

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

## Grammatical Stylebook



**\*Special “Baseball Lingo” section with definitions starting on page 46.**

**Spring 2020**

<b>“A” game</b>	Use double quotes; no hyphen.
<b>abbreviations</b>	See: <b>box score abbreviations, positions, club names, state abbreviations</b> entries.
<b>academic degrees</b>	Use an apostrophe in “bachelor’s degree,” “master’s,” etc. Or, if using Ph.D., B.A., etc., these abbreviations must follow a full name — never after a last name only. When used after a name, an academic abbreviation is set off by commas. Ex: Marsha McCarty, Ph.D., spoke at the workshop.
<b>academic departments</b>	Use lowercase except for words that are proper nouns or adjectives. Ex: The history department and the English department. She was an English major.
<b>accept, except</b>	Accept means to receive. Except means to exclude.
<b>advance ticket booths</b>	Not capitalized, and the word “advance” does not end with a “d.” Ex: The advance ticket booth on the lower level is open.
<b>adviser</b>	Not “advisor.”
<b>affect, effect</b>	Affect, as a verb, means to influence. Ex: The game will affect the standings. Affect, as a noun, is best avoided. It occasionally is used in psychology to describe an emotion, but there is no need for it in everyday language. Effect, as a verb, means to cause. Ex: He will effect many changes in the company. Effect, as a noun, means result. Ex: The effect was overwhelming.
<b>age</b>	Always use figures, unless starting a sentence (although this should be avoided). When the context does not require “years” or “years old,” the figure is presumed to be years. Ex: The boy, 7, has a sister, 10. The woman, 26, has a daughter who’s 2 months old. The woman is in her 30s (no apostrophe). For ages expressed as adjectives before a noun or as substitutes for a noun, use hyphens. Ex: A 25-year-old outfielder, but the outfielder is 25 years old. Little League is for 11-year-olds. When discussing how a player’s age corresponds to a given season, use the following format. Ex: Clayton Kershaw is entering his age-29 season.
<b>airport</b>	Capitalize as part of a proper name. Ex: LaGuardia Airport. He went to the airport.

<b>All-America(n)</b>	When referring to a specific team, use All-America instead of All- American. Ex: She was an All-America selection from Oregon State. When referring to a specific individual, use All-American. Ex: He was an All-American at Stanford.
<b>all-conference</b>	Use lowercase when referring to all-conference, all-league, etc. However, if referring to a proper name, such as a specific conference, then capitalize. Ex: He was an all-league college baseball player while his sister was an All-Big Ten basketball player. He earned Big Ten honors at Michigan.
<b>all right</b> <b>all-right</b>	All right (adv.) Never “alright.” All-right (adj.) Ex: Everything will be all right. He is an all-right guy.
<b>All-Star</b>	A player is an All-Star if he is selected to the game, even if he didn’t appear in it.
<b>All-Star break</b>	Lower-case break
<b>All-Star Game®</b>	Always hyphenate and capitalize All-Star Game, even in Minor League references. Ex: Pacific Coast League All-Star Game. He was a Minor League All-Star. Not necessary to capitalize the “b” in All-Star break.
<b>All-Star Play Ball Park®</b>	Formerly All-Star Fan Fest®
<b>All-Star Week</b>	Capitalize “Week”
<b>all time, all-time</b>	An all-time high (adj.), but the greatest runner of all time (n.).
<b>alumnus, alumni, alumna, alumnae</b>	Use alumnus (alumni in the plural) when referring to a man who has attended a school. Use alumna (alumnae in the plural) for similar references to a woman. *Note—Use alumnae only when referring to a group composed only of women; use alumni when referring to a group of men and women.
<b>American League®</b>	Always capitalize American League and National League. Use AL and NL without periods when abbreviated. When referring to specific divisions, also use caps. Ex: American League West Division, AL West. Use trademark designation wherever possible

<b>a.m., p.m.</b>	Lowercase, with periods. Avoid the redundant 10 a.m. this morning.
<b>amateur draft</b>	No longer referred to by this name. See <b>First-Year Player Draft</b> entry.
<b>amounts, quantities</b>	“More than” or “less than” is preferred, not “over” or “under.”
<b>annual</b>	An event cannot be described as annual until it has been held in at least two successive years. Do not use the term “first annual.” Instead, use “inaugural” or note that sponsors plan to hold an event “annually.” Capitalize when used as part of a title such as the 36th Annual Baseball Writers Association of America Dinner.
<b>annual meeting</b>	Lowercase in all uses.
<b>anybody, anyone</b>	Use “anyone.”
<b>arch-rival</b>	Hyphenate.
<b>Arizona Fall League</b>	The official name of the instructional league to which Major League clubs send their top prospects in the fall.
<b>Associated Press, The</b>	Capitalize. “AP” or “the AP” on second reference. Do not italicize.
<b>AstroTurf</b>	A trademark name so it is capitalized and spelled as one word.
<b>at-bat</b>	Hyphenate.
<b>attendance</b>	Not “attendence.”
<b>award</b>	Capitalize only when used with a specific award. Ex: Clayton Kershaw won the Cy Young Award three times. In the plural, Cy Young awards is used with awards not being capitalized.
<b>awhile, a while</b>	Awhile (adv.), a while (n.). Nearly interchangeable, but awhile, the adverb, is never preceded by a preposition such as “for.” Ex: He plans to stay awhile. He plans to stay for a while.

