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# Inside The Park

**Topics:** Parts of the ballpark, Rainouts, Indy ball players' home, The interpreter

## 1. Batter Up! Vocabulary

### A. Guess the Meaning of Each Photo Below

### B. Talkin' Photos

*Discuss the photos*

*Try speaking in complete sentences*



A



B

Work alone  
single

OR

With a partner or group  
double play, triple play



C



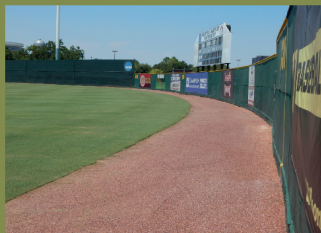
D



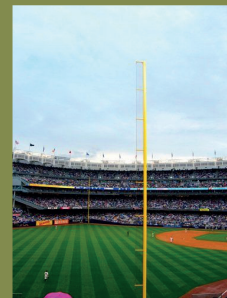
E



F



G



H

### C. Match Each Photo With a Vocabulary Term

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. clubhouse/locker room | 2. home plate/dish |
| 3. warning track         | 4. dugout/bench    |
| 5. base/bag              | 6. foul pole       |
| 7. tarp                  | 8. scoreboard      |

## 2. Insider Baseball Talk: Bang it!

Let's go on the field and listen to an important conversation about the game between the managers, umpires, and a coach.



### A. Watch and Listen-In (Video 1)

Please go to  
[www.sportsEnglish.org/media](http://www.sportsEnglish.org/media)

**Optional:** Focus on watching the video at least one time before completing the gap-filling exercise below.

### B. Gap-Filling:

Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the vocabulary you hear.

**Wally Backman:** What are we doing?

**Player:** He's about to call it. I said, he's about to call it right now.

**Wally:** We better get the \_\_\_\_\_ on.

**Wally:** Buddy, we're gonna need a tarp \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Wally:** Tell me how \_\_\_\_\_ it is out there, \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Wally:** Hey, if it \_\_\_\_\_ hard, we'll \_\_\_\_\_ .

We'll play it \_\_\_\_\_ if we have to.

**Umpire:** \_\_\_\_\_ just bang it.

**Wally:** \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

### C. Pair Work

**Grammar point:** **Banged** = past tense of *bang*.

1. Research and discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary from the video.
2. Practice the conversation with a partner.

### D. Discussion Questions

1. What does *bang it* mean?
2. Will they have a game tonight? Why or why not?
3. Who decides if the game is *banged*?
4. Why do baseball games get *banged*?

To watch more videos like this from *Playing for Peanuts*, go to Amazon Prime or Vimeo.

## B. Role Play: Scouting Discussion

Walk around and ask classmates about a player they chose to describe. Then write down what they said below.

Ask:

	1	2	3
What's the player's name?			

### What do you got on 'em?

1. What does he/she look like?			
2. What are the player's skills?			

## 7. Choose Your Weapon: Stalker II or Smart Coach

### Did You Know? Inside a Scout's Toolbox



As a scout, you will need to evaluate the speed or velocity at which a pitcher throws and also the exit velocity that comes off a hitter's bat. You can measure speed with more expensive radar/speed guns such as *Stalker II*, used by many MLB scouts, OR you can find a less expensive speed measuring device that fits in your pocket, called *Smart Coach*. As explained in a YouTube video by former MLB player Doug Bernier, both have both pros and cons.



Doug Bernier,  
[www.probaseballinsider.com](http://www.probaseballinsider.com)  
YouTube Channel: Pro  
Baseball Insider

### A. Figure It Out

As mentioned, a pocket radar device such as *Smart Coach* and a larger professional radar gun such as *Stalker II* (both pictured above) have both PROS or advantages, and CONS or disadvantages. Look at these other PROS and CONS about *Smart Coach* on the next page and sort them into the right category. Also, think about some other PROS and CONS for *Smart Coach* besides the ones listed on the next page.

**FACEOFF!**  
**\$1199 radar gun**  
**VS**  
**Pocket Radar**

### “My Rule”

**Before COVID hit, did you usually travel overseas and see players you want to sign in person?**

This is my rule—if I don't see them play, I'm not going to sign.

**Okay. But now due to COVID you kind of have to rely on video scouting?**

Yes.

### Getting In

**What advice do you have to people who want to get a job in baseball?**

It's all about connections. It depends on who you know. And you have to show them what you know in baseball, what's your specialty. I was with the Kansas City Royals, and for the first four years, I didn't get any money. I worked for them for free—I had to prove my ability.

### Choice Word

**What's one of your favorite baseball terms?**

The first time I went to play in the U.S. people were saying, “**10.**\_\_\_\_\_.” I had no idea. I had no idea what they're saying. “What is that?” Probably that is my **11.**\_\_\_\_\_ because it's the first word I learned in baseball. I had no idea. I asked the teammate, “What is attaboy?”

*Manabu also worked as an MLB scout and coached for various U.S. teams, including the Long Beach Armada of the Arizona Winter League.*



Manabu Kuramochi coaching

### D. Are the Sentences True (T) or False (F)? If False (F), Correct the Sentence.

	True or False
1. Manabu knew some English upon moving to the U.S.	
2. Manabu came to the U.S. after he went undrafted in Japan.	
3. Manabu made an indy ball team on his first tryout.	
4. Manabu did not face any problems while playing and coaching.	
5. Now, Manabu has a lot of responsibility in his job and has to deal with many problems sometimes.	
6. To get a job in baseball, you only need knowledge.	

### E. Discussion Questions

1. How many different jobs has Manabu had in baseball? Which of these jobs do you want to do most, and why?
2. What is Manabu's rule for signing players? Do you agree with it? Why?
3. Have you faced discrimination like Manabu did when he had to leave the restaurant in Germany? Could you explain what happened to you?
4. What's your favorite baseball term? Why?

## B. Keywords in context (KWIC) challenge:

Complete the sentence using these terms.

false hustle/red ass/wear it/swinging a wet newspaper/tired act

1. He said, after striking out with a runner on in the ninth inning of a 14-12 loss, that it felt like he was \_\_\_\_\_ and that his bat speed was "completely gone" because of the weakening state of the left wrist he fractured.
2. It's a \_\_\_\_\_. He's just trying to get in his head.
3. Eyewash is baseball slang for \_\_\_\_\_ or working hard for the appearance of working hard.
4. But captain \_\_\_\_\_ Brian McCann wasn't satisfied with just hollering like he did with Jose Fernandez. This time, he met Gomez halfway up the third baseline, blocking his path to the plate.
5. There is no excuse for ducking out of the way of an inside off-speed pitch. As long as you \_\_\_\_\_ properly, it's not going to hurt. It's a free base, and you'll smile down the line.

## 3. Role Play: Team Interpreter

A. Imagine you work as the team interpreter. Part of your job includes interpreting *baseballisms*.

### Interpret Baseballisms from English to your language.

English  Your first language or another language



1. The catcher tells the pitcher: "Show me the **cheese!**"

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2. A manager says to a player: "Stop the **false hustle!**"

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3. The pitching coach says: "Throw a **knockdown** pitch."

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4. A player on their comments on their hitting performance: "I'm swinging a **wet newspaper.**"

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### B. Take Turns Interpreting the Above Statements to a Partner in Their First Language