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## **Wayne Rooney to leave Manchester United**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

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20th October, 2010

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

England soccer star Wayne Rooney has shocked his club Manchester United by telling them he wants to leave. There has been a lot of speculation in the press recently about Rooney's poor form on the pitch and his relationship with the club. The usually red-hot striker has only scored once in five games this season. His manager Sir Alex Ferguson has used him as a substitute instead of putting him in the starting eleven. Ferguson told reporters it was because Rooney had an ankle injury, but the player says he is fully fit. Signs of trouble started in September when news came out that Rooney had cheated on his wife by visiting two prostitutes. Coach Ferguson did not play him in the game following this saying he wanted to protect his player from taunts and abuse from rival fans.

Worse news might still come for Manchester United fans, who until now had adored Rooney. There are many reports in the English newspapers that bitter cross-town rivals Manchester City will bid for Rooney's talents. That would be extremely hard to swallow for many United fans. City is the richest club in the world, being backed by Abu Dhabi sheikh Mansour al Nahyan, and is one of the few in world football who could afford Rooney's wages. Sir Alex is shocked at Rooney's request and cannot understand why the player feels the way he does. He would like his best player to stay at the club, telling reporters: "I feel that we still have to keep the door open for him... We're as bemused as anyone can be and can't understand why he would want to leave."

# WARM-UPS

**1. FOOTBALL:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about football (soccer). 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.

*soccer star / shocked / poor form / relationship / substitute / fully fit / cheated / rival / worse news / fans / talents / afford / hard to swallow / wages / being bemused*

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

**3. RIVALS:** Who are yours? Complete this table and show it to your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

My rival in...	How big a rival?	Why?
English		
love		
family		
sports		
games		
life		

**4. FOOTBALL / SOCCER:** Students A **strongly** believe "football" is the best word for the game; Students B **strongly** believe "soccer" is the best word for the game. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. SPORTS STARS:** Which of these words describe sports stars best? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- humble
- role model
- overpaid
- inspiring
- awesome
- intelligent
- loyal
- gifted

**6. RELATIONSHIP:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'relationship'. 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/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

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

- a. Wayne Rooney will leave Manchester United at the end of the month. T / F
- b. Rooney hasn't been playing too well for his club recently. T / F
- c. Rooney has been on the pitch for the start of every game this season. T / F
- d. Ferguson wanted to protect Rooney from his team's fans' abuse. T / F
- e. Rooney has always had a love-hate relationship with his club's fans. T / F
- f. It would be a terrible thing for United fans if Rooney went to City. T / F
- g. There aren't so many football clubs willing to pay Rooney's wages. T / F
- h. Sir Alex is prepared to accept a change of heart from Wayne Rooney. T / F

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

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. shocked         | a. exciting            |
| 2. speculation     | b. difficult to accept |
| 3. red-hot         | c. loved               |
| 4. substitute      | d. stunned             |
| 5. rival           | e. very                |
| 6. adored          | f. rumour              |
| 7. extremely       | g. puzzled             |
| 8. hard to swallow | h. reserve             |
| 9. afford          | i. opponent            |
| 10. bemused        | j. pay for             |

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

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. telling them he wants | a. a substitute    |
| 2. Rooney's poor form    | b. the door open   |
| 3. used him as           | c. to leave        |
| 4. Rooney had cheated    | d. still come      |
| 5. taunts and abuse      | e. swallow         |
| 6. Worse news might      | f. from rival fans |
| 7. bitter cross-         | g. as anyone       |
| 8. extremely hard to     | h. on the pitch    |
| 9. we still have to keep | i. on his wife     |
| 10. We're as bemused     | j. town rivals     |

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# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

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

England soccer star Wayne Rooney has \_\_\_\_\_ his club Manchester United by telling them he wants to leave. There has been a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in the press recently about Rooney's poor form on the \_\_\_\_\_ and his relationship with the club. The usually red-hot striker has only \_\_\_\_\_ once in five games this season. His manager Sir Alex Ferguson has used him as a substitute \_\_\_\_\_ of putting him in the starting eleven. Ferguson told reporters it was because Rooney had an ankle injury, but the player says he is \_\_\_\_\_ fit. Signs of trouble started in September when news came out that Rooney had \_\_\_\_\_ on his wife by visiting two prostitutes. Coach Ferguson did not play him in the game following this saying he wanted to protect his player from taunts and \_\_\_\_\_ from rival fans.

