

# Baseball Quiz

RENT AN AMERICAN



Many of the baseball terms used in the game have become idioms in every day usage. Read the following sentences and find out what they mean. Be careful – not everything means what it sounds like!

I need to touch base with you before I make a final agreement.

What does this mean?

- I need to talk to you before I make a final agreement.
  - I need to check my bank account before I make a final agreement.
  - I need to go to your home before I make a final agreement.
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In this trial, our bases are loaded because we have more expertise than the other firms.

What does this mean?

- In this trial, we have a lot of people working for us.
  - In this trial, someone wants to blow us up.
  - In this trial, we have an advantage.
- 

As a mayor, you're in the big leagues now.

What does this mean?

- As a mayor, you like to play sports.
  - As a mayor, you are well-known.
  - As a mayor, you have a lot of responsibilities.
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He tried to become president and struck out.

What does this mean?

- He tried to become president and won.
  - He tried to become president and failed.
  - He tried to become president and was beaten.
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Carl's **ballpark figure** for the concert tickets is around \$50.00.

What does this mean?

Carl wants to borrow \$25,000.

Carl guesses that the tickets for the concert cost about \$50,00.

Carl wants to go to the park.

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The actor will **make a pitch** for the show on TV.

What does this mean?

The actor wants to play on the TV show.

The actor is planning to ditch the TV show.

The actor wants to support the TV show.

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Dan **threw a curveball** when he asked Dominic about the history of Iceland.

What does this mean?

Dan made fun of Dominic when he asked him about the history of Iceland.

Dan surprised Dominic when he asked him about the history of Iceland.

Dan hit Dominic when he didn't know the history of Iceland.

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Sam couldn't make the deal with the company because they wouldn't **play ball**.

What does this mean?

The company doesn't want to fool around.

Sam can't find people loan him money.

The company wouldn't work with Sam.

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**Step up to the plate** and do your schoolwork.

What does this mean?

Get ready and do your schoolwork.

Clean up the dishes and do your schoolwork.

Be responsible and do your schoolwork.

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Dan had been in prison, and he had **two strikes against him** when he interviewed for the job.

What does this mean?

Dan had been in prison so he has no chance to get the job.

Dan was beaten up when he interviewed for the job.

Dan had one more chance when he interviewed for the job.

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Now that we have Obama as President, it's **a new ball game**.

What does this mean?

Now that we have Obama as President, we're into a lot of trouble.

Now that we have Obama as President, we have a new set of circumstances.

Now that we have Obama as President, we will play more sports.

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**Have fun and enjoy the game** 😊

<http://www.rentanamerican.de>

# Baseball Quiz (Lösungsbogen)

RENT AN AMERICAN



Many of the baseball terms used in the game have become idioms in every day usage. Read the following sentences and find out what they mean. Be careful – not everything means what it sounds like!

I need to touch base with you before I make a final agreement.

What does this mean?

- I need to talk to you before I make a final agreement.
- I need to check my bank account before I make a final agreement.
- I need to go to your home before I make a final agreement.

MEANING 1: to touch a base in any sport with bases

MEANING 2: to talk to someone about something

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In this trial, our bases are loaded (because we have more expertise than the other firms.)

What does this mean?

- In this trial, we have a lot of people working for us.
- In this trial, someone wants to blow us up.
- In this trial, we have an advantage.

MEANING 1: There are men on all bases except home base.

MEANING 2: to have an advantage

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As a mayor, you're in the big leagues now.

What does this mean?

- As a mayor, you like to play sports.
- As a mayor, you are well-known.
- As a mayor, you have a lot of responsibilities.

MEANING 1: same as "to be in the major leagues": the best teams.

MEANING 2: to be a big shot, to be a major player, to be well-known

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**He tried to become president and struck out.**

What does this mean?

- He tried to become president and won.
- He tried to become president and failed.
- He tried to become president and was beaten.

MEANING 1: The baseball player has three strikes and is out for that time at bat.  
MEANING 2: to fail at doing something.

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**Carl: How much do you think the tickets for the concert are?  
Tom: My ballpark figure is around \$50.00.**

What does this mean?

- Tom wants to borrow \$25,000.
- Tom guesses that the tickets for the concert costs about \$50,00.
- Carl wants to go to the concert.

MEANING 1: within the park or stadium where the game is being played  
MEANING 2: an acceptable figure or proposal

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**The actor will make a pitch for the show on TV.**

What does this mean?

- The actor wants to play on the TV show.
- The actor is planning to ditch the TV show.
- The actor wants to support the TV show.

MEANING 1: to throw, toss or hurl an object  
MEANING 2: to offer something, to support someone or something

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**Dan threw a curveball when he asked Dominic about the history of Iceland.**

What does this mean?

- Dan made fun of Dominic when he asked him about the history of Iceland.
- Dan surprised Dominic when he asked him about the history of Iceland.
- Dan hit Dominic when he didn't know the history of Iceland.

MEANING 1: to pitch a curve ball to the batter in baseball  
MEANING 2: to surprise someone unpleasantly

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**Jan: Did you make the deal with that company?  
Sam: No, they wouldn't play ball.**

What does this mean?

- The company doesn't want to fool around.
- Jan and Sam want to play baseball.
- The company wouldn't work with Sam.

MEANING 1: to play a ball game with someone  
MEANING 2: to do business with someone, to cooperate

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**Step up to the plate and do your schoolwork.**

What does this mean?

Get ready and do your schoolwork.

Clean up the dishes and do your schoolwork.

Be responsible and do your schoolwork.

MEANING 1: The batter steps up to the plate and gets ready to hit the ball.

MEANING 2: Anyone in any occupation who gets ready to do something.

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**Dan had been in prison, but he had two strikes against him when he interviewed for the job.**

What does this mean?

Dan had been in prison so he has no chance to get the job.

Dan was beaten up when he interviewed for the job.

Dan had one more chance when he interviewed for the job.

MEANING 1: The batter has only one more strike before he is out.

MEANING 2: to have one more chance

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**Now that we have Obama as President, it's a new ball game.**

What does this mean?

Now that we have Obama as President, we're into a lot of trouble.

Now that we have Obama as President, we have a new set of circumstances.

Now that we have Obama as President, we will play more sports.

MEANING 1: a change in circumstances in the ball game, i.e. the game is tied after one team was ahead.

MEANING 2: a new set of circumstances

**Have fun and enjoy the game 😊**