



# 3 Play Off Game

## 1 Synopsis

Football is one of the most popular games in the world, but in the United States this sport is called "soccer." American football is an entirely different sport, and Americans take it very seriously, especially the play off games, where the best teams play against each other. A group of friends are watching a play off game on TV. Mariana is from Venezuela and doesn't understand the game. Her friends try to explain it to her. Jin is trying to study, but everyone is making too much noise. Finally, Mariana and Jin leave. They think soccer is a much better game, but their friends would never agree.

**Length of video:** 3:50min

## 2 Target Language

**Grammar:** Modals of permission, offer, and request: *could, can, would*

**Vocabulary:** football; feelings

**Language points:** *keep it down, here we go, guys, I don't mind.*

## 3 Procedural Notes

### A Before you watch

**Individuals.** Introduce the topic of international football (known in the U.S. as "soccer") and American football. Explain that the two games are very different. Have students work individually to complete the mind maps with differences between the two games. If they need help with ideas, ask *What shape is the ball? Where is it played? What do people wear? Can you touch the ball with your hands?* If your students are struggling to list any differences, play the first part of the video [up to 00:45] with the sound off. Ask students to add more ideas to their mind maps. Elicit answers from the class.

#### Suggested answers:

**Soccer:** the players wear shorts and T-shirts; you can touch the ball with your head or foot (but not your hand); the ball is round

**American football:** the players wear leggings, padded jackets, and gloves; it is played mostly in the U.S.; you can touch the ball with your hands; the ball is oval

### B While you watch

**As a class.** To set the scene, play the first part of the story [0:45–01:00] with the sound off. Invite students to say what the people are doing (watching an American football play off game) and where they are (in an apartment).

**1 Individuals.** Give the students time to read the sentences. Explain or elicit the meaning of any new vocabulary, e.g., *the score is tied* (it's even), *a touchdown* (a goal), *an interception* (the other team has the ball back). Watch the video and have students order the events. Check answers as a class. If necessary, play the video again.

**Answer key:** 5, 1, 4, 6, 2, 7, 3

**2 Individuals/As a class.** Refer students to the four adjectives. Check the meanings (*selfish* – thinking only of yourself; *sensitive* – aware of other people's feelings; *helpful* – willing to help; *frustrated* – annoyed or discouraged about something, especially when you don't get what you want). Tell the students to look at the pictures of the four characters and check the correct adjective(s) for each person. Point out that they can check more than one adjective for each person. Play the video again, if necessary. Check answers as a class, encouraging students to justify their opinion.

#### Suggested answers:

**Josh:** selfish, frustrated, helpful **Jin:** sensitive, frustrated **Mariana:** sensitive, helpful, frustrated **Jennifer:** selfish, frustrated

### C After you watch

**1 In groups.** Put students into groups of four to answer the questions from memory. Check answers as a class.

**Answer key:** **1** five people / two men (excluding Jin) **2** on the table: a wooden bowl, a blue plastic bowl of popcorn, three glasses, a pen and a notebook, a remote control; on top of the TV: a plant **3** the lamp was on **4** Mariana **5** Could **6** a folder **7** yes **8** Josh

**2 Individuals.** Have students circle the correct modal verb in each request. Give them a time limit. Write the answers on the board so they can check their answers quickly at the end. Then, have them match the requests to the best responses. Again, write the answers on the board.

#### Answer key:

**Requests:** 1 Would 2 could 3 Would 4 Can  
**Responses:** 1 c 2 b 3 d 4 a

**In pairs.** Have students practice the mini-conversations and change roles when they have finished. As you monitor, check their pronunciation, including the intonation used in the requests (it should go down at



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the end). As an extra task, or for early finishers, have students provide their own responses.

### D Language points

**In pairs.** Have students read the expressions and guess the meaning in pairs. Play the video again, if necessary. Have students call out when they hear the expressions. Check answers.

