

English commentators love saying things like “magic sponge” and

France

Petit pont **Little bridge**

This is the French term for a nutmeg. It describes the attacking player tapping the ball underneath the “bridge” created by the defending player’s legs.



Brazil

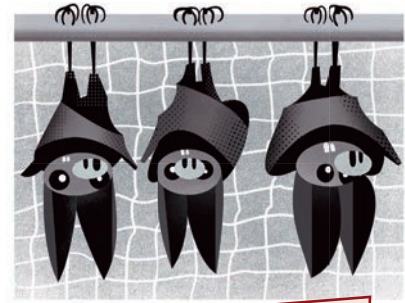
Drible de vaca **Cow dribble**

When a player knocks the ball around an opponent on one side, then collect it on the other. It comes from Brazilians dodging cows in the fields where they often play football.

Portugal

Brinca na areia **Plays in the sand**

This is the Portuguese way of describing players who have plenty of tricks and skills but no end product. You know the type – five stepovers, a rainbow flick and then they smash the ball out for a throw-in.



Ecuador

Táctica del murciélago **Bat tactics**

When a team defend so deep that all their players are in their own area, they all look like bats hanging upside down from the crossbar.



Netherlands

Brilstand **Glasses score**

According to football fans in the Netherlands, a 0-0 scoreline looks like a pair of spectacles!

Paraguay

Gol queso **Cheese goal**

The national cheese of Paraguay is very creamy and melts in strong sunlight. It describes a soft goal to concede.



Germany

Ampelkarte **Traffic light card**

When a referee shows a player a second yellow card, followed by a red, German fans reckon it looks like a traffic light changing colour.



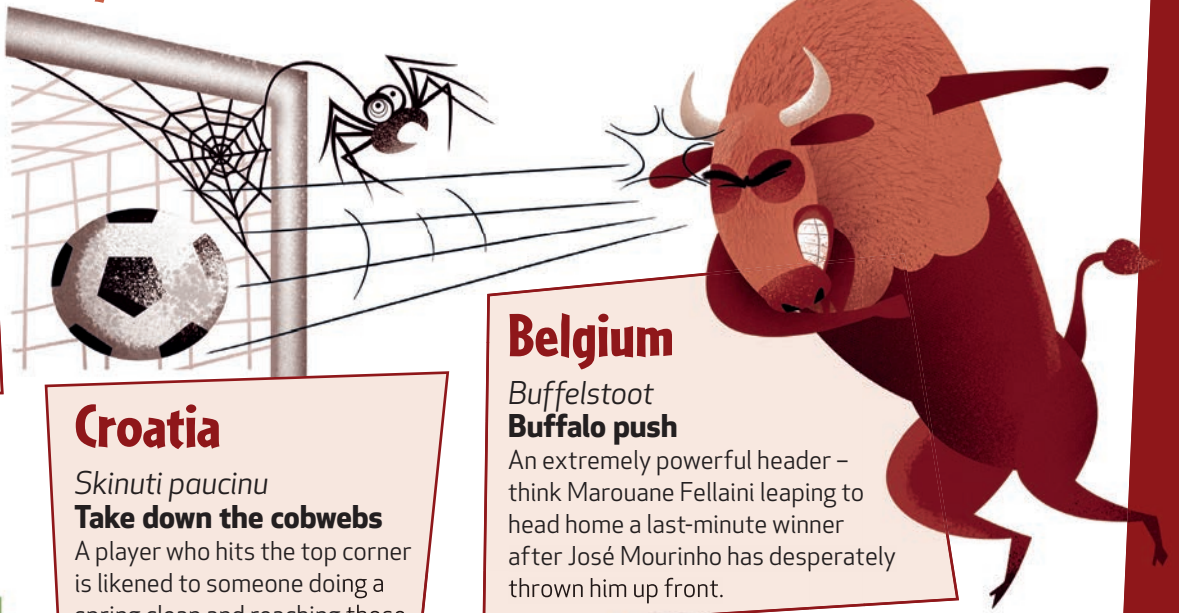
Speaking the

"top bins". But every country has its own hilarious football phrases

Tanzania

Kitasa **Padlock**

A solid central defender who allows nothing to go past – you have a good chance of getting a clean sheet if you have a *kitasa* at the back.



Belgium

Buffelstoot **Buffalo push**

An extremely powerful header – think Marouane Fellaini leaping to head home a last-minute winner after José Mourinho has desperately thrown him up front.

Croatia

Skinuti paucinu **Take down the cobwebs**

A player who hits the top corner is likened to someone doing a spring clean and reaching those pesky spiders on the ceiling.

Saudi Arabia

Mazhariya **Vase**

If a keeper stands still as the ball flies past them, they are called a "vase". By not moving the keeper is only there for decoration – like a vase on a mantelpiece.



China

Caap waa **Arranging flowers**

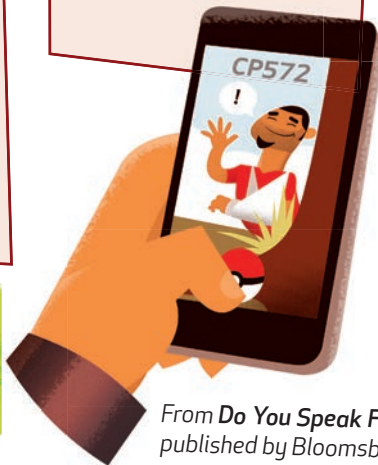
If you perform a stepover in China, it is like decorating the football pitch.



South Korea

Jeonseol-eh *pocketmon* **Legendary Pokémon**

Anyone who plays Pokémon will know that the legendary monsters are some of the best, but also the hardest to find. In South Korea, they use the term to describe amazing players who are hardly ever seen on a pitch because of injury.



Slovenia

Ne zadene Olimpijskega **Couldn't hit an Olympic swimming pool**

Ever heard the phrase "Couldn't hit a barn door" for players with wayward shooting? Well in Slovenia they have an even bigger target to miss.



Bosnia

Poslati ga po burek **To send someone for a pie**

In England defenders are often "taken to the cleaners" by a skilful attacker. In Bosnia, it's slightly different. A defender who is sent the wrong way by a forward has gone for a "burek" – the country's traditional pie.



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