<b>backdoor,</b>	Backdoor (adj.), back door (n.). Ex: He has a filthy backdoor slider.
<b>back door</b>	Someone's at the back door.
<b>Backstop</b>	One word. The fence or wall behind home plate. Also an acceptable reference to the catcher.
<b>Back-to-back</b>	Always hyphenate.
<b>backup, backup</b>	Back up (v.) and backup (n. and adj.). Ex: The catcher ran to back up first base. The backup catcher went into the game.
<b>backward</b>	Never backwards.
<b>ballboy ballgirl</b>	One word. The people who chase down foul balls at a ballpark. Do not use for clubs that have senior citizens in these positions.
<b>Ballclub</b>	One word.
<b>ballfield</b>	One word. Used as an informal reference to a playing field.
<b>ballgame</b>	One word is preferred, but two words is also acceptable.
<b>ballpark</b>	One word.

**Ballpark names:**

American League

BAL – Oriole Park at Camden Yards  
 BOS – Fenway Park  
 CHW – Guaranteed Rate Field  
 CLE – Progressive Field  
 DET – Comerica Park  
 HOU – Minute Maid Park  
 KC – Kauffman Stadium  
 LAA – Angel Stadium of Anaheim  
 MIN – Target Field  
 NYY – Yankee Stadium  
 OAK – Oakland Coliseum  
 SEA – T-Mobile Park  
 TB – Tropicana Field  
 TEX – Globe Life Park  
 TOR – Rogers Centre

National League

ARI – Chase Field  
 ATL – SunTrust Park  
 CHC – Wrigley Field  
 CIN – Great American BallPark  
 COL – Coors Field  
 LAD – Dodger Stadium  
 MIA – Marlins Park  
 MIL – Miller Park  
 NYM – Citi Field  
 PHI – Citizens Bank Park  
 PIT – PNC Park  
 SD – Petco Park  
 SF – Oracle Park  
 STL – Busch Stadium  
 WAS – Nationals Park

<b>Ballplayer</b>	One word.
<b>Baltimore chop</b>	Capitalize only the "B." See lingo section for definition.
<b>bare hand, bare-handed</b>	Bare hand (n.), bare-handed (adj. and adv.). Ex: He grabbed the ball with his bare hand. He is a master at making the bare-handed grab. He made the catch bare-handed.
<b>Base hit</b>	Two words.
<b>baseline</b>	One word unless used with a specific position. Ex: He hit the ball down the first-base line.
<b>base on balls</b>	Three words.
<b>basepath, basepaths</b>	As shown. One word
<b>base runner, Baserunning</b>	As shown. One word, "baserunning," as noun or modifier. Ex: The baserunner made a blunder. He is a baserunning expert.
<b>base stealer, basestealing</b>	As shown. One word, "basestealing," as an adjective. Ex: He is a solid base stealer. He is a definite basestealing threat.
<b>B.A.T.</b>	Baseball Assistance Team, always with periods.
<b>bat speed</b>	Two words.
<b>Bat boy; bat girl</b>	Two words.
<b>batter's box</b>	Two words with an apostrophe.
<b>batterymate</b>	One word.
<b>batting</b>	Don't write out numbers when used as a statistic. Always hyphenate. Ex: Trout went 3-for-4 against the Mariners on Monday.
<b>batting average on balls in play (BABIP)</b>	A pitcher's average on batted balls ending a plate appearance, excluding home runs. BABIP is mostly a function of a pitcher's defense and luck, rather than skill. Thus, pitchers with abnormally high or low BABIPs are good bets to see their performances regress to the mean. A typical BABIP is about .300.

