowledge of the game in leading his Football Manager team to victory. Huseynzade said that managing football teams in simulation games gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training. He added that he couldn't wait to select his first team and win his first game.







# 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 football managers. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. FOOTBALL MANAGERS:** Make a poster about football managers. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. BAKU FC:** Write a magazine article about Baku FC and its young, video-gaming manager. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against him.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a football expert. Ask him/her three questions about football managers. Give him/her three of your opinions on Baku FC's new manager. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. top         | a. leading     |
| 2. named       | b. announced   |
| 3. currently   | c. presently   |
| 4. ambition    | d. dream       |
| 5. tournament  | e. competition |
| 6. background  | f. past        |
| 7. supporting  | g. following   |
| 8. kind        | h. type        |
| 9. addicted to | i. hooked on   |
| 10. valuable   | j. useful      |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Azerbaijan
2. Jean-Pierre Papin
3. Top
4. In Baku
5. To get his team into the Europa League
6. Baku FC
7. Business Management
8. Advisor
9. His knowledge of the game
10. It gave him valuable on-the-job skills and training

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)