Manchester United FC

1995 to 2013.

**For Ben.**

Tutor: Where were we?

*Student: When?*

Last time.

*Last time when?*

When we were talking about Man U.

*Oh.*

You and me. We were talking about Man U.

*Well, yes.*

Where were we then?

*Well, Alex Ferguson had arrived at Old Trafford.*

Sir Alex, as he now is.

*Yes. Sir Alex as he now is.*

He and Matt Busby were both knighted.

*They were two of the most successful managers ever.*

Well yes, they were.

*Both managed Man U for over 25 years.*

And did a lot for football.

*They did.*

Sir Matt Busby and Sir Alex Ferguson.

*Something for Man U to be proud of.*

Absolutely.

*So where were we, then?*

Well, we’d got to around 1995.

*But quite a lot of silverware had been won already.*

Oh yes. Loads of cups.

*The FA cup in 1990.*

The European Cup Winners Cup in 1991.

*Only 5 years after Fergie took over.*

That’s good going.

*Well it is, really.*

All that silverware.

*Just lost the league championship in 1992.*

Beaten 2 – 0 at Anfield.

*Then Eric Cantona arrived at Old Trafford.*

Taking over the number 7 shirt.

*From Bryan Robson.*

Cantona was magic.

*The fans absolutely loved him.*

Real football magic.

*The first year he was with Man U the reds won the double.*

The League cup and the FA cup.

*At last.*

Yes, at last.

*Cantona was a bit wild.*

There was one famous occasion.

*Mmmm…*

When he kicked a Crystal Palace fan.

*He jumped on him, in the crowd.*

On TV !

*Boots first.*

He was banned for a season.

*Which didn’t do Man U any good.*

No. It didn’t.

*The next season they won no silverware.*

They just missed the league and the FA cup.

*They missed Cantona, I think.*

Probably.

*He scored some very beautiful goals.*

And some important ones, too.

*The goal that won the FA cup in 1996.*

A lovely, curling shot in the 86th minute.

*Against Liverpool.*

Yes.

*The other reds!*

I read something interesting once.

*Oh? What was that?*

About teams wearing red shirts.

*Really?*

Apparently red shirts make a slight difference.

*In what way?*

A team wearing red shirts is slightly more likely to win.

*Just because of the shirts?*

It’s not a big difference, but there is some difference.

*So a team in red shirts is more likely to win?*

Yes. Slightly more likely.

*I wonder how that works!*

Well, it’s a strong colour, maybe even an aggressive colour.

*Compared to pale green, say. Or pink, maybe.*

You can’t imagine Wayne Rooney playing in pink, can you?

*Good job Man U wear a red strip, then!*

It gives them a slight advantage before they’ve even touched the ball.

*What happened to Cantona?*

He quit football altogether. Suddenly. In 1997.

*Why did he do that?*

Nobody really knows.

*He’d won 4 league titles in 5 years with Man U.*

And an FA cup or two.

*Or two.*

And if he hadn’t been banned he might have won 5 league titles in 5 years!

*He was captain of one of the top clubs in the world.*

But he walked away. At the age of 30.

*Ryan Giggs is another big Man U name.*

He holds the record for the number of appearances for Man U.

*Coming up over 1,000 appearances.*

Beats Bobby Charlton’s record.

*Ryan Giggs scored what some people say was the goal of the decade.*

A solo run and stunning finish against Arsenal.

*In 1999, that was.*

1999.

*That was an amazing year for Man U.*

They won the FA cup.

*2 – 0 against Newcastle United.*

And they won the league title.

*Against Tottenham.*

But then there was the UEFA cup.

*They came back from 2 – 0 down against Juventus in the semi-final.*

And met Bayern Munich in the final.

*Played in Barcelona.*

After 90 minutes it was 1 – 0 to Bayern Munich.

*But Man U scored twice in two minutes.*

In injury time.

*Both from corners.*

Both corners were taken by a young man called Beckham.

*David Beckham.*

That’s right.

