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## **Sir Alex Ferguson retires as Man. Utd. coach**

**10th May, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen announced his retirement on Wednesday when Sir Alex Ferguson called an end to his 26 years in charge of Manchester United, one of the world's footballing powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought unparalleled success to his club, winning 38 trophies during his reign. In a statement he said: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done so." He added: "I must pay tribute to my family. Their love and support have been essential."

Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more mentions than news of the death of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to pay homage to the legendary manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have achieved what I have done in my career....I am truly honoured to have been guided by the greatest manager in football." FIFA president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game place him without doubt as one of the greats." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has made a massive contribution to football". His successor has an exceedingly tough act to follow.

Sources: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2013/may/08/alex-ferguson-retires-manchester-united>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/sir-alex-ferguson-retirement-generates-1877323>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/22448168>

# WARM-UPS

**1. SPORTS COACHES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about sports coaches. 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.

*successful / retirement / footballing powers / trophies / reign / pay tribute / essential / tweeted / legendary / achieved / visionary / contribution / greats / tough act to follow*

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

**3. MANAGER:** What makes a good one? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

Point	How to best do this?	How do I rate at this?
tactics		
motivating		
disciplining		
big egos		
losing streak		
pressure		

**4. PLAYERS:** Students A **strongly** believe the players win games, not the manager/coach; Students B **strongly** believe the coach/manager wins games. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. SPORT:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- football / soccer
- baseball
- cycling
- tennis
- cricket
- wrestling
- basketball
- archery

**6. RETIREMENT:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'retirement'. 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/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. The world's most successful soccer coach retired on Wednesday.      | T / F |
| b. The coach won an amazing 26 trophies in 38 years.                   | T / F |
| c. The coach said that it was the right time for him to retire.        | T / F |
| d. The coach paid tribute to the essential role played by his family.  | T / F |
| e. Sir Alex's retiring saw more tweets than Margaret Thatcher's death. | T / F |
| f. David Beckham said Sir Alex was the second greatest manager ever.   | T / F |
| g. FIFA's president said Sir Alex is one of soccer's greats.           | T / F |
| h. The article said his successor would be a hard act to follow.       | T / F |

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

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. announced     | a. without equal  |
| 2. in charge of  | b. unquestionably |
| 3. unparalleled  | c. crucial        |
| 4. lightly       | d. extremely      |
| 5. essential     | e. managing       |
| 6. homage        | f. mentored       |
| 7. guided        | g. huge           |
| 8. without doubt | h. respect        |
| 9. massive       | i. made public    |
| 10. exceedingly  | j. carelessly     |

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

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. called an               | a. one of the greats             |
| 2. He brought unparalleled | b. tribute to my family          |
| 3. I have thought a great  | c. times more mentions           |
| 4. I must pay              | d. act to follow                 |
| 5. Their love and support  | e. success to his club           |
| 6. received four           | f. deal about...                 |
| 7. pay homage              | g. end to his 26 years in charge |
| 8. ...without doubt as     | h. to the legendary manager      |
| 9. made a massive          | i. have been essential           |
| 10. an exceedingly tough   | j. contribution to football      |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen announced his (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on Wednesday when Sir Alex Ferguson (2) \_\_\_\_\_ an end to his 26 years in charge of Manchester United, one of the world's footballing powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought (3) \_\_\_\_\_ success to his club, winning 38 trophies during his (4) \_\_\_\_\_. In a statement he said: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great (5) \_\_\_\_\_ about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and I believe I have done so." He added: "I must pay (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to my family. Their love and support have been (8) \_\_\_\_\_."

*deal*  
*tribute*  
*called*  
*essential*  
*reign*  
*retirement*  
*shape*  
*unparalleled*

Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ than news of the death of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ homage to the legendary manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have (11) \_\_\_\_\_ what I have done in my career...I am truly honoured to have been (12) \_\_\_\_\_ by the greatest manager in football." FIFA president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game place him without doubt as one of the (13) \_\_\_\_\_." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "(14) \_\_\_\_\_ " who "has made a (15) \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to football". His successor has an exceedingly (16) \_\_\_\_\_ act to follow.