<b>batting champion</b>	Lowercase. Ex: American League batting champion Jose Altuve.	
<b>because, since</b>	Use “because” to denote a specific cause-effect relationship. Ex: He went because he was told. “Since” is acceptable in a casual sense when the first event in a sequence led logically to the second but was not its direct cause. Ex: He went to the game, since he had been given tickets.	
<b>bench coach</b>	Two words, lowercase. Ex: Boston’s bench coach is Ron Roenicke.	
<b>beside, besides</b>	“Beside” means at the side of. “Besides” means in addition to.	
<b>best of seven</b>	All lowercase and spelled out.	
<b>bestseller, best-seller list</b>	Two words, unless referring to a specific entity’s list, in which case, follow the list’s proper usage.	
<b>birth date</b>	Note that two words are used, not “birthdate.” However, birthday and birthplace are both one word.	
<b>blond, blonde</b>	Use “blond” as a noun for males and as an adjective for all applications: She has blond hair. Use “blonde” as a noun for females.	
<b>board of directors</b>	Always lowercase.	
<b>bobblehead</b>	Lowercase, one word.	
<b>book titles</b>	Italicize names of books. Capitalize principal words. See italics, titles entries.	
<b>box score</b>	Two words.	
<b>Box score Abbreviations</b>	Always capitalize.	
<b>AB</b> (at-bat)	<b>AVG</b> (average)	<b>BB</b> (base/bases on balls)
<b>BF</b> (batters faced)	<b>CS</b> (caught stealing)	<b>DP</b> (double play)
<b>E</b> (error)	<b>ER</b> (earned run)	<b>ERA</b> (earned run avg)
<b>H</b> (hit)	<b>HR</b> (home run)	<b>IP</b> (inning pitched)
<b>K or SO</b> (strikeout)	<b>L</b> (loss) <b>LOB</b> (left on base)	<b>NP</b> (no. of pitches)
<b>PB</b> (passed ball)	<b>PO</b> (putout)	<b>OBP</b> (on-base percentage)
<b>OPS</b> (on-base plus slugging)	<b>R</b> (run)	<b>RBI</b> (run batted in)
<b>S or SV</b> (save)	<b>SB</b> (stolen base)	<b>SHO</b> (shutout)
<b>W</b> (win)	<b>WHIP</b> (walks and hits per innings pitched)	<b>WP</b> (wild pitch)

<b>Box seats</b>	Two words.
<b>break out, breakout</b>	Break out (v.), breakout (adj.). Ex. The Rays had a breakout season in 2008. He needed to break out of the slump.
<b>break up, breakup</b>	Break up (vb.), breakup (n. and adj.). Ex: Blanco represented the Giants' last chance to break up Bailey's no-hitter. The marriage breakup was difficult.
<b>broadcast</b>	The past tense also is broadcast, not "broadcasted." Ex: Porter was broadcasting at an early age. Tirico is a member of NBC's broadcast team. The game was broadcast last night.
<b>bullpen</b>	One word, for the place where pitchers warm up. 'Pen also acceptable (lowercase); note apostrophe.
<b>Cactus League®</b>	The official name for Spring Training in Arizona. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>call letters</b>	Adhere to the station's identification. Ex: KNBC-TV, KABC AM 790, WFAN, WABC, TBS.
<b>call up, callup</b>	Call up (vb.), callup (n. and adj.). Referring to when the Major League team brings a player up from the Minor Leagues. Ex: The Marlins called up Jose Fernandez from the Minors. He was hoping for a September callup.
<b>cancel, canceled, canceling</b>	Preferred spelling is only one "l."
<b>can't, cannot</b>	Both are acceptable.
<b>capitalization</b>	See <b>Manager, coaches, titles</b> entries.
<b>Captions</b>	For long list of player names, begin caption with "From left:" or "Clockwise from above:" etc. Otherwise, indicate subject in parenthesis after his name. Ex: Judge (left) with Boone.
<b>career high, career-high</b>	Career high (n.), career-high (adj.). Ex: He reached a new career high. He had a career-high 38 home runs for the season.



<b>Catch Probability</b>	MLB Statcast metric introduced for the 2017 season. It's a simple number that can be applied to every tracked batted ball and graded on a scale of 0 to 100 percent. A 0-8 percent Catch Probability means “that ball is never, ever caught” and a 100 percent Catch Probability is “caught by everyone, always.” The following categories identify the difficulty of each play: 0 to 25 percent --- 5 Star play 26 to 50 percent -- 4 Star play 51 to 75 percent -- 3 Star play 76 to 90 percent -- 2 Star play 91 to 95 percent -- 1 Star play
<b>catcher</b>	Always lowercase. Also “receiver” or “backstop.”
<b>center field, center-field, center fielder</b>	Center field (n.), center-field (adj.). Ex: Center field is a key position. He crashed into the center-field wall. Someone who plays the position is a center fielder.
<b>changeup, changeup</b>	Change up (vb.), changeup (n. and adj.). Ex: Joe Girardi decided to change up his starting lineup. Pedro Martinez struck out the final batter with a changeup.
<b>channel</b>	Capitalize when used with a figure; lowercase elsewhere: He turned to Channel 11. One channel will broadcast the game.
<b>chapters</b>	Capitalize chapter when used with a numeral in reference to a section of a book or legal code. Always use Arabic figures: Chapter 1, Chapter20. Lowercase when standing alone: Stop at the next chapter.
<b>check-swing</b>	Hyphenated as a noun or an adjective. Verb form does not include a hyphen. Ex: “The batter seemed to go around, but the ump ruled that he checked his swing.”
<b>cities</b>	Capitalize “city” as part of a proper name: Kansas City, New York City. Also, when used in the following way: The City of Denver is hosting a parade. Lowercase elsewhere: a Texas city; the city government; he lives in the city of St. Louis. Capitalize if it is part of the city’s nickname: City of Industry, City of Commerce. Also see <b>state</b> entry.

