

Listen to an interview with Paul, who is training to be a football manager.

Optional exercise Listen to the interview and choose the correct answer. (Answers below)

1. What does Paul say about his football career?
 - a. He played for a lot of different clubs.
 - b. He played for Manchester United.
 - c. He stopped playing when he was 16.

 2. What does Paul think about a lot of football managers?
 - a. They usually encourage players to become coaches.
 - b. They're not very good at management.
 - c. They're not very good at football.

 3. When does he have to attend the course?
 - a. Once a week for a year.
 - b. Mainly in the summer.
 - c. Full time for a year.
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Interviewer: Paul, can you tell me how you got interested in being a football manager?

Paul: Yes, well I started out as a professional footballer. I played for quite a few clubs in the lower leagues, and I even had a trial at Manchester United, although nothing came of it. In my last club, the manager encouraged me to do some coaching, which I really enjoyed. And that's when I thought maybe I could make it as a manager.

Interviewer: So what happened next?

Paul: I started working for my coaching licence, and then I heard about a certificate in football management, and applied for a place on the course.

Interviewer: I've always thought that most managers just learn on the job. Were you not tempted to just give it a go anyway?

Paul: Not really. I've seen so many managers come and go and a lot of them, to be honest, weren't really that good at their job. And I'm your typical footballer – I left school at 16 so I haven't had that much of an education. I didn't feel confident that I could deal with things like finance and negotiating with people.

Interviewer: And is that the kind of thing you learn on this course?

Paul: Yes, it really covers everything you need to know: leadership skills, talking to the media, handling pressure, public speaking. I've got a lot more confidence and am really looking forward to my first managerial job.

Interviewer: How does the course work in practice? I believe you're working as well as studying.

Paul: That's right. After I got my coaching licence I got a job as a coach with a second division team. It's no problem combining work with studying, though. In fact you need to be playing or working in football to get on the course. It fits in well because most of the course takes place during two summer schools, one at the beginning and one at the end of the course. There are a few workshops during the year, which we fit around our schedules. So really I'm learning on the job – I can put into practice what I've learnt.

Interviewer: And finally, would you recommend this route into football management?

Paul: Yes, most definitely. I think all managers, even existing ones, should do the course.

Answers: 1 a, 2 b, 3 b