

Sporting idioms used in business

- 1) **On the ball.** You have a strong understanding of the situation.
- 2) **To kick start something.** You start a project (sometimes used when a process/project/team has been temporarily inactive.)
- 3) **Stay ahead of the game.** You are the leaders in a particular field or business environment.
- 4) **Approaching the finishing line.** When you are nearing the end of a project/activity.
- 5) **Plain sailing.** An easy or simple situation.
- 6) **Missed an open goal.** You have failed to achieve an easy target/take an easy opportunity.
- 7) **A two horse race.** A close contest between two people/groups/teams/companies.
- 8) **On the ropes.** You are in a very bad/difficult situation.
- 9) **Score an own goal.** You make a mistake which has the opposite effect from what was hoped.
- 10) **A level playing field.** A situation which is the same for everyone.
- 11) **In a league of their own.** You are currently much better than your competition/rivals/peers.
- 12) **Hit it out of the park/home run.** You have achieved great success in a particular project/activity.
- 13) **Taken your eye of the ball.** You have lost your concentration/focus and have started to make mistakes.
- 14) **Drop the ball.** You have made a mistake/disappointed the people around you.

Some useful sporting phrasal verbs

- **Kick off.** To start something.
- **Call off.** To cancel something.
- **Time out.** To take a break.
- **Work out.** To do some exercise.
- **Work off.** To lose some weight.
- **Warm up.** To stretch/prepare for something.
- **Knock out.** To eliminate the competition.

The best sporting quotes (ever)

In no particular order

- *"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up."* **Vince Lombard**
- *"It ain't over till it's over."* **Yogi Berra**
- *"What to do with a mistake: recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it."* **Dean Smith**
- *"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."* **Michael Jordan**
- *"Without self-discipline, success is impossible, period."* **Lou Holtz**
- *"To uncover your true potential you must first find your own limits and then you have to have the courage to blow past them."* **Picabo Street**
- *"When you win, say nothing, when you lose, say less."* **Paul Brow**
- *"Persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement."* **Matt Biondi**
- *"One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it."* **Knute Rockne**

Grammar corner – Embedded questions

An embedded question is positioned within a statement or another question. It is a polite way to ask a question.

For example:

Normal question: Do you like football?

Embedded question: I would be interested to know if you like football.

Normal question: Who is coming to the party?

Embedded question: I wonder who is coming to the party.

