
M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm Erica.

M: And today we're bringing you another lesson on our sports series.

E: Uhu. We're talking about baseball today.

M: Baseball – the American national **pastime**. [NOTE: **pastime** = an activity or entertainment that makes time pass pleasantly]

E: Is it?

M: Yes, it is.

E: Okay.

M: So, we're gonna be looking at this interesting sport that is played mainly in the Caribbean and, well, it's actually very popular in the United States and Japan.

E: That's right.

M: Korea.

E: Yeah. So, we're not only gonna learn a **bunch** of baseball language, but we're also going to see how baseball has a big influence on English in general. [NOTE: a **bunch** of something = a lot of something]

M: That's right, so, we're gonna learn a lot of great things today. So, why don't we start and listen to our dialogue?

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

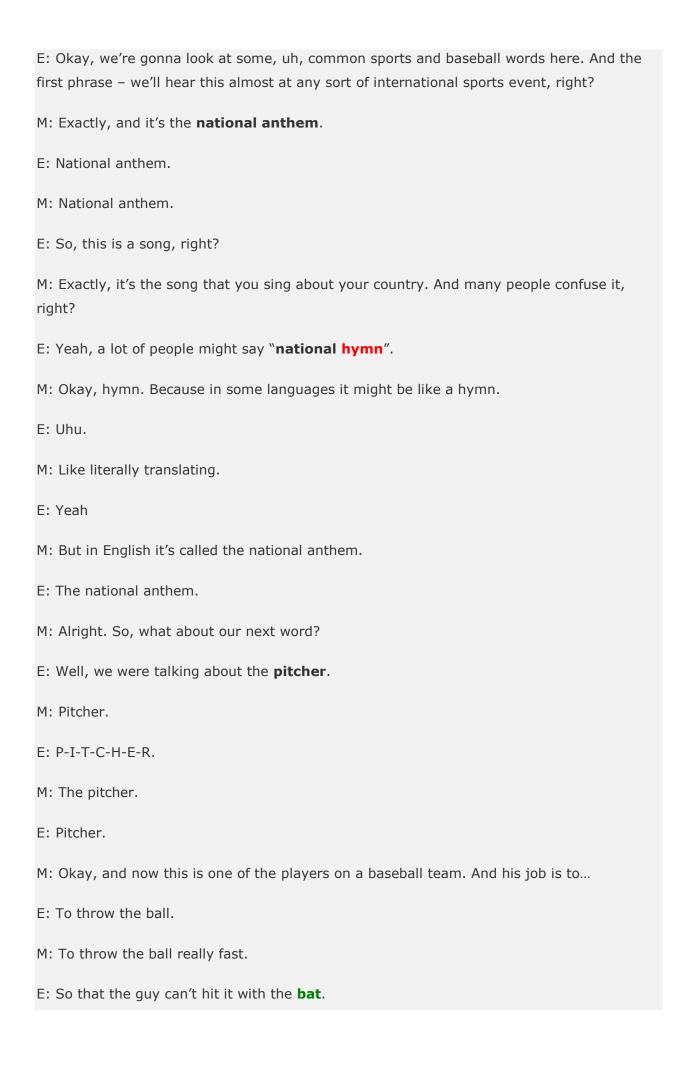
E: Alright, well, a pretty exiting game there at Richie Stadium

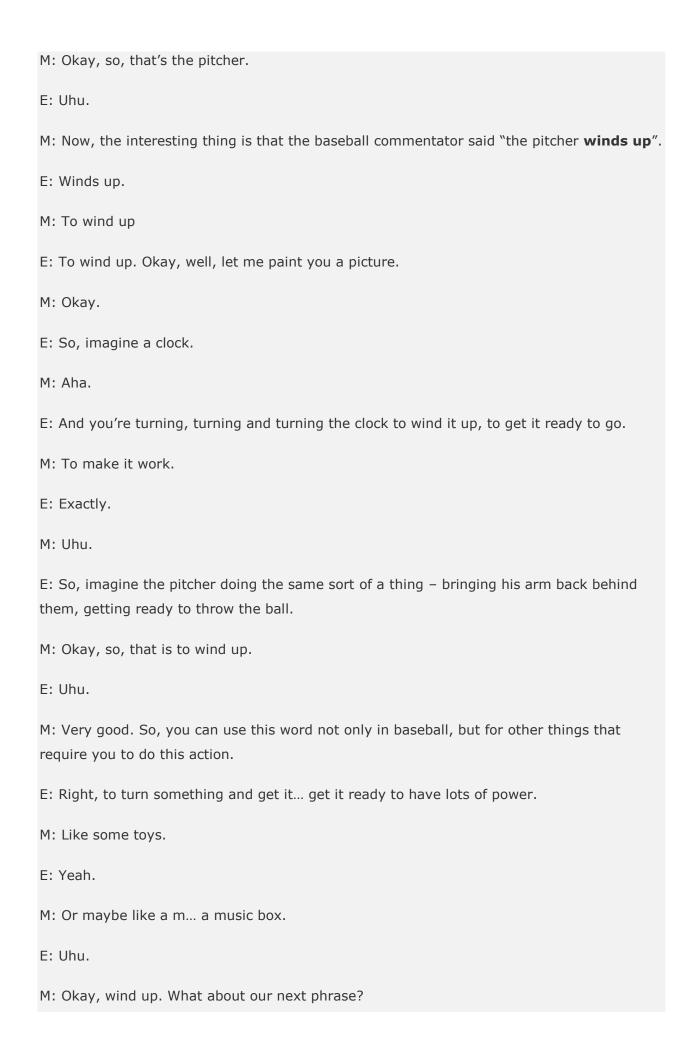
M: Exactly, and we have some interesting players: Roger Vargas and Brian Okami.