**citizen, resident,** A “citizen” is a person who has acquired the full civil rights of a national, native nation either by birth or naturalization. Cities and states in the United States do not confer citizenship. To avoid confusion, use “resident,” not “citizen” in reference to inhabitants of states and cities. “National” is applied to a person residing away from the nation of which he is a citizen, or to a person under the protection of a specified nation. “Native” is the term denoting that an individual was born in a given location. Use country name, not nationality, when used with “native.”  
Ex: Venezuela native (NOT Venezuelan native)

**clean up, cleanup** Clean up (vb.), cleanup (n. and adj.). Ex: A cleanup hitter bats fourth. Go on and clean up your room.

**Club, Clubs** Capitalize when used as an entity replacing the actual team name.  
Ex: The Club voted to forfeit the game, meaning the “Cleveland Indians.” \*Note — “They” should be used when referring to “Indians,” but use “it” when referring to “Cleveland.” Use entire club name (i.e. Yankees vs. Yankee) whenever possible. Use “Yankee” only when necessary.

**cliche** Acceptable without an “é” at the end.

**Clubhouse** One word and lowercase.

American League East  
Baltimore Orioles (BAL)  
Boston Red Sox (BOS)  
New York Yankees (NYY)  
Tamp Bay Rays (TB)  
Toronto Blue Jays (TOR)

National League East  
Atlanta Braves (ATL)  
Miami Marlins (MIA)  
New York Mets (NYM)  
Philadelphia Phillies (PHI)  
Washington Nationals (WAS)

Central:  
Chicago White Sox (CHW/CWS)  
Cleveland Indians (CLE)  
Detroit Tigers (DET)  
Kansas City Royals (KC)  
Minnesota Twins (MIN)

Central:  
Chicago Cubs (CHC)  
Cincinnati Reds (CIN)  
Milwaukee Brewers (MIL)  
Pittsburgh Pirates (PIT)  
St. Louis Cardinals (STL)

West:  
Houston Astros (HOU)

West:  
Arizona Diamondbacks (ARI)\*

Los Angeles Angels (LAA)\*  
 Oakland Athletics (OAK)  
 Seattle Mariners (SEA)  
 Texas Rangers (TEX)

Colorado Rockies (COL)  
 Los Angeles Dodgers (LAD)  
 San Diego padres (SD)  
 San Francisco Giants (SF)

*\*Unless surrounded by other formal titles, or unless necessary for distinguishing purposes, simply use “Angels and D-backs).”*

<b>coaches</b>	Lowercase. There should be no hyphen for first and third base coaches.
<b>college</b>	Capitalize only when part of a proper name. Ex: Boston College
<b>Commissioner</b>	An exception to standard title rule, capitalize when referring to the commissioner of a specific league, even if title comes after or is without name.
<b>Commissioner’s Office</b>	Acceptable reference due to space constraints, but the proper reference is: Office of the Commissioner of Baseball.
<b>complement, compliment</b>	Complement (n. or vb.) denotes completeness or the process of supplementing something. Ex: The ship has a complement of 200 sailors and 20 officers. The hat complements her dress. Compliment (n. or vb.) denotes praise or the expression of courtesy. Ex: He was flattered by the compliments of his teammates.
<b>complete game, complete-game</b>	Complete game (n.), complete-game (adj.). Ex: He pitched a complete game. He pitched a complete-game shutout.
<b>compose, comprise constitute</b>	Compose means to create or put together. Ex: He composed song. The United States is composed of 50 states. Comprise means to contain, include or embrace. Ex: The United States comprises 50 states. Constitute, in the sense of “to form” or “to make up,” may be the best word if neither compose nor comprise seems to fit. Nine players constitute a baseball team.
<b>connote, denote</b>	Connote means to suggest or imply something beyond the explicit meaning. Ex: To some people the word marriage connotes responsibility. Denote means to be explicit about the meaning. Ex: The word

