

## Nǐ XǐHUĀN FOOTBALL MA?

(1) Identify the following four names from the list of seven possible answers given on the right.

**A = Manchester United**

**B = Birmingham**

**C = Everton**

**D = Charlton**

A has the first three characters of Manchester City combined with the last two seen in both Leeds United and Newcastle United.

Although “United” is three syllables, this is an example where the actual word meaning “United” (or “union”) is used.

B has the second character of Liverpool (VER), the first character of Arsenal and Aston Villa (A), the first character of Middlesborough (MI) and the last character of Fulham. The MI+HAM ending makes Birmingham the best solution. Why is BIR and VER the same? We were warned that Chinese doesn’t have all the sounds of English: B and V are an example of this. And why the extra A? Remember this is phonetic, not spelling: ba+a makes a long vowel.

C and D are both 2/3 identical to examples given, so it is a simple matter of substitution.

(2) How do you think the place name **Boston** would be written in Chinese?

BO and TON from Bolton combined with the S from Aston, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle

博斯顿

(3) Fill in the table below showing the correspondence between individual characters and English sounds

森	<b>SE or SEN</b>	We can’t tell from the data whether this is SE or SEN. It occurs only in “Arsenal” followed by another character that only occurs in that word. So we know between them they cover SENAL. We were told that characters represent vowel, consonant+vowel or consonant+vowel+consonant, so we can’t tell if it’s SE+NAL or SEN+AL, both of which are possible.
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卡	KA	As in Newcastle
西	<b>SI (SEA)</b>	As in Chelsea
拉	LA	Seen in Villa
顿	<b>TON</b>	Seen in Bolton, and two of the answers in Q1 (the only final syllable that occurs more than once in the list of candidates)

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