Maths of the Day: Football Fractions

Video transcript for 'Football Fractions'

Gary Lineker: Football is full of numbers: eleven against eleven, four-four-two, goal tallies… So next time you watch a football match, look out for the hidden maths. Let's go over to the Kickabout studio to see what today's Maths of the Day topic is.

Ben Shires: Thanks Gary! So today's Maths of the Day topic is football fractions. A fraction is a part of something. For example, a football team has eleven players, so each player is one-eleventh of the team. And a football pitch is split into two halves. A half is one equal part of something that that's been split in two.

Other fractions include the third (one part of something that's been split into three) and the quarter (one part of something that's been split into four).

A football match lasts 90 minutes and TV pundits often say it's "a game of two halves". So half of a match would be forty-five minutes. Remember, one match lasts ninety minutes. Back to you Gary, in the studio.

Gary: Thanks Ben – let's try some more football fractions. Question one: how long would one third of a match be?

One third of a match is thirty minutes. Three lots of thirty minutes makes ninety minutes. Let's see how you do with the next one.

Question two: how long would one fifth of a match be?

That was a trickier one. One fifth of a match equals eighteen minutes.

And finally, question three: how long would one tenth of a match be?

One tenth of a match equals nine minutes.

Did you realise that to get the answers, you just had to divide ninety minutes by the number on the bottom of your fraction. That number is called the denominator while the number on the top is called the numerator.

That's all from me for now – keep practising and you'll soon be a footballing fraction fan.