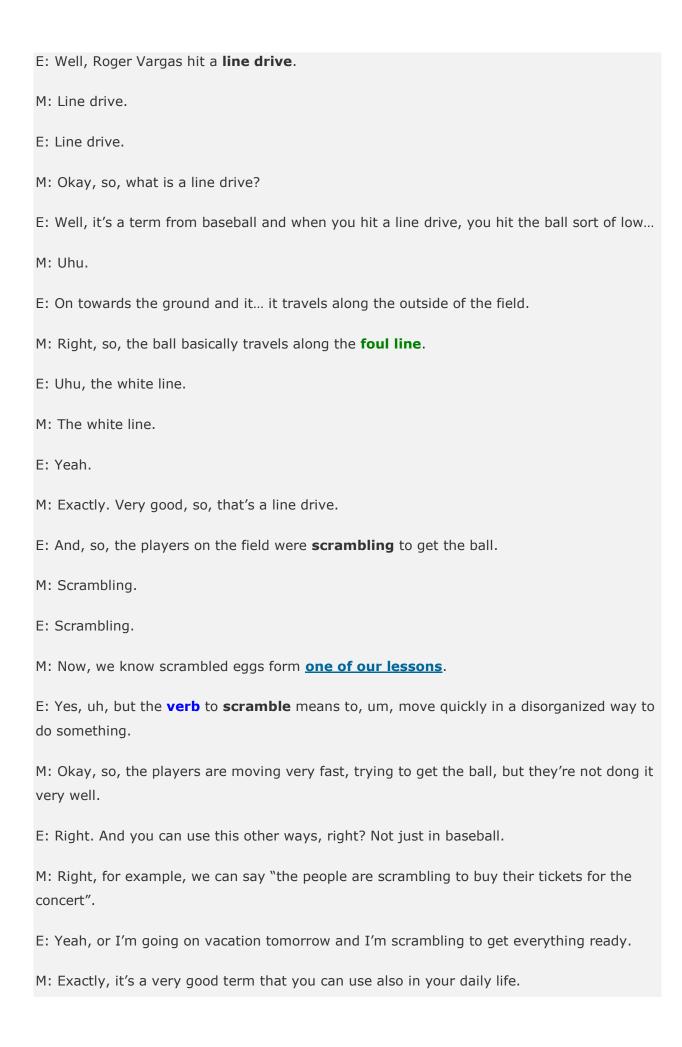
E: Uhu.

M: Alright, so, well, we saw some great words and, well, it's time for us to take a look at them now in "language takeaway".

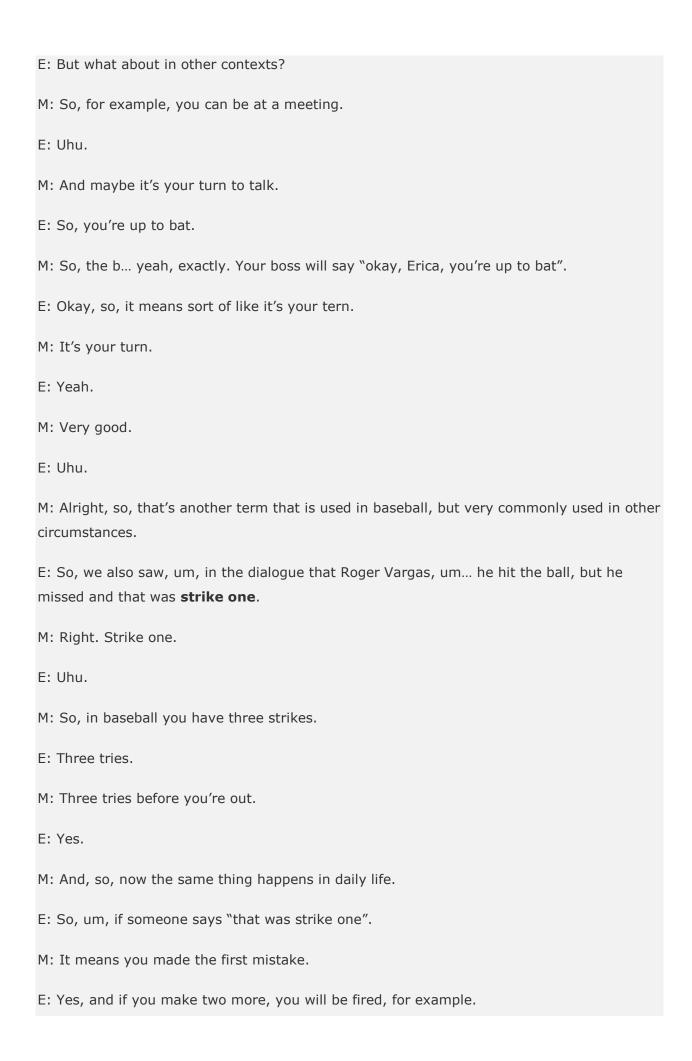
Voice: Language takeaway.







