CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Newcastle Come Back to 2-2 Under New Coach Jaissle

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 9



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Arsenal and Newcastle settled for a 2-2 draw at St James' Park, putting an end to a 21-game run without a league stalemate that stretched back to February. The result carried particular significance for Newcastle, since every one of their five Premier League draws at home since the start of last season has finished 2-2. Matthias Jaissle, who has taken over from Eddie Howe as head coach, made a triple substitution at half-time alongside a tactical shift that reportedly helped his side mount a comeback. For Arsenal, Eberechi Eze opened the scoring with his first Premier League strike since April, finishing after a pass from Kai Havertz. Bruno Guimarães, now on Arsenal's books, was heavily booed by the Newcastle supporters throughout the match. The evening took a darker turn when goalkeeper David Raya injured his left shoulder in a collision with striker William Osula. He is understood to be potentially unavailable for a significant period. Newcastle spent roughly £275m in the close season but have struggled to fill the gaps left by departed players including Guimarães, Sandro Tonali and Anthony Gordon.

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2 Key words

stalemate /ˈsteɪlmeɪt/ *noun*

a situation in which no progress is made; in sport, a draw or tie

The trade negotiations reached a stalemate after neither side was willing to compromise on tariffs.

mount a comeback /maʊnt ə ˈkʌmbæk/ *idiom*

to organize and execute a successful recovery after being in a losing or disadvantageous position

Despite being two points behind at the midway stage, the team mounted a comeback that left the fans stunned.

significance /sɪgˈnɪfɪkəns/ *noun*

the quality of being important or worth paying attention to

The discovery of the manuscript added historical significance to the entire collection.

departed /dɪˈpɑːtɪd/ *adjective*

no longer present in a place or role; gone from an organization

The manager struggled to build a cohesive squad in the absence of several departed first-team members.

understood to be /ˌʌndəˈstʊd tə biː/ *verb*

a hedging expression used to report information that is believed or suggested but not officially confirmed

The minister is understood to be considering a resignation following the public outcry.

tactical shift /ˈtæktɪkl ʃɪft/ *noun*

a deliberate change in the approach or method used to gain an advantage in a competition or plan

The coach made a tactical shift at the interval, moving to a formation that exposed the opponent's weakness.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. Matthias Jaissle, who has taken over from Eddie Howe as head coach, made a triple substitution at half-time alongside a tactical shift that reportedly helped his side mount a comeback.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions in short phrases or sentences, using ONLY information from the lesson text.

1 How many Premier League matches had Arsenal gone without a draw before this game, and when did that run start?

2 What change did Jaissle make at half-time, and how is its effect qualified in the text?

3 Which three departed players does the text name as having left gaps Newcastle struggled to fill?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Grammar in Context

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets, as it relates to events in the lesson text.

1 Eberechi Eze _____ (score) with his first Premier League strike since April.

2 Bruno Guimarães, _____ (now play) , was heavily booed by the Newcastle supporters.

3 The goalkeeper _____ (understand) potentially unavailable for a significant period.

4 Jaissle, _____ (take over) from Eddie Howe as head coach, made a triple substitution at half-time.

EXERCISE 3 **Vocabulary Matching** 5 points

Match each vocabulary term with its correct definition.

1 stalemate _____
2 mount a comeback _____
3 significance _____
4 departed _____
5 tactical shift _____

A A deliberate change in approach or method to gain an advantage.
B No longer present in a role or organization; gone.
C The quality of being important or worth attention.
D To organize and execute a successful recovery from a losing position.
E A situation in which no progress is made; in sport, a draw.

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 4 **Writing Summary**

Write a balanced summary (120–180 words) of the match report. You must incorporate the following words or phrases from the text: 'stalemate', 'mount a comeback', 'significance', 'departed'. Address both the on-pitch events and the broader implications for each club. Write 120 to 180 words.

7 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 5 **Speaking**

1 The text uses 'reportedly' and 'is understood to be' when describing the tactical shift's effect and Raya's injury. Why might a sports journalist choose to hedge claims in this way rather than stating them directly?

2 The article frames the 2-2 result as carrying 'particular significance' because of a statistical pattern. Do you think such patterns add meaning to a match report, or are they merely coincidental noise? Justify your view.

3 Newcastle spent roughly £275m yet still 'struggled to fill the gaps.' What does this contrast suggest about the limits of transfer spending, and how might it shape expectations for the club's season?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Short Answer Questions

1. Arsenal had gone 21 games without a league draw, a run that stretched back to February. The text states 'a 21-game run without a league stalemate that stretched back to February.'
2. Jaissle made a triple substitution at half-time alongside a tactical shift; the text qualifies its effect with 'reportedly helped his side mount a comeback.' The text mentions both the triple substitution and the tactical shift, and uses the hedging adverb 'reportedly' to attribute the causal claim.
3. The text names Bruno Guimarães, Sandro Tonali and Anthony Gordon as departed players whose gaps Newcastle struggled to fill. The final sentence explicitly lists these three names as examples of departed players.

Exercise 2 Grammar in Context

1. opened the scoring The text uses 'opened the scoring' as a past-simple narrative form to report a completed action.
2. now on Arsenal's books The text uses 'now on Arsenal's books' as a reduced relative/post-modifier phrase; 'now playing for Arsenal' is the full participial form.
3. is understood to be The text uses the passive reporting structure 'is understood to be' to hedge the claim about Raya's availability.
4. who has taken over The text uses the present perfect 'has taken over' to signal a recent change with present relevance to the match narrative.

Exercise 3 Vocabulary Matching

1. E. A situation in which no progress is made; in sport, a draw.
2. D. To organize and execute a successful recovery from a losing position.
3. C. The quality of being important or worth attention.
4. B. No longer present in a role or organization; gone.
5. A. A deliberate change in approach or method to gain an advantage.

Exercise 4 Writing Summary

Arsenal and Newcastle settled for a 2-2 stalemate at St James' Park, ending a remarkable 21-game league run without a draw for Arsenal. The result carried particular significance for Newcastle, given that every one of their five home Premier League draws since last season has finished with the same scoreline. New head coach Matthias Jaissle made a triple substitution and a tactical shift at half-time that reportedly helped his side mount a comeback. For Arsenal, Eberechi Eze opened the scoring, but the evening was marred by goalkeeper David Raya's shoulder injury, leaving him potentially unavailable for a significant period. Meanwhile, the match highlighted Newcastle's ongoing squad-building challenges: despite spending roughly £275m, they have struggled to fill the gaps left by departed players including Guimarães, Tonali and Gordon. The draw thus reflected both tactical drama and deeper structural concerns for both clubs heading into the season. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.