*So now they had the treble.*

League championship, European Cup and FA cup.

*Then there was the world club championships.*

That’s right, the intercontinental cup.

*Played in Tokyo.*

Against a Brazilian side. Palmeiras.

*1 – 0 to Man U.*

1999 was an amazing season.

*It was after that season that Alex Ferguson was knighted.*

Man U was now the best in the world.

*High times.*

Very high times.

*They won the league in 1999 – 2000*

2000 – 2001

*2002 – 2003*

2006 – 2007

*2007 – 2008*

2008 – 2009

*2010 – 2011*

2012 – 2013

*And that was the 20th league title for Man U.*

Which is a record.

*They took the FA cup in 2004.*

The UEFA cup in 2008.

*The FIFA world cup in 2008.*

The football league cup in 2006.

*And again in 2009.*

And 2010.

*That’s a lot of silverware, isn’t it!*

You wonder where they put it all.

*They’ve had some famous players.*

None quite as famous as David Beckham.

*He played his first game for the first team at Man U when he was 17.*

In 1992.

*He won 6 premier league titles with Man U.*

2 FA cups.

*And that UEFA cup.*

Played 265 times for Man U.

*And scored 62 times.*

Although he made a lot more goals.

*His crosses in from the right were beautiful.*

He played right side midfield.

*And for England.*

He was captain of England for 6 years.

*Never won the world cup, though!*

In 2004, FIFA named him one of the 125 greatest living players.

*But he and Fergie fell out.*

I think Fergie felt he was not 100% behind football.

*Or Man U.*

Too much other stuff going on.

*He was making so much money off the pitch.*

Being a celebrity.

*Yes.*

Modelling underpants. Remember all that?

*That sort of thing must have annoyed his manager.*

And Fergie had a temper on him.

*Yes. He did.*

One day he threw a boot at Beckham.

*Or kicked it.*

Yes. Who knows?

*It was in the dressing room at Old Trafford.*

It cut Beckham’s head.

*Needed nine stitches.*

That’s quite a cut.

*Beckham left Man U for Real Madrid.*

Shame, really.

*But then along came Rio Ferdinand.*

He’s another big name.

*And Cristiano Ronaldo.*

And there’s another!

*And then there’s Wayne Rooney.*

Let’s not forget Wayne Rooney!

*It was his goal that won the FIFA world cup.*

In Japan.

*In 2009.*

Good stuff.

*Wayne Rooney was the Football Players’ Association player of the year in 2010.*

And the Football Writers’ Association player of the year too.

*Must be quite good at football, then.*

He was born in Liverpool, you know.

*Was he?*

Toxteth.

*Really?*

He was an Everton supporter when he was little.

*And he started with Everton when he was little!*

Well, he joined at nine.

*Nine?*

He played for their under-10s.

*Well, he was under 10.*

He played for their first team when he was about 16.

*And scored a load of goals.*

After one goal he raised his shirt and you could see his T shirt.

*It said “Once a Blue, always a Blue”.*

Oh dear!

*But Man U bought him when he was 18.*

For £25m.

*He’s not short of money.*

No. You can say that again.

*They say he makes about £18 million a year.*

Not all on the pitch, of course.

*No. There’s a lot of advertising and all that.*

All the big names do it.

*Some more than others.*

He has been Premier League Player of the Month five times.

*A record he shares with Steven Gerrard.*

He’s a bit hot-headed.

*Well, yes. They do say so.*

Maybe that’s why he’s going bald?

*Ha, ha, ha. Very funny.*

He’s had a couple of hair transplants, you know.

*You’re joking. Has he?*

In Harley Street.

*Expensive.*

I expect so.

*He still heads the ball, though.*

Well, yes.

*I wonder what the future holds for Man U?*

Well, the very big clubs tend to go on doing pretty well, don’t they?

*They can buy the really good players.*

Yes, and people will come to see the superstars.

*Like Wayne Rooney.*

People always come to see good football.

*They always will.*