*pay*  
*massive*  
*guided*  
*visionary*  
*mentions*  
*tough*  
*achieved*  
*greats*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

- 1) The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen \_\_\_\_\_ retirement
  - a. announced this
  - b. announces his
  - c. announces this
  - d. announced his
- 2) Sir Alex Ferguson \_\_\_\_\_ his 26 years in charge
  - a. called an end too
  - b. called an end two
  - c. call Dan end to
  - d. called an end to
- 3) He brought \_\_\_\_\_ to his club, winning 38 trophies
  - a. non-paralleled success
  - b. unparalleled success
  - c. a parallelogram success
  - d. unparalleled successes
- 4) The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. not taken lightly
  - b. not token lightly
  - c. not tucking lightly
  - d. not taking lightly
- 5) I must pay tribute to my family. Their love and support have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. done essential
  - b. bin essential
  - c. been essential
  - d. given essential
- 6) The top names in football were quick to \_\_\_\_\_ the legendary manager
  - a. paid homage to
  - b. pays homage to
  - c. payee homage to
  - d. pay homage to
- 7) I am truly honoured to have \_\_\_\_\_ the greatest manager in football
  - a. been guide did by
  - b. been guy did by
  - c. been guided by
  - d. been guide aid by
- 8) His achievements in the game place him without doubt as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. one of the greats
  - b. one of the greatest
  - c. one of the greys
  - d. one of the greets
- 9) Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to football"
  - a. made a mass if
  - b. made a massively
  - c. made a mass sieve
  - d. may dam ass if
- 10) His successor has an exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tough act to follow
  - b. tough fact to follow
  - c. tough act two follow
  - d. tougher fact to follow

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

The most successful football coach Britain (1) \_\_\_\_\_ his retirement on Wednesday when Sir Alex Ferguson called an end to his 26 years in charge of Manchester United, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought (3) \_\_\_\_\_ club, winning 38 trophies during his reign. In a statement he said: "The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and (5) \_\_\_\_\_." He added: "I (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Their love and support have been essential."

Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more (7) \_\_\_\_\_ death of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to pay (8) \_\_\_\_\_ manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have achieved what (9) \_\_\_\_\_ ....I am truly honoured to have been guided by the greatest manager in football." FIFA president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game (10) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the greats." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has made (11) \_\_\_\_\_ football". His successor has an exceedingly (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

1. What did Sir Alex call an end to?

---

2. How much silverware did Sir Alex win at his club?

---

3. How much thought did Sir Alex put into his decision?

---

4. What was important for Sir Alex to do before he retired?

---

5. Why did Sir Alex want to pay tribute to his family?

---

6. How many tweets did Sir Alex's retirement get?

---

7. Who thanked Sir Alex for being a great guide?

---

8. What did Sepp Blatter say Sir Alex undoubtedly was?

---

9. What did Michel Platini say Sir Alex did for football?

---

10. What does Sir Alex's successor have?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

1. What did Sir Alex call an end to?
  - a) 26 years as manager
  - b) a training session
  - c) press speculation
  - d) the offside rule
2. How much silverware did Sir Alex win at his club?
  - a) less than the gold he got
  - b) over 380 kg
  - c) 38 trophies
  - d) \$50-million worth
3. How much thought did Sir Alex put into his decision?
  - a) 26 years of thought
  - b) a lot
  - c) not much
  - d) all his waking thoughts
4. What was important for Sir Alex to do before he retired?
  - a) win the World Cup
  - b) score at Wembley
  - c) win the Champions League three times
  - d) leave the club in good shape
5. Why did Sir Alex want to pay tribute to his family?
  - a) for their essential love and support
  - b) for attending every home game
  - c) for not supporting Manchester City
  - d) they helped him win his last trophy
6. How many tweets did Sir Alex's retirement get?
  - a) no one knows - the tweet-counter broke
  - b) 4 million
  - c) the most ever for someone in soccer
  - d) 4 times more than the death of Margaret Thatcher
7. Who thanked Sir Alex for being a great guide?
  - a) Wayne Rooney
  - b) David Beckham
  - c) Cristiano Ronaldo
  - d) Sepp Blatter
8. What did Sepp Blatter say Sir Alex undoubtedly was?
  - a) football's greatest ambassador
  - b) Manchester United's manager
  - c) Scottish
  - d) one of the greats
9. What did Michel Platini say Sir Alex did for football?
  - a) he invented a new midfield formation
  - b) he made it popular in Greenland
  - c) he made a huge contribution
  - d) he inspired young managers to shout more
10. What does Sir Alex's successor have?
  - a) 39 trophies
  - b) a tough act to follow
  - c) no hair
  - d) one year to succeed

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

## **Role A – Soccer lover**

You think walking is the best sport in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): baseball, tennis or cycling.

