

**Rob:** Hello and welcome. It's just me this week. Adam's on holiday – lucky him. But don't worry – he'll be back next time.

Now, thank you for writing with your stories about your first job. I loved them. I think they're the best we've had so far. And it's really interesting to find out more about you. And what an educated lot of people you are too. We've got dentists like Lella in Lebanon, and some teachers like Sirjoe and Angesca in Italy. And Ali Reza and TKazerooni in Iran are teachers too.

And so many different stories as well. I liked Rasa's story of using the first money she earned in Lithuania to go and see the sea. And Mac in Hong Kong gave his first salary to his mum. And do you know what, Mac? That's exactly what I did too.

So thanks again for your answers. I hope we hear as many interesting stories this time. Remember, you can write to us at the website: [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish) - and on Facebook - look for Elementary podcasts.

Now it's time to listen to Tess and Ravi. They're talking about something British, as usual. But this time, it's not such good news.

**Ravi**

Hello again from me, Ravi

**Tess**

And from me, Tess. We're here again to talk about some of the things you think you know about Britain.

**Ravi**

Things like 'drinking tea' and 'fish and chips' – but not everything you think about Britain is nice and positive and today we're going

to talk about something lots of you mentioned – football hooligans.

**Tess**

You're a football fan, Ravi. Are you a football hooligan?

**Ravi**

You know, Tess, people often ask me that – people from other countries I mean.

**Tess**

You, a hooligan? I don't think so.

**Ravi**

I know, I know. But people sometimes think that being a football fan in England means you must be a hooligan – fighting and causing trouble and stuff.

**Tess**

That's a bit strange. Why do they think that?

**Ravi**

Well, there was a problem here – about thirty years ago – in the nineteen seventies and nineteen eighties there was a lot of trouble and fighting and stuff. There were a couple of really bad incidents that were in the news all over the world – that's why people sometimes think – 'Ah, English football – hooligans'. But for the last twenty years or so - it really isn't a problem.

**Tess**

So why do people still think that English football fans are hooligans? {laughs} I really can't imagine anyone thinking of you as a football hooligan, Ravi.

**Ravi**

Alright, Tess, you've already said that. I guess when you've got a bad reputation – like English football fans – it's difficult to change people's minds.

**Tess**

So it isn't dangerous to go to a football match?

**Ravi**

Come on, Tess, you know it isn't. You should go to a game. There are lots of women and children at matches and the new football stadiums are great – comfortable seats, great views, good food – it's nothing like it was twenty years ago. It's a family thing these days.

**Tess**

But most fans at the stadium are men, aren't they?

**Ravi**

Yeah, most of the fans are men but about twenty per cent are women.

**Tess**

How do you know that?

**Ravi**

I looked it up on the internet. More and more women are going to football matches. I sometimes take my niece.

**Tess**

Ah, that's nice. How old is she?

**Ravi**

She's nine. She's really into football – loves it.

**Tess**

Ah. So there's never any sort of crowd trouble or anything? Don't they have a lot of police at football matches?

**Ravi**

Not really, not these days. I don't think you can say there's no trouble at all but not in the stadium – I always feel perfectly safe there. Why don't you come to a match with me? I'll try to get tickets for the game next Saturday. What do you say?

**Tess**

Well ... yeah, OK, why not? I don't know anything about football though.

**Ravi**

That's OK.

**Tess**

And ... well, what if people think you're a hooligan, Ravi?

**Ravi**

Stop it.

**Rob:**

So, what do you think? Did you think English football fans are hooligans? Like Ravi, I'm a football fan. And people often ask me if all football fans in England are hooligans. And of course, my answer is "They're not."

English football seems to be really popular all over the world. My team are Aston Villa and they're probably not as famous as some other teams in England like Manchester United or Chelsea or Liverpool. How about football teams in your country? Do you support a team? Let us know which one. And tell us about football fans in your country too. What do they do?

And if you don't like football – and I know a lot of people don't – write and tell us why not. Remember you can write to us at [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish) and on Facebook. Look for Elementary Podcasts.

Before I go, a quick word about some of the things Tess and Ravi talked about when they talked about football. Ravi talked about stadiums – the places where football matches are played. We talk about a football match between two teams. I'm sure you know more football words like score a goal for example. In fact, the British Council has a website all about football and English.

It's called Premier Skills. I'll give you the address for that. It's

[www.britishcouncil.org/premierskills](http://www.britishcouncil.org/premierskills).