	“demolish” denotes destruction.
<b>Cooperstown Collection™</b>	A brand of licensed merchandise — capitalize. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>corner infield, corner infielder</b>	As shown. Refers to the defensive positions of first base and third base.
<b>courtesy titles</b>	In general, do not use the courtesy titles Miss, Mr., Mrs. or Ms. on first and last names of a person. Ex: Hillary Clinton. Do not use courtesy titles in any reference unless needed to distinguish among people of the same last name. (Also see <b>doctors</b> entry)
<b>curveball</b>	One word.
<b>cut off, cutoff</b>	cut off (vb.), cutoff (n. or adj.). Ex: He cut off his son’s allowance. The cutoff man threw a perfect strike to the plate.
<b>Cy Young Award</b>	Capitalize as noted.
<b>D-backs</b>	Abbreviation for the Arizona Club’s nickname. Note that only the ‘D’ is capitalized.
<b>daylight saving time</b>	Not savings. Refer to AP Stylebook.
<b>days of the week</b>	Capitalize them. May be abbreviated as: Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat.
<b>day’s rest days’ rest</b>	See <b>three days’ rest</b> entry. *Note — “One day’s rest” or “a day’s rest” for a single day.
<b>day-night doubleheader</b>	When a team plays two games in one day, but there are several hours between games. Also known as a “split doubleheader.”
<b>deadball, dead ball</b>	Deadball (adj.), dead ball (n.). Lowercase. Ex: He managed to hit 29 home runs in the deadball era. The umpire ruled it a dead ball.
<b>departments (non-academic)</b>	Capitalize when used with a specific name. Ex: Content Department. See <b>titles</b> entry.

- designated hitter** Not hyphenated. Also see **positions** entry.
- die-hard** A noun and an adjective. Hyphenated.
- directions** Capitalize North, South, East and West when referring to an area or well-known region, but lowercase when referring to compass directions. Ex. The South, the Northeast, the West Coast, Southern California; but headed south, traveling in a northern direction.
- disabled list** May be abbreviated as DL without periods between letters. When indicating length of stay on the DL, use a hyphen between the number and the word “day.” Ex: Harvey was activated after being on the 15-day disabled list.  
*Note: This term is no longer used. See **Injured List**.*
- divisions** Capitalize when speaking of a specific division in the American or National League. Ex: the Central Division, the National League West.
- Division Series™** Always capitalize and use trademark designation when possible.  
ALDS™, NLDS™ also acceptable on first reference.
- doctors** Use Dr. in first reference as a formal title before the name of an individual who holds a doctor of medicine degree. If appropriate in the context, Dr. also may be used on first reference before the names of individuals who hold other types of doctoral degrees, but the individual’s specialty should also be stated in the second reference (dentist, chemist, etc.). Do not continue to use Dr. in subsequent references. Ex: Dr. Peter Hall, a dentist with 20 years of experience, was honored with the title of Humanitarian of the Year on Saturday. Hall dedicates his weekends to providing free dental services to low-income families. Also see **M.D.** entry.
- dollars** Always lowercase. Use figures and the \$ sign in all except casual references or amounts without a figure. Ex: The book cost \$4. Dad, please give me a dollar. For amounts of more than \$1 million, use the \$ and numerals up to two decimal places. Ex: His contract is worth \$4.35 million. He proposed a \$300 billion budget. The form for amounts less than \$1

million: \$4, \$25, \$500, \$1,000, \$650,000, \$1.50. Do not use \$1.00 or \$2.00; just use \$1 or \$2.

<b>Double-A</b>	See <b>Minor League classifications</b> entry.
<b>doubleheader</b>	Lowercase and one word.
<b>double play</b> <b>double-play</b>	Lowercase and two words. Hyphen as an adj. Ex: Grandal hit into a double-play ball.
<b>draft</b>	See <b>First-Year Player Draft</b> entry.
<b>dugout</b>	One word
<b>email</b>	Acceptable in all references for “electronic mail.”
<b>early-season</b>	An exception to the rule that “-ly” clauses should never be hyphenated.
<b>empty hand,</b> <b>empty-handed</b>	Empty hand (n.), empty-handed (adj. and adv.). Ex: Put it in his empty hand. The empty-handed children cried. They went home empty-handed.
<b>ERA</b>	Always use caps, no periods. Acceptable in all references to earned run average. Use “a” not “an” before an ERA of less than 1.00. Ex: Kimbrel posted a 0.44 ERA in his debut season.
<b>errors</b>	Designated on a scorecard as “E” along with the number assigned to the position of the player charged with the error. It is acceptable to use it the same way in text. Ex: They gave Correa an error after he dropped the ball; They gave Correa an “E6” after he dropped the ball.
<b>ESPN</b>	All capital letters with no periods when referring to the cable sports network.
<b>Expansion Draft</b>	The draft in which new teams select unprotected players from existing teams’ rosters.
<b>extra base(s),</b> <b>extra-base hit</b>	Extra base or extra bases (n.), extra-base (adj.). Ex: He tried for an extra base. Three of his hits went for extra bases. He connected on three extra-base hits.
<b>extra inning</b>	Two sides needed an extra inning to settle it. The game went