## **Role B – Baseball lover**

You think baseball is the best sport in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): soccer, tennis or cycling.

## **Role C – Cycling lover**

You think cycling is the best sport in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): baseball, tennis or soccer.

## **Role D – Tennis lover**

You think tennis is the best sport in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their sport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): baseball, soccer or cycling.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

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

<b>coach</b>	<b>manager</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>• announced</li><li>• charge</li><li>• powers</li><li>• 38</li><li>• lightly</li><li>• essential</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• four</li><li>• death</li><li>• never</li><li>• place</li><li>• massive</li><li>• act</li></ul>
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# SPORTS COACHES SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

Write five GOOD questions about sports coaches 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.

# SPORTS COACHES 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 'retirement'?
- c) What do you hope to achieve before you retire?
- d) What do you know about Sir Alex Ferguson and Manchester United?
- e) What does it take to be a successful coach?
- f) Do you have what it takes to be a good coach?
- g) Who do you think is the greatest ever coach?
- h) Which is the better word, coach (USA) or manager (UK)?
- i) How amazing is it Sir Alex led one of the world's top teams for so long?
- j) What is essential for you to be successful?

*Sir Alex Ferguson retires as Manchester United coach – 10th May, 2013*  
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# SPORTS COACHES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think of a soccer coach's retirement being tweeted more than the death of Margaret Thatcher?
- c) Who has been your greatest guide / coach?
- d) In what sport would you like to be a coach?
- e) Which team or player would you like to coach?
- f) Who are your top three sporting greats?
- g) Is doing a sports coaching degree better than doing a business degree?
- h) What would a "visionary" do in football?
- i) Is soccer / football the world's greatest game?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Sir Alex Ferguson?

# 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/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen announced his retirement on Wednesday when Sir Alex Ferguson (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an end to his 26 years (2) \_\_\_\_\_ charge of Manchester United, one of the world's footballing powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought (3) \_\_\_\_\_ success to his club, winning 38 trophies during his (4) \_\_\_\_\_. In a statement he said: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great (5) \_\_\_\_\_ about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done so." He added: "I must (6) \_\_\_\_\_ tribute to my family. Their love and support have been essential."

Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more mentions than news of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to pay homage to the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have achieved what I have done in my career....I am (9) \_\_\_\_\_ honoured to have been guided by the greatest manager in football." FIFA president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game place him without doubt as one of the (10) \_\_\_\_\_." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has made a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to football". His successor has an exceedingly (12) \_\_\_\_\_ act to follow.

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

- |     |                |                  |                  |               |
|-----|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) called     | (b) yelled       | (c) shouted      | (d) voiced    |
| 2.  | (a) by         | (b) at           | (c) in           | (d) of        |
| 3.  | (a) unyielding | (b) untrammelled | (c) unparalleled | (d) unveiling |
| 4.  | (a) line       | (b) rain         | (c) lane         | (d) reign     |
| 5.  | (a) duel       | (b) dole         | (c) deal         | (d) dial      |
| 6.  | (a) sell       | (b) pay          | (c) cost         | (d) earn      |
| 7.  | (a) dying      | (b) death        | (c) dead         | (d) died      |
| 8.  | (a) legends    | (b) legendary    | (c) legend       | (d) legionary |
| 9.  | (a) true       | (b) truth        | (c) truly        | (d) truism    |
| 10. | (a) amazes     | (b) bests        | (c) goods        | (d) greats    |
| 11. | (a) missive    | (b) massed       | (c) missile      | (d) massive   |
| 12. | (a) chewy      | (b) rubbery      | (c) firm         | (d) tough     |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. nodcnaeu his retirement
2. He brought lprleadaenlu success to his club
3. 38 shrptoie
4. In a nsemetatt he said...
5. pay ietrubt to my family
6. Their love and support have been tlseiensa

## Paragraph 2

7. four times more enosmnit
8. the ngyeelard manager
9. His cnhtveseaeim in the game
10. made a massive rcntbuoiotni
11. His usossrce
12. an ydnilgecxee tough act to follow



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

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

- ( ) deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important
- ( ) to his club, winning 38 trophies during his reign. In a statement he said: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great
- ( ) made a massive contribution to football". His successor has an exceedingly tough act to follow.
- ( ) when Sir Alex Ferguson called an end to his 26 years in charge of Manchester United, one of the world's footballing
- ( ) in my career....I am truly honoured to have been guided by the greatest manager in football." FIFA
- ( ) the death of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to pay homage to the legendary
- ( **1** ) The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen announced his retirement on Wednesday
- ( ) powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought unparalleled success
- ( ) to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done
- ( ) greats." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has
- ( ) Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more mentions than news of
- ( ) so." He added: "I must pay tribute to my family. Their love and support have been essential."
- ( ) president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game place him without doubt as one of the
- ( ) manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have achieved what I have done

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

1. called an end to his 26 years in charge Ferguson.

