

Arsenal Football Club

West Africa is football crazy. Britain is football crazy too. Britain started the game many years ago in 1863.

There are 20 Premier League football clubs in Britain and six of them are in London. My favourite London football team is Arsenal. I live near the Arsenal stadium – it is only 200 metres from my house! I can hear the Arsenal game at the weekend. I can see the players come to the stadium in their cars. I can watch the fans go to the stadium on the bus or by the London Tube. I can watch them buy hamburgers and sandwiches outside the stadium. Then they go in to watch the game.

The fans are very happy – they like the Arsenal club. The players are very happy – they get a lot of money when they play football for Arsenal. The Arsenal players get more than £100,000 every week!

Two famous managers of Arsenal are George Graham and Arsene Wenger. Wenger started in 1996 and worked at the club until 2018. He is the first manager to win seven FA (Football Association) Cups – the prize for the best football club in Britain. Wenger retired in 2018. The new manager is Unai Emery from Spain.

Arsenal has many famous footballers. Some are from Africa. Nwankwo Kanu, Emmanuel Adebayor, and Kolo Toure all played for Arsenal. Patrick Vieira (from France), Sol Campbell (from England) and Thierry Henry (from France) also played for Arsenal.

Arsenal is an old club. It started in London in 1886. In 1913 it went to the famous Highbury Stadium. The fans came to Highbury Stadium by Tube to Gillespie Road station. Now it is Arsenal station. The city changed the name of the Tube station from Gillespie Road to Arsenal station. They wanted to help fans find the stadium easily.

In 2006 the club got a new stadium, the Emirates Stadium. The new stadium cost £390 million. It has the name of the Emirates airline. The new stadium has places for 60,000 fans. It is always full, because Arsenal is a very popular club.

The old Highbury Stadium is still here, but now it is a place for people to live, not play football. The old stadium is now apartments. Arsenal fans like to buy the apartments so they can live in the old stadium.

The club has 2 names. The real name is Arsenal Football Club, but the fans' name for the club 'The Gunners'. This is the name you can see on some

T-shirts, and it's also the name of the pub where the fans go after the game.

My favourite Arsenal footballer is Thierry Henry. I have his shirt. It is red and it has his number, 14. Puma make the Arsenal shirts. Henry's shirts are very difficult to buy, but I have one.

Arsenal plays good football. 2004 was a good year. Arsenal won 49 games and won the Premier League – the prize for the best club. It won the FA Cup in 2006, 2014, 2015 and 2017.

New words for this article

Stadium	the place where Arsenal plays football
Fans	the people who like Arsenal
Club	the organisation
Tube	the famous train in London (it is under the city)
Manager	the boss of the club
Premier League	the list of the best clubs in UK

Comprehension Questions

- 1 What is the name of the Arsenal stadium?
- 2 What was the old name?
- 3 When did Arsenal start to play?
- 4 Who is a famous player?

4 Thierry Henry is a famous player.
3 It started in 1886.
2 Highbury Stadium
1 Emirates Stadium
Questions de comprehension en lecture

Comprehension questions

Answers