<b>extra-inning</b>	into extra innings. An extra-inning game. Capitalize, no hyphen when referring to DirecTV coverage (“MLB Extra Innings Package”).
<b>fair ball</b>	Two words.
<b>Fall Classic™</b>	Acceptable reference to the World Series. Capitalize and use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>fan base</b>	Two words.
<b>fan-favorite</b>	Hyphenate. Ex: David Wright is a Mets fan-favorite.
<b>farther, further</b>	Farther refers to physical distance. Ex: His home run went farther than the left-field seats. Further refers to an extension of time or a degree. Ex: He will look further into the story idea
<b>FastCast</b>	MLB.com's video reports, summarizing major news of the day.
<b>fielding independent pitching (FIP)</b>	A measure of all those things for which a pitcher is specifically responsible. The formula is $(HR*13+(BB+HBP-IBB)*3-K*2)/IP$ , plus a league-specific factor (usually around 3.2) to round out the number to an equivalent ERA number. FIP helps you understand how well a pitcher pitched, regardless of how well his fielders fielded. This stat was created by “Tom Tango,” the alias used by a well-respected sabermetrician.
<b>fired</b>	Do not use when referring to a manager, GM, etc. being relieved of his duties. Instead use <i>dismissed</i> or <i>relieved of his duties</i> .
<b>first base</b>	Two words. Someone who plays there is a first baseman. Hyphenate as an adj.: first-base line. Note: No hyphen for first base coach. Ex: Orioles first base coach Wayne Kirby
<b>first class, first-class</b>	First class (n. and adv.), first-class (adj. — a compound modifier). Ex: He was in the first class to graduate from the school. She is sitting in first class. He traveled first class. The Mariners organization is first class. The Dodgers are a first-class franchise.
<b>first come,</b>	Not hyphenated but a comma separates the clauses.

<b>first served</b>	Ex: Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.
<b>first lady</b>	Not a formal title. Do not capitalize, even when used before the name of a chief of state's wife.
<b>first round, first-round</b>	First round (n.), first-round (adj.). Ex: Trout was drafted in the first round. He was a first-round draft selection.
<b>First-Year Player Draft</b>	Capitalize when referring to the event in which Major League clubs select entry-level players each June. Also known as the "Major League Rule 4 Draft."
<b>fly ball</b>	Two words.
<b>fly out, flyout</b>	Fly out (vb.), flyout (n.). The verb's past tense is <i>flied out</i> .
<b>follow through</b>	Two words, no hyphen.
<b>foreword</b>	Introductory statement to a book
<b>forward</b>	Not forwards.
<b>foul ball, foul line, foul pole, foul tip</b>	All are two words.
<b>Fox Sports</b>	Network that broadcasts Major League Baseball games.
<b>free agent, free-agent</b>	free agent (n.), free-agent (adj.). Ex: The Giants signed two free agents. A free-agent signee.
<b>Free Agent Draft</b>	No longer referred to as this. See <b>First-Year Player Draft</b> entry. Use "Free Agent Draft" only as a historical reference about past drafts. Ex: First-round selection in the June 1989 Free Agent Draft.
<b>free-for-all</b>	Use hyphens.
<b>front-line pitcher</b>	Hyphenate as an adjective.
<b>full time, full-time</b>	Full time (adv.), full-time (adj.) Ex: He works full time. She has a full-time job.



<b>fund-raising</b> <b>fund-raiser</b>	Use hyphen in all cases.
<b>Game</b>	“Game” is capitalized when referring to a specific game in a series. In regard to a specific contest in the postseason, refer to the game as follows: Game 1 of the World Series, Game 7 of the League Championship Series.
<b>Gameday</b>	One word. Capitalize when referring to a specific version of a publication.
<b>game plan</b>	Two words.
<b>game time</b> <b>game-time</b>	Two words, but hyphenated as an adjective. Ex: game time is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. He is a game-time decision.
<b>game-winning hit</b>	Hyphenate. Ex: Cano had the game-winning hit last night.
<b>games back</b>	Always use numerals. Use decimals when referring to half-games. Never use the redundant “X.0”. Ex: The Giants were 6.5 games back in September. The Cubs trailed the Cardinals by 8 games.
<b>Gashouse</b>	One word. Ex: The Gashouse Gang
<b>general manager</b>	Do not capitalize.
<b>giveaway,</b> <b>give away</b>	Give away (vb.); giveaway (n. and adj.). Ex: The Blue Jays will give away batting helmets as one of their promotional giveaways.
<b>glovework</b>	One word.
<b>Gold Glove</b> <b>Award</b>	Capitalize as noted; is not “Golden Glove.” Ex: Smith won the NL Gold Glove Award.*Note— The Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, Inc. presented a Gold Glove lineup of nine players comprising both leagues in 1957. Since 1958, the Rawlings Gold Glove Award has been presented annually to a lineup of nine players for both the American and National Leagues.
<b>good, well</b>	“Good” is an adjective that means something is as it should be