*instead*  
*scored*  
*speculation*  
*abuse*  
*shocked*  
*cheated*  
*fully*  
*pitch*

Worse news \_\_\_\_\_ still come for Manchester United fans, who until now had adored Rooney. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ in the English newspapers that \_\_\_\_\_ cross-town rivals Manchester City will bid for Rooney's talents. That would be extremely hard to \_\_\_\_\_ for many United fans. City is the richest club in the world, being \_\_\_\_\_ by Abu Dhabi sheikh Mansour al Nahyan, and is one of the few in world football who could afford Rooney's wages. Sir Alex is shocked at Rooney's \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot understand why the player feels the way he \_\_\_\_\_. He would like his best player to stay at the club, telling reporters: "I feel that we still have to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ open for him... We're as bemused as anyone can be and can't understand why he would want to leave."

*request*  
*bitter*  
*backed*  
*might*  
*door*  
*does*  
*reports*  
*swallow*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

England soccer star Wayne Rooney \_\_\_\_\_ Manchester United by telling them he wants to leave. There has been a lot of speculation \_\_\_\_\_ about Rooney's poor form on the pitch and his relationship with the club. The usually red-hot striker \_\_\_\_\_ in five games this season. His manager Sir Alex Ferguson has used him as a \_\_\_\_\_ putting him in the starting eleven. Ferguson told reporters it was because Rooney had an ankle injury, but the player \_\_\_\_\_. Signs of trouble started in September when news came out that Rooney had cheated on his wife by visiting two prostitutes. Coach Ferguson did not play him in the game following this saying he wanted to protect his player \_\_\_\_\_ from rival fans.

Worse \_\_\_\_\_ for Manchester United fans, who until now had adored Rooney. There are many reports in the English newspapers that \_\_\_\_\_ Manchester City will bid for Rooney's talents. That would be extremely \_\_\_\_\_ for many United fans. City is the richest club in the world, being backed by Abu Dhabi sheikh Mansour al Nahyan, and \_\_\_\_\_ in world football who could afford Rooney's wages. Sir Alex is shocked at Rooney's request and cannot understand why the player \_\_\_\_\_. He would like his best player to stay at the club, telling reporters: "I feel that we still have to keep \_\_\_\_\_ him... We're as bemused as anyone can be and can't understand why he would want to leave."

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

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

<b>soccer</b>	<b>star</b>
---------------	-------------

- 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>• telling</li><li>• lot</li><li>• red</li><li>• fully</li><li>• wife</li><li>• rival</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• adored</li><li>• cross</li><li>• hard</li><li>• afford</li><li>• feels</li><li>• door</li></ul>
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# STUDENT FOOTBALL (SOCCER) SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

Write five GOOD questions about football (soccer) 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 (SOCCER) 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 do you think football (soccer) is the world's most popular sport?
- d) What do you think about Wayne Rooney?
- e) Do you like to read speculation about famous people?
- f) Do sports stars like Rooney have a duty to make sure they lead a scandal-free private life?
- g) Should clubs take actions against players who cheat on their wives, fight in public, etc?
- h) Do you think Sir Alex Ferguson was right not to play Rooney to save him from taunts from rival fans?
- i) Do you think a player like Rooney can be bigger than the club?
- j) Are you disappointed by your favourite sports stars?

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# FOOTBALL (SOCCER) DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you adore any sports stars?
- c) Do you think Rooney should join bitter rivals Manchester City?
- d) What would you think if your fave player joined a team you hated?
- e) What would the game between Manchester United and Manchester City be like if Rooney joined City?
- f) What do you think are the biggest rivalries in football (or sport)?
- g) Are rivalries in football good for the game?
- h) Do you think Rooney should stay with Manchester United?
- i) Would you like to be a famous football player?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Wayne Rooney?

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# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne\\_rooney.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101020-wayne_rooney.html)

England soccer star Wayne Rooney has shocked his club Manchester United (1) \_\_\_\_\_ telling them he wants to leave. There has been a lot of speculation in the press recently about Rooney's poor (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on the pitch and his relationship with the club. The usually red-hot striker has only scored once in five games this (3) \_\_\_\_\_. His manager Sir Alex Ferguson has used him as a substitute instead of putting him in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ eleven. Ferguson told reporters it was because Rooney had an ankle injury, but the player says he is fully fit. Signs of trouble started in September when news came out that Rooney had cheated (5) \_\_\_\_\_ his wife by visiting two prostitutes. Coach Ferguson did not play him in the game following this saying he wanted to protect his player from taunts and abuse from (6) \_\_\_\_\_ fans.

