How to say football scores in English

Draws

In British English if the two teams have an equal number of goals at the end of the match we say it’s a draw, or that the teams drew. We can also use “Tie”

When speaking about a 0-0 result, we can say any of the following:

- It was a nil-nil draw.
- It was nil-nil.
- They drew nil-nil.

Let’s say the final score was 1-1. We could say:

- It was one-all.
- It was a one-all draw.
- It was one-one.
- They drew one-one.

- Manchester United and Tottenham drew one-one.
- Manchester United drew one-one with Tottenham.

Wins

Spain 4 – Italy 1

- Spain won four-one.
- It was four-one to Spain.
- Spain won by four goals to one. (a little more formal)
Away wins

In an English Premier League match there is a **home team** and an **away team**. The home team is always written first, regardless of the final score:

**Chelsea 0 Newcastle 2** (We see that Chelsea were the home team because they’re written first.)

However, when we *speak* about the result the winner comes first and we put the ‘two’ before the ‘nil’:

**Chelsea 0 Newcastle 2**

- *Newcastle won two-nil.*
- *Newcastle won nil to two.*

or

- *It was two-nil to Newcastle.*
- *Newcastle beat Chelsea two-nil.*

We could also say:

- *Chelsea lost 2-0 to Newcastle.*

**How to speak about a result after penalties**

When a match goes to penalties after extra-time we say the team **won on penalties**.

Let’s say the final score was **Barcelona 2 Real Madrid 2** and then in the penalty shoot-out Barcelona scored five penalties and Real four.

We’d say:

- *It was two-two and Barcelona won five-four on penalties.*