or is better than average. When used as an adjective, “well” means suitable, proper, healthy. When used as an adverb, “well” means in a satisfactory manner or skillfully. “Good” should not be used as an adverb. It does not lose its status as an adjective in a sentence such as “I feel good.” Such a statement is the idiomatic equivalent of “I am in good health.” An alternative, “I feel well,” could be interpreted as meaning that your sense of touch was good.

<b>graduate</b>	Can be a verb or a noun. Ex: In the spring, Allison will graduate from Purdue. She is a graduate of Purdue.
<b>grand slam</b>	Lowercase, two words.
<b>Grapefruit League®</b>	The official name for Spring Training in Florida. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>gray</b>	“Gray” is preferred, but “grey” is also acceptable. Greyhound is the spelling for the breed of dogs and the national bus service.
<b>ground ball</b>	Two words.
<b>ground out, groundout</b>	Ground out (vb.), groundout (n.). The verb’s past tense is <i>grounded out</i> .
<b>ground-rule Double</b>	Use a hyphen.
<b>ground rules</b>	Two words. Ex: The umpires and coaches went over the ground rules.
<b>grounds crew</b>	Two words.
<b>groundskeeper</b>	One word.
<b>half-off, half-price</b>	As in ticket discounts, use a hyphen.
<b>Hall of Fame, Hall-of-Fame</b>	Hall of Fame (n.), Hall-of-Fame (adj.). Ex: Hank Aaron is a member of the Hall of Fame; Aaron had a Hall-of-Fame career. Always capitalize. Use full title as appropriate: National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

<b>Hall of Famer</b>	A person who has been inducted into the Hall of Fame.
<b>headfirst</b>	One word.
<b>headlines</b>	Articles (the, a...), prepositions (to, as...) and conjunctions (and, or...) are not capitalized. Verbs (is, are...) and words of four letters or more are always capitalized.
<b>height</b>	Hyphenate when used as an adjective before a noun. Do not hyphenate when describing an individual's height. Ex: He is 6 feet 2 inches tall, but his brother is a 6-foot-5-inch man. On second reference, use a straight apostrophe to indicate feet and straight quote marks to indicate inches 6'2". Note that curled quotes should not be used in InDesign and need to be changed to inch marks and foot marks.
<b>hit and run, hit-and-run</b>	Hit and run (vb.), hit-and-run (n. and adj.) Ex: The coach told him to hit and run. He scored on a hit-and-run. She was surprised by the great hit-and-run play.
<b>Hit Probability</b>	MLB Statcast metric introduced for the 2017 season that attempts to answer a very simple question: Based on the exit velocity and launch angle of the batted ball, how likely was the ball to land for a hit? Hit probability is expressed as a percentage. Ex: McCutchen's knock had a Hit Probability of 95 percent, which is to say that ball lands for a hit nearly every time.
<b>hitter's park</b>	Singular possessive.
<b>hitting streak</b>	Not hit streak. Ex: He had a 14-game hitting streak.
<b>home-field advantage</b>	Hyphenate "home-field" when used as an adjective.
<b>home page</b>	Two words when referring to presence on the Internet.
<b>home plate</b>	Two words.
<b>home run</b>	Two words, can also be abbreviated as "HR" when used in list form. Use no apostrophe with the plural form of "HRs." Ex: He hit 17 home runs; or 17 homers; or 17 HRs.