---

2. the coach British Perhaps successful any most in sport.

---

3. club his to success unparalleled brought He.

---

4. about that thought deal One have great I a.

---

5. support and love Their essential been have.

---

6. The in quick homage names were pay top football to.

---

7. what done would achieved have I have I never.

---

8. greatest the by Guided football in manager.

---

9. who "visionary" A contribution massive a made has.

---

10. to His an act has tough follow successor exceedingly.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

The most successful football coach Britain has ever seen announced his retirement on Wednesday when Sir Alex Ferguson called an end to his 26 years in charge of Manchester United, one of the world's footballing powers. Sir Alex is perhaps the most successful coach in any British sport. He brought unparalleled success to his club, winning 38 trophies during his reign. In a statement he said: "The decision to retire is one that I have thought a great deal about and one that I have not taken lightly. It is the right time. It was important to me to leave an organisation in the strongest possible shape and I believe I have done so." He added: "I must pay tribute to my family. Their love and support have been essential."

Twitter said the news of Sir Alex's retirement received four times more mentions than news of the death of Margaret Thatcher last month. The top names in football were quick to pay homage to the legendary manager. David Beckham tweeted: "Without him, I would never have achieved what I have done in my career....I am truly honoured to have been guided by the greatest manager in football." FIFA president Sepp Blatter tweeted: "His achievements in the game place him without doubt as one of the greats." UEFA president Michel Platini described Ferguson as a "visionary" who "has made a massive contribution to football". His successor has an exceedingly tough act to follow.

**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/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

Th\_ m\_ st s\_ cc\_ ssf\_ l\_ f\_ \_tb\_ ll\_ c\_ \_ch Br\_ t\_ \_n h\_ s\_ \_v\_ r\_ s\_ \_n \_nn\_ \_nc\_ d\_ h\_ s\_ r\_ t\_ r\_ m\_ nt\_ \_n W\_ dn\_ sd\_ y\_ wh\_ n\_ S\_ r\_ \_l\_ x\_ F\_ rg\_ s\_ n\_ c\_ ll\_ d\_ \_n\_ nd\_ t\_ h\_ s\_ 26\_ y\_ \_rs\_ \_n\_ ch\_ rg\_ \_f\_ M\_ nch\_ st\_ r\_ \_n\_ t\_ d\_ , \_n\_ \_f\_ th\_ w\_ rld's\_ f\_ \_tb\_ ll\_ ng\_ p\_ w\_ rs. S\_ r\_ \_l\_ x\_ \_s\_ p\_ rh\_ ps\_ th\_ m\_ st\_ s\_ cc\_ ssf\_ l\_ c\_ \_ch\_ \_n\_ ny\_ Br\_ t\_ sh\_ sp\_ rt. H\_ br\_ \_ght\_ \_np\_ r\_ ll\_ l\_ d\_ s\_ cc\_ ss\_ t\_ h\_ s\_ cl\_ b\_ , w\_ nn\_ ng\_ 38\_ tr\_ ph\_ \_s\_ d\_ r\_ ng\_ h\_ s\_ r\_ \_gn. \_n\_ \_st\_ t\_ m\_ nt\_ h\_ s\_ \_d: "Th\_ d\_ c\_ s\_ \_n\_ t\_ r\_ t\_ r\_ \_s\_ \_n\_ th\_ t\_ \_h\_ v\_ th\_ \_ght\_ \_gr\_ t\_ d\_ \_l\_ b\_ \_t\_ nd\_ \_n\_ th\_ t\_ \_h\_ v\_ n\_ t\_ t\_ k\_ n\_ l\_ ghtly. \_t\_ \_s\_ th\_ r\_ ght\_ t\_ m\_ . \_t\_ w\_ s\_ mp\_ rt\_ nt\_ t\_ m\_ t\_ l\_ \_v\_ \_n\_ \_rg\_ n\_ s\_ t\_ \_n\_ \_n\_ th\_ str\_ ng\_ st\_ p\_ ss\_ bl\_ sh\_ p\_ \_nd\_ \_b\_ l\_ \_v\_ \_ \_h\_ v\_ d\_ n\_ s\_ ." H\_ \_dd\_ d: "\_ m\_ st\_ p\_ y\_ tr\_ b\_ t\_ t\_ my\_ f\_ m\_ ly. Th\_ \_r\_ l\_ v\_ \_nd\_ s\_ pp\_ rt\_ h\_ v\_ \_b\_ \_n\_ \_ss\_ nt\_ \_l\_ ."