Worse news might still come for Manchester United fans, who until now had (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Rooney. There are many reports in the English newspapers that bitter cross-town rivals Manchester City will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for Rooney's talents. That would be extremely hard to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for many United fans. City is the richest club in the world, being (10) \_\_\_\_\_ by Abu Dhabi sheikh Mansour al Nahyan, and is one of the few in world football who could afford Rooney's wages. Sir Alex is shocked at Rooney's request and cannot understand why the player feels the way he does. He would like his best player to stay at the club, telling reporters: "I feel that we still have to keep the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ open for him... We're as (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as anyone can be and can't understand why he would want to leave."

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

- |     |               |             |              |              |
|-----|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) from      | (b) to      | (c) at       | (d) by       |
| 2.  | (a) form      | (b) firm    | (c) farm     | (d) firmly   |
| 3.  | (a) quarter   | (b) season  | (c) annual   | (d) semester |
| 4.  | (a) startling | (b) starts  | (c) starting | (d) starters |
| 5.  | (a) in        | (b) up      | (c) on       | (d) at       |
| 6.  | (a) rivalry   | (b) rival   | (c) rivaled  | (d) rivals   |
| 7.  | (a) adore     | (b) adores  | (c) adoring  | (d) adored   |
| 8.  | (a) bid       | (b) lid     | (c) hid      | (d) kid      |
| 9.  | (a) taste     | (b) swallow | (c) gulp     | (d) drink    |
| 10. | (a) fronted   | (b) headed  | (c) chested  | (d) backed   |
| 11. | (a) chimney   | (b) window  | (c) door     | (d) house    |
| 12. | (a) bemused   | (b) bemuses | (c) bemusing | (d) bemuse   |

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

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

**4. ROONEY:** Write a magazine article about Wayne Rooney. Include imaginary interviews with Manchester United and rival Manchester City fans.

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 Wayne Rooney. Ask him three questions about football (soccer). Give him three pieces of advice about his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

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

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. shocked         | a. stunned             |
| 2. speculation     | b. rumour              |
| 3. red-hot         | c. exciting            |
| 4. substitute      | d. reserve             |
| 5. rival           | e. opponent            |
| 6. adored          | f. loved               |
| 7. extremely       | g. very                |
| 8. hard to swallow | h. difficult to accept |
| 9. afford          | i. pay for             |
| 10. bemused        | j. puzzled             |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. telling them he wants | a. to leave        |
| 2. Rooney's poor form    | b. on the pitch    |
| 3. used him as           | c. a substitute    |
| 4. Rooney had cheated    | d. on his wife     |
| 5. taunts and abuse      | e. from rival fans |
| 6. Worse news might      | f. still come      |
| 7. bitter cross-         | g. town rivals     |
| 8. extremely hard to     | h. swallow         |
| 9. we still have to keep | i. the door open   |
| 10. We're as bemused     | j. as anyone       |

## GAP FILL:

### Wayne Rooney to leave Manchester United

England soccer star Wayne Rooney has **shocked** his club Manchester United by telling them he wants to leave. There has been a lot of **speculation** in the press recently about Rooney's poor form on the **pitch** and his relationship with the club. The usually red-hot striker has only **scored** once in five games this season. His manager Sir Alex Ferguson has used him as a substitute **instead** of putting him in the starting eleven. Ferguson told reporters it was because Rooney had an ankle injury, but the player says he is **fully** fit. Signs of trouble started in September when news came out that Rooney had **cheated** on his wife by visiting two prostitutes. Coach Ferguson did not play him in the game following this saying he wanted to protect his player from taunts and **abuse** from rival fans.

Worse news **might** still come for Manchester United fans, who until now had adored Rooney. There are many **reports** in the English newspapers that **bitter** cross-town rivals Manchester City will bid for Rooney's talents. That would be extremely hard to **swallow** for many United fans. City is the richest club in the world, being **backed** by Abu Dhabi sheikh Mansour al Nahyan, and is one of the few in world football who could afford Rooney's wages. Sir Alex is shocked at Rooney's **request** and cannot understand why the player feels the way he **does**. He would like his best player to stay at the club, telling reporters: "I feel that we still have to keep the **door** open for him... We're as bemused as anyone can be and can't understand why he would want to leave."

## 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

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