<b>Home Run Derby®</b>	Three words, capitalized when referring to the event that takes place the day before the All-Star Game. Sponsor's name precedes event name in first reference. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>homestand</b>	One word.
<b>hotel</b>	Capitalize as part of a proper name. Ex: The Boston Hilton Hotel. Lowercase when standing alone or in a reference to one hotel in a chain. Ex: Miami has a Marriott hotel.
<b>in, into</b>	"In" indicates location. Ex: He was in the room. "Into" indicates motion. Ex: She walked into the room.
<b>indoor, indoors</b>	Indoor (adj.), indoors (adv.) Ex: He plays indoor tennis. He went indoors.
<b>Injured Reserve, Injured Reserve List</b>	Capitalize as shown.
<b>injuries</b>	They are suffered or sustained, not received.
<b>innings</b>	In general, follow the rules of grammar. Innings one through nine should be spelled out, 10 and above should be numerals. Ex: Everyone stood in the seventh inning. We left after the 12th inning. Use numerals when referring to inning statistics. When referring to a specific game, use a decimal. Never use "X.0". Ex: Wainwright pitched a career-high 241.2 innings in 2013.
<b>inside -the-park home run</b>	Hyphenate "inside-the-park" when used as an adjective
<b>instant replay</b>	Lowercase. Refers to the process by which a manager can challenge a reviewable call or an umpire crew chief may initiate a replay review of a play, which is then viewed by a replay official(s). There must be clear and convincing evidence to change the original call that was made on the field of play.
<b>inter-, intra-</b>	Use "inter-" when referring to "between." Ex: Interleague Play. Use "intra-" to mean "within." Ex: The Phillies' starters played against the Phillies' reserves in an intrasquad scrimmage.

<b>Interleague Play™</b>	Two words, both capitalized. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>Internet</b>	Always capitalize.
<b>italics</b>	Italicize names of magazines, newspapers, book titles, movies, plays, works of art, video games and long poems. Quotes around titles of TV and radio shows, articles and songs.
<b>it's, its</b>	"It's" is a contraction for it is or it has. Ex: It's up to you. It's been a long time. "Its" in the possessive form requires no apostrophe. Ex: The team lost its fourth consecutive game.
<b>judgment</b>	Notice there is only one "e."
<b>June Draft</b>	No longer referred to as this. See <b>First-Year Player Draft</b> entry.
<b>junior, senior</b>	Abbreviate as Jr. and Sr. with full names of persons or animals. Do not use a comma after the name. Ex: Ken Griffey Jr. When listing alphabetically for a roster, use Alomar Jr., Sandy.
<b>Junior Circuit</b>	An acceptable reference to the American League.
<b>K/9</b>	This is a rate stat charting strikeouts per nine innings pitched.
<b>K's, K'd</b>	A baseball term referring to strikeouts. Note the apostrophes after "K". Ex: Strasburg recorded 14 K's in his debut. Lee K'd Harper to end the game.
<b>KO'd</b>	Not kayoed. Knocked out.
<b>languages</b>	Capitalize the proper names of languages and dialects. Ex: Arabic, English, Japanese and Yiddish.
<b>lay, lie</b>	The action word is "lay" (laying). Its past tense is "laid". Ex: He laid the ball on the ground. They tried to lay the blame on him. "Lie" (lying) indicates a state of reclining along a horizontal plane. Its past tense is "lay" (lain). Ex: The doctor told him to lie down. He had lain on the beach all day. When "lie" means

to make an untrue statement, the verb forms are “lie, lied, lying.” Ex: Don’t lie to me. He lied about the accident.

<b>lead off, leadoff, led off</b>	Lead off (vb.), leadoff (adv. and adj.) Ex: He will lead off the game today. He is batting leadoff. A leadoff hitter should have good speed. Past tense is <i>led off</i> . Ex: He led off the game with a home run.
<b>League</b>	Capitalize only when referring to the full entity that is the American League or the National League. AL and NL (all caps, no periods) are acceptable, even on first reference.
<b>League Championship</b>	Always capitalized. LCS, ALCS or NLCS also acceptable on first reference. Use trademark designation whenever <b>Series™</b> possible.
<b>league high, league-high</b>	League high (n.), league-high (adj.). Ex: Johnson posted a league-high six shutouts. His six shutouts were a league high.
<b>league leaders</b>	Lowercase. See <b>League</b> entry.
<b>left-center</b>	Always hyphenate when referring to the place between left and center fields.
<b>left field, left-field, left fielder</b>	Left field (n.), left-field (adj.). Ex: He plays left field. The ball was hit into the left-field corner. Someone who plays there is a left fielder.
<b>left-handed, left-hander, lefty</b>	Left-handed (adj. and adv.), lefty (n.). Ex: A left-handed batter. He bats left-handed. The left-hander will pitch tomorrow. The lefty threw six shutout innings.
<b>length of games</b>	Use numerals separated with a colon. Ex: The time of the game was 2:45. *Note — This means the game lasted two hours and 45 minutes. It is not to be confused with what time the game began.
<b>lifetime</b>	One word.
<b>lights out, lights-out</b>	Dominant pitcher. Ex: Kimbrel was lights out in the ninth; Rivera, the Yankees’ lights-out