CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Manchester United Fans Question Why Managers Keep Getting Sacked

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 13



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Since Alex Ferguson retired, Manchester United have gone through twelve managers. This includes interim appointments. Yet the club has seen little reward for all that change. Now readers are asking who should really be held responsible.

2 Carrick was first given a caretaker role. Because he produced strong results in that temporary capacity, the club made him permanent manager. He then delivered Manchester United back to the Champions League. Despite this, he was sacked.

3 Mauricio Pochettino is now expected to take over as Carrick's successor. But many readers feel the problem is not the manager. They name Jim Ratcliffe, Jason Wilcox and Omar Berrada as the ones behind the club's failures. These figures sit in recruitment and ownership roles.

4 The Glazers own Manchester United. Critics have compared their running of the club to ENIC's ownership of Tottenham. This comparison shows how widespread the frustration has become among supporters.

Listen to this story

Scan the code or open the link for UK and US audio.

Open this story on newstoenglish.com

2 Key words

interim /ˈɪntərɪm/ *adjective*

lasting only for a short time until a permanent person or arrangement is found

The company appointed an interim director while it searched for a new chief executive.

caretaker /ˈkeəteɪkə/ *noun*

a person who temporarily takes charge of something until a permanent leader is appointed

During the election campaign, the outgoing prime minister led a caretaker government.

sack /sæk/ *verb*

to dismiss someone from their job, especially suddenly or against their will

After repeated poor performances, the coach was sacked by the board.

successor /səkˈsesə/ *noun*

a person who takes over a job or position after someone else has left it

The successor to the retiring professor will be announced next semester.

recruitment /rɪˈkruːtmənt/ *noun*

the process of finding and hiring new people for an organization or team

The recruitment of new staff will begin as soon as the budget is approved.

responsible /rɪˈspɒnsəbl/ *adjective*

being the person or thing that caused something or who should answer for an outcome

The manager was held responsible for the project delays caused by poor planning.

3 Grammar focus

Present perfect

has / have + past participle

The present perfect links past and present: a completed action with a result that matters now, or a situation that began in the past and continues. It is not used with a finished time such as yesterday.

1. Critics have compared their running of the club to ENIC's ownership of Tottenham.
2. Since Alex Ferguson retired, Manchester United have gone through twelve managers.
3. Yet the club has seen little reward for all that change.

Find each has / have + participle. What is the result that matters now?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Find the Facts

Answer each question in a short phrase or sentence using only information from the lesson text.

1 How many managers has Manchester United had since Alex Ferguson retired?

2 In what role was Carrick first appointed at Manchester United?

3 Which players or competition did Carrick help Manchester United reach?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Passive Voice in the Story

4 points

Complete each sentence by changing the verb in brackets into the correct passive form. Pay attention to the hint for tense.

1 The club has gone through twelve managers because little reward _____ (see) for all that change.

2 Readers _____ (ask) about accountability.

3 Carrick _____ (sack) despite delivering the team to the Champions League.

4 Pochettino _____ (expect) to take over as Carrick's successor.

EXERCISE 3 Match the Words to Their Meanings

5 points

Match each vocabulary term to its correct definition.

1 interim _____
2 caretaker _____
3 sack _____
4 successor _____
5 recruitment _____

A a person who takes over a job or position after someone else has left it

B to dismiss someone from their job, especially suddenly or against their will

C the process of finding and hiring new people for an organization or team

D a person who temporarily takes charge of something until a permanent leader is appointed

E lasting only for a short time until a permanent person or arrangement is found

EXERCISE 4 Put the sentences in order

4 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A Carrick was first given a caretaker role.

B Yet the club has seen little reward for all that change.

C Now readers are asking who should really be held responsible.

D This includes interim appointments.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____ _____

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 5 Summary and Opinion

Write a summary of the article in 80–130 words. Include what has happened at Manchester United since Ferguson retired, who readers blame, and what is expected next. Then add one reasoned opinion (one or two sentences) on whether you agree with the readers' view. Use at least three of these words/phrases: interim, caretaker, sacked, successor, responsible. Write 80 to 130 words.

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 Find the Facts

1. Manchester United have gone through twelve managers since Alex Ferguson retired. The text directly states 'twelve managers' including interim appointments.
2. Carrick was first given a caretaker role. The text says 'Carrick was first given a caretaker role.'
3. Carrick delivered Manchester United back to the Champions League. The text states 'He then delivered Manchester United back to the Champions League.'

Exercise 2 Passive Voice in the Story

1. has been seen The subject 'little reward' is what was seen; present perfect passive: has + been + past participle.
2. are asking who should be held responsible Readers are actively asking; the text uses present simple active. The passive here refers to 'held responsible' inside the reported question.
3. was sacked Carrick received the action; past simple passive: was + past participle of 'sack'. The text uses simple past.
4. is expected Pochettino receives the expectation; present simple passive: is + past participle of 'expect'.

Exercise 3 Match the Words to Their Meanings

1. E. lasting only for a short time until a permanent person or arrangement is found
2. D. a person who temporarily takes charge of something until a permanent leader is appointed
3. B. to dismiss someone from their job, especially suddenly or against their will
4. A. a person who takes over a job or position after someone else has left it
5. C. the process of finding and hiring new people for an organization or team

Exercise 4 Put the sentences in order

D, B, C, A This includes interim appointments. Yet the club has seen little reward for all that change. Now readers are asking who should really be held responsible. Carrick was first given a caretaker role.

Exercise 5 Summary and Opinion

Since Alex Ferguson retired, Manchester United have gone through twelve managers, including interim appointments, with little reward. Carrick was first given a caretaker role, but after strong results and leading the club back to the Champions League, he was unexpectedly sacked. Mauricio Pochettino is now expected to be his successor. Many readers do not hold the manager responsible for these failures. Instead, they blame Jim Ratcliffe, Jason Wilcox and Omar Berrada, who work in recruitment and ownership roles. I agree with this view because repeatedly changing managers without fixing the structure behind them is unlikely to produce lasting improvement. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.