Baseball Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which player normally crouches behind home plate to receive pitches?
   A. Catcher
   B. Shortstop
   C. Third baseman
   D. Center fielder
   Correct answer: A. Catcher
   The catcher receives pitches behind home plate and helps defend the plate against advancing runners.

2. How many called balls does it take to earn an ordinary walk?
   A. Three
   B. Two
   C. Four
   D. Five
   Correct answer: C. Four
   Once the fourth ball is called, the batter is awarded first base. A walk is also called a base on balls.

3. Which situation means the bases are loaded?
   A. Runners are on first and second only
   B. Runners are on first, second, and third
   C. Runners are on second and third only
   D. Only third base is occupied
   Correct answer: B. Runners are on first, second, and third
   The bases are loaded when each of the three bases has a runner.

4. How many innings is a standard Major League Baseball game scheduled to play?
   A. Ten
   B. Seven
   C. Eight
   D. Nine
   Correct answer: D. Nine
   A standard MLB game is scheduled for nine innings. It can play extra innings if tied, and the home team can win without batting in the bottom of the ninth.

5. A batter hits a grand slam and everyone touches the bases in order. How many runs score?

A. Two
B. Four
C. Three
D. Five

Correct answer: B. Four
A grand slam is a home run with the bases loaded. The three runners and the batter each score.

6. In the scorebook, what is a hit that earns the batter three bases called?

A. Triple
B. Double
C. Single
D. Home run

Correct answer: A. Triple
A triple is a hit that lets the batter reach third base without extra help from an error or another play.

7. First base is empty when a pitch hits the dirt before reaching the catcher and is called strike three. What may the batter try to do?

A. Call for a replacement pitch
B. Return to the box with a two-strike count
C. Advance straight to second
D. Reach first before being retired

Correct answer: D. Reach first before being retired
With first base empty, an uncaught third strike allows the batter to try for first. The pitcher is still credited with a strikeout.

8. With a runner on first, the batter grounds a fair ball and runs toward first base. Why is the runner from first forced to go to second?

A. The batter loses a strike when the runner holds
B. Every ground ball requires every runner to move
C. The batter has become a runner entitled to first base
D. The runner must advance whenever a fielder touches the ball

Correct answer: C. The batter has become a runner entitled to first base
The batter becoming a runner takes away the first runner's right to stay put. A fielder holding the ball can get a force out by touching second before that runner reaches it.

9. With one out, a fielder catches a fly ball. The runner on third tags up and scores. What does the scorer credit the batter with?

A. A sacrifice fly
B. A ground-rule double
C. A sacrifice bunt
D. A stolen base

Correct answer: A. A sacrifice fly
A caught fly ball that lets a runner score after tagging up is a sacrifice fly. It does not count as an at-bat for the batter.

10. Which calculation gives a player's batting average?

A. Total bases divided by at-bats
B. Hits divided by plate appearances
C. Runs divided by games
D. Hits divided by at-bats

Correct answer: D. Hits divided by at-bats
Batting average uses hits and official at-bats. Certain plate appearances, such as walks, are excluded from at-bats.

11. Which team did Jackie Robinson join for his major-league debut in 1947?

A. Boston Red Sox
B. New York Yankees
C. Brooklyn Dodgers
D. Chicago Cubs

Correct answer: C. Brooklyn Dodgers
Robinson made his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947, breaking the modern major-league color barrier.

12. Which position number represents the shortstop in standard baseball scorekeeping?

A. 4
B. 6
C. 5
D. 7

Correct answer: B. 6
Shortstop is numbered 6. That is why a grounder fielded by the shortstop and thrown to first base for an out is recorded as 6–3.

13. Which team became the first based outside the United States to win the World Series, in 1992?

A. Kansas City Royals
B. Montreal Expos
C. Seattle Mariners
D. Toronto Blue Jays

Correct answer: D. Toronto Blue Jays
The Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Atlanta Braves in the 1992 World Series and became the first club based outside the United States to win it.

14. Who pitched a perfect game for the New York Yankees in the 1956 World Series?

A. Don Larsen
B. Whitey Ford
C. Sandy Koufax
D. Allie Reynolds

Correct answer: A. Don Larsen
Larsen retired all 27 Brooklyn Dodgers batters in Game 5 of the 1956 World Series.

15. Which Cleveland second baseman turned an unassisted triple play in Game 5 of the 1920 World Series?

A. Nap Lajoie
B. Tris Speaker
C. Bill Wambsganss
D. Joe Sewell

Correct answer: C. Bill Wambsganss
Wambsganss caught a line drive, stepped on second base, and tagged the runner coming from first to record three outs himself.