**Answer key:** 1 make less noise 2 we're ready to start 3 men and women 4 It's OK with me.

### E Your viewpoint

**In pairs/As a class.** Read aloud the questions and check comprehension. Elicit some expressions to ask for follow-up information (e.g., *Really? Me too! Why do you like it? Why not?*). Then, ask students to work in pairs, and ask and answer the questions. Set a time limit. When students have finished, conduct a brief class feedback to find out what they learned about their partner.

### 4 Video Script

<p><b>Presenter:</b> The game of football is one of the most popular games in the world. Most people know football to be a game of running and moving the ball down the field with your feet and sometimes your head. However, in America that game is usually called "soccer." Football to Americans is an entirely different sport. People in the United States take American football very seriously. The sport is wildly popular in the U.S. Many Americans follow their football teams with the same passion that people around the world follow their home-town soccer teams.</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> You could play for these guys! I can't believe it! We're down by seven points at halftime.</p> <p><b>Jennifer:</b> Oh, I know, these guys look terrible! Come on, play football!</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> Evans is the worst quarterback we've ever had ...</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> He's got no arm.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Guys, I don't understand this game at all ... Would you pass the popcorn?</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Here you go ... OK, look. Here's the field ...</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Field ... how long is the field?</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> 100 yards long.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Yards. More or less like meters, right?</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Yeah, I think so. Here is one end zone. Here is the other end zone. A player needs to get into the end zone to score a touchdown.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Touchdown?</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Yeah, points. A touchdown is six points.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Oh, so it's like a goal, right?</p>	<p><b>Cal:</b> Right. In soccer we say goal, but in football we say touchdown.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Well, I think soccer's a lot easier to understand than football!</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> Not to us!</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Wow, look at this kick-off return! Run with it! Go, go!</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> I don't believe it!</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Yeah!</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> They got the extra point!</p> <p><b>Jennifer:</b> The score is tied! Yes!</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Now we got a game! Now we got a game!</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> I like it when they kick the ball!</p> <p><b>Jin:</b> Hey ... uh ... guys ... maybe ... Could you be a little quieter? I'm trying to finish this work ...</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Oh, sure, sure. Yeah, yeah. Sorry about that.</p> <p><b>Jennifer:</b> All right, you guys, this is a big play. Come on.</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Here we go!</p> <p><b>Shawna:</b> Come on!</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> You can do it.</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> Hit him! Hit him!</p> <p><b>Jin:</b> Please, please, can you keep it down? Do you mind? It's very hard for me to work with all this noise.</p> <p><b>Shawna:</b> Sorry.</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> No, no. An interception! I can't believe it! Terrible!</p> <p><b>Jennifer:</b> That was just a terrible pass!</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> I'm switching teams.</p> <p><b>Josh:</b> They're going to come back.</p> <p><b>Cal:</b> No, they're not.</p> <p><b>Jennifer:</b> Watch this! Watch this!</p>
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**Cal:** He can't see, either. It's ridiculous!

**Mariana:** Hey, hey, hey, you guys, Jin is trying to study! Please be a little quieter.

**Jin:** Mariana, it's OK. Don't worry about it. Never mind ...

**Josh:** Maybe we should just get him some eyeglasses.

**Cal:** We should take him down to like ...

**Josh:** We could ... You could play for these guys!

**Jennifer:** I could play for these guys.

**Josh:** I know.

**Mariana:** Look, Jin. I know your work is important. Listen ... would you like to work in our apartment? It's a lot quieter over there.

**Jin:** Do you mind?

**Mariana:** No, really, I don't mind.

**Josh:** Hit him! Hit him! Yes!

**Cal:** Fumble! Fumble!

**Josh:** Yes! We got the ball! We got the ball!

**Mariana:** Come on, let's go!

**Jin:** All right. Hey ... Thanks a lot.

**Mariana:** You know, soccer is really a much better game.

**Jin:** Yeah, but they don't understand that.

**All:** Touchdown! Yeah! Yeah!

**Josh:** Now you're into football!