Tw\_ tt\_ r\_ s\_ \_d\_ th\_ \_n\_ ws\_ \_f\_ S\_ r\_ \_l\_ x's\_ r\_ t\_ r\_ m\_ nt\_ r\_ c\_ \_v\_ d\_ f\_ \_r\_ t\_ m\_ s\_ m\_ r\_ \_m\_ nt\_ \_ns\_ th\_ n\_ n\_ ws\_ \_f\_ th\_ \_d\_ \_th\_ \_f\_ M\_ rg\_ r\_ t\_ Th\_ tch\_ r\_ l\_ st\_ m\_ nth. Th\_ t\_ p\_ n\_ m\_ s\_ \_n\_ f\_ \_tb\_ ll\_ w\_ r\_ q\_ \_ck\_ t\_ p\_ y\_ h\_ m\_ g\_ t\_ th\_ l\_ g\_ nd\_ ry\_ m\_ n\_ g\_ r. D\_ v\_ d\_ B\_ ck\_ h\_ m\_ tw\_ \_t\_ d: "W\_ th\_ \_t\_ h\_ m\_ , \_w\_ \_ld\_ n\_ v\_ r\_ h\_ v\_ \_ch\_ \_v\_ d\_ wh\_ t\_ \_h\_ v\_ d\_ n\_ \_n\_ my\_ c\_ r\_ \_r\_ ... \_m\_ tr\_ ly\_ h\_ n\_ \_r\_ d\_ t\_ h\_ v\_ \_b\_ \_n\_ g\_ \_d\_ d\_ by\_ th\_ \_gr\_ t\_ st\_ m\_ n\_ g\_ r\_ \_n\_ f\_ \_tb\_ ll. " F\_ F\_ pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt\_ S\_ pp\_ Bl\_ tt\_ r\_ tw\_ \_t\_ d: "H\_ s\_ \_ch\_ \_v\_ m\_ nts\_ \_n\_ th\_ g\_ m\_ pl\_ c\_ h\_ m\_ w\_ th\_ \_t\_ d\_ \_bt\_ \_s\_ \_n\_ \_f\_ th\_ \_gr\_ \_ts. " \_F\_ pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt\_ M\_ ch\_ l\_ Pl\_ t\_ n\_ \_d\_ scr\_ b\_ d\_ F\_ rg\_ s\_ n\_ \_s\_ \_ "v\_ s\_ \_n\_ ry" wh\_ "h\_ s\_ m\_ d\_ \_m\_ ss\_ v\_ c\_ ntr\_ b\_ t\_ \_n\_ t\_ f\_ \_tb\_ ll". H\_ s\_ s\_ cc\_ ss\_ r\_ h\_ s\_ \_n\_ \_xc\_ \_d\_ ngly\_ t\_ \_gh\_ ct\_ t\_ f\_ ll\_ w\_ .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir\\_alex\\_ferguson.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130510-sir_alex_ferguson.html)

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# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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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 Sir Alex Ferguson. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SPORTS COACHES:** Make a poster about sports coaches. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SIR ALEX:** Write a magazine article about Sir Alex Ferguson. Include imaginary interviews with players who played for and against his team.

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 soccer expert. Ask him/her three questions about Sir Alex Ferguson. Give him/her three of your opinions on sports coaches. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. announced     | a. made public    |
| 2. in charge of  | b. managing       |
| 3. unparalleled  | c. without equal  |
| 4. lightly       | d. carelessly     |
| 5. essential     | e. crucial        |
| 6. homage        | f. respect        |
| 7. guided        | g. mentored       |
| 8. without doubt | h. unquestionably |
| 9. massive       | i. huge           |
| 10. exceedingly  | j. extremely      |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 26 years in charge of Manchester United
2. 38 trophies
3. A great deal
4. Leave the club in the strongest possible shape
5. For their essential love and support
6. 4 times more than the death of Margaret Thatcher
7. David Beckham
8. One of the greats
9. He made a massive contribution
10. A tough act to follow

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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