E: Exactly. M: Alright. And what about our last word for today on language takeaway? E: Well, they were in the fifth **inning** of the game. M: Okay, so, inning. E: Inning. M: Inning. E: Alright, this is another baseball term. M: Uhu. E: And, um, it... it just means the period of play. M: Okay, so, we learned, for example, that in **soccer** you have **two halves**. E: Uhu. Or in **hockey**, you have **three periods**. M: Alright. And in **baseball** you have **nine innings**. E: Okay, great, so, some interesting sports and baseball vocabulary. Now, I think it'll help us to hear this again slower. So, let's listen to the dialogue. **DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)** M: Alright, so, as we said, there're a lot of English terms that come form baseball, but we use them in business context or in your daily life, right? E: Yeah, why don't we look at those now in "fluency builder"? Voice: Fluency builder. M: Alright, so, the first phrase that we have is **up to bat**. E: Up to bat. M: Up to bat. E: So, literally in this dialogue it means the guy is standing on home plate ready to hit the ball, right? M: Right. He has the bat and he's ready to hit it.



M: Maybe.

E: Yeah.

M: Aha. Or maybe your parents will say "okay, you... that wasn't nice, strike one".

E: And then two more times and you'll have a **time out**. [NOTE: a **time out** = sort of a punishment when a child must stop playing for a while]

M: Or you'll be **grounded**. [NOTE: to be **grounded** = sort of a punishment when a child must stay home for a certain period of time; i.e. they can't **go out** and **hang out** with their friends]

E: Yes.

M: Okay, so, that's also called a strike. And the pitcher threw a curve ball.

E: A curve ball.

M: Curve ball.

E: So, okay, pretty clear. A curve ball is when you throw the ball and it sort of goes **on a curve**, it doesn't goes straight, right?

M: Right, exactly.

E: But how can this be used outside of baseball?

M: So, you can say "oh, my boss threw me a curve ball today".

E: So, he gave you an unexpected problem.

M: Aha, or something that was difficult to handle.

E: Okay, um, this one is pretty interesting. I'd like to hear a few more examples.

Voice: Example one.

A: My boss threw me a curve ball today, so I have to **stay in work** late.

Voice: Example two.

B: It was a huge curve ball when she asked me how many kids I wanted to have. How am I supposed to know?

M: Alright, so, that's basically a curve ball. You can say a non-expected problem...

E: Yeah. M: Or situation. E: That's right. M: And our last phrase - and, well, probably one that's you already know - home run. E: A home run. M: A home run. E: From baseball we know that that's when you hit the ball really far. M: And you hit it outside of the... of the playing area or outside the **park**. E: Yes. M: And now if you use it a business context or in your daily life... E: Uhu. It means something similar. Why don't we take a listen to the examples and see if we can figure it our. Voice: Example one. A: Great job on that sales presentation. You really hit a home run. Voice: Example two. B: Our sales team hit a home run this month by doubling our revenue. M: Okay, so, basically, a home run is a success. E: A victory. M: A victory. E: Yeah, something a big accomplishment. M: That's right. So, we've seen a lot of these great phrases and as you can see a lot of them from baseball are used in your daily life and there many, many more. E: Okay, well, why don't we hear them again in the baseball context and we listen to the dialogue one more time?

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Alright, so, an interesting dialogue; a very interesting sport.

E: Uhu.

M: And, well, personally I never played this as a child.

E: Uh, me neither, really.

M: I don't really like it too much, but it is kind of fun to... go to a game and especially in the United States have those hot dogs and all that stuff.

E: Okay, yeah.

M: Hehe.

E: Well, a cultural event; a really important piece of American culture.

M: Exactly. So, well, we encourage you to come to our website englishpod.com; tell us what you think and also, of course, if you have questions or doubts, be sure to tell us.

E: If you have any other sort of baseball-related phrases, let us know about them on the website.

M: Okay, so, we'll see you guys there.

M: Bye!

E: Thanks for downloading and until next time... Good bye!