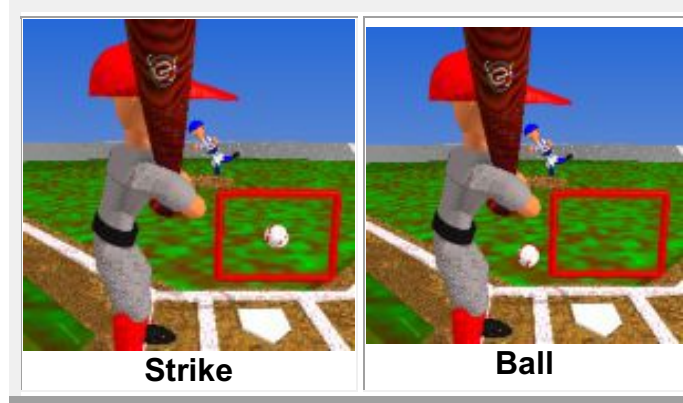




BEHIND THE PLATE

Making the Calls

In baseball, many things happen and the umpire has to decide whether or not to make a call. The most common call is a **“strike”**. When a pitcher is pitching to the batter, he or she can throw it in the strike zone or else it is called a **“ball”** which means the batter did not have to swing. The strike zone is shown below.



If the ball is pitched within the strike zone and the batter swings and misses, it is a strike.

Even if the batter does not swing, but the pitch is in the strike zone, it is a strike. In a real game of baseball, you get 3 strikes (chances to hit the ball) before you're out.

If the pitch is outside of the strike zone and is not swung at, it is called a “ball”. That means no strike. But if you hit the ball and it is a “foul ball” (not a good hit), and there are less than two strikes to that batter, it is strike.

Adapted From: <http://library.thinkquest.org/11902/bepl/calls.html>