

## **BASEBALL TEACHERS NOTES** – by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Pre-Intermediate

Aim: Students read about the sport of baseball in the United States and play a quiz game related to baseball.

**Warmer.** Write the following letters on the board. A B B L A E S L How many words can the class make using these letters? Can anyone make a word using all the letters? The word is BASEBALL.

**Stage 1.** Give out the reading and the worksheet. Set a time limit for the first exercise (3 minutes).

Answers: 1. America's National Pastime 2. How to play baseball 3. When did baseball begin? 4. Baseball problems 5. Baseball heroes

**Stage 2.** Do exercise 2 in pairs. Feedback as a class. Grammar note: Check the correct use of relative clauses here (e.g. a person who, a thing which...)

**Stage 3.** Allow time for exercise 4. Tell the students to look at the article for any useful language that could help them talk about their sport. This could be done as a mini project for homework, or in another class.

**Stage 4. Play Ball.** To play the game, draw a big baseball field on the board. Label the bases home plate, first, second and third (they are laid out in the shape of a diamond, with home plate at the bottom). You could cut out and mount the baseball players beforehand. Each team should have four baseball player cards. Explain that you are the umpire and will decide if a question is right or wrong. Give students the rules and go over them. Give them time to choose what order they want to do the questions (they can answer questions in whichever order they choose, this is where the strategy of the game comes in). When they answer a question correctly, stick the card to the board on the corresponding base (with a bit of tape or blue-tack).

Variation: *If the questions are too difficult or not interesting for your class, you could Use Play Ball as a revision game. Students make ten revision questions from the coursebook for each other with different levels of difficulty and then play.*

Play Ball answers:

Team A

Singles: 1) caught, hit, pitched 2) The Star Spangled Banner (National Anthem) 3) October

Doubles: 1) Canada 2) possibilities include ketchup, mustard, pickle, relish... 3) Fidel Castro (Cuba) and Hugo Chavez (Venezuela)

Triples: 1) tobacco or chewing gum 2) Any Given Sunday (it's a football movie)

Home Runs: 1) Chicago 2) The New York Yankees or the New York Mets

Team B:

Singles: 1) ran, scored, struck 2) a baseball cap or helmet (for batters) 3) Yes.

Doubles: 1) bat, ball, glove, shin guards, mask and a padded chest protector (the last three are for the catcher) 2) Wesley Snipes 3) Chipmunk

Triples: 1) Joe DiMaggio 2) Kevin Costner

Home Runs: 1) One out of every three times you are at bat you get on base 2) A Grand Slam