

# BASEBALL IDIOMS

10 Expressions you'll need to know  
to do business in the US

The English language is full of idiomatic expressions that Americans throw into conversations without a second thought.

This can be confusing, even if you speak English fluently!

What is an idiom? Think of it as an expression, a way of describing a situation by comparing it with a similar situation but from a different context.

Enjoy the examples in this ebook!

# “Step up to the plate”

To take action and do one's best. To volunteer, to show initiative.



We need someone to organize the company holiday party. Who'd like to **step up to the plate** and work on this?

You would show others how confident you are if you'd **step up to the plate** and take charge.

Plate

The batter 'steps up to the plate' (a plastic mat on the ground) when it's their turn to hit the ball.

# “Touch base”

To make contact with someone at least briefly; to check in with someone to clarify a point.



*“I need **to touch base** with Dan before I go any further on this project.”*

*“Let’s **touch base** when you get back from vacation.”*

A player must legally touch each of the “bases” when he runs around the field.

# “Home run”

To hit a home run is to do something that is very successful



*“The studio has hit a **home run** with its latest movie”*

The score is measured by the number of home runs each team hits. To hit a home run, the batter must hit the ball a very long way, so that he is able to run round all the bases before the other team gets the ball back.

# “Hit it out of the park”

To do something better than expected; extremely well.



*“Susan finished the graphic design early, and her design **hit it out of the park.**”*

*“George, you **hit** that report **out of the park.**”*

The goal of the batter in baseball is to hit a home run. If the ball is hit so far that it reaches ‘out of the park’ it’s an automatic home run as the other team will not be able to catch it.



# “Go to bat for”

To stand up for someone; to defend or support someone who is receiving criticism from others.



*“You don’t need to **go to bat for** me. I’m capable of standing up for myself.”*

*“Did you see how Randy **went to bat for** Susan? He gave her a lot of support.”*

Players take turns going to the batter's box to hit the ball and score points.

# “On deck”

Ready for action, ready to work



*“Joe, get ready. You’re **on deck** to make your report.”*

The next batter waits in a location called the ‘on deck circle’ until it’s his turn to bat.



# “Ballpark figure” or “In the ballpark”

A very approximate estimation of something, made with some knowledge, but not specific.



*“I’m going to throw out a **ballpark figure** just to begin the conversation about selling the company”*

*“How much do you think this weighs? Give me a **ballpark figure**”*

*“This isn’t an exact number, but it’s **in the ballpark**”*

The field where baseball games are played is called the ballpark. Since it is a large area, saying a ball is “somewhere in the ballpark” is quite vague, but still within defined boundaries.

# “Drop the ball”

To make a careless mistake or to make a commitment and not follow through.



*“Sorry, I didn’t finish that report. I guess I really **dropped the ball.**”*

*“If you keep **dropping the ball,** the boss is going to lose confidence that you can get the job done.”*

A player is said to have dropped the ball when they had clear access to catch a ball but messes up the catch and drops it.

# “Throw a curveball”

To have something unexpected happen that requires a quick reaction.



*“John really **threw me a curveball** when he asked that question.”*

*“Getting sick last week really **threw me a curveball.**”*

Pitchers (the ones who initially throw the ball to the batter) learn to spin the ball when they throw it so that it curves, making it difficult for the batter to hit it.

# “Strike out”

To fail completely at something.



*“I really **struck out** on my statistics exam.”*

A batter is ‘struck out’ and loses his turn when he swings his bat but is unable to hit the ball, 3 times in a row.

Don't strike out when trying to enter the US market!

Cultural differences can really throw you a curveball and many professionals just drop the ball, or they give you a budget and then send you an invoice that's not even in the ballpark.

Just know that I am on deck and ready to go to bat for you to make sure your US expansion is a home run.

This is your time to step up to the plate!

Let's touch base so that your company can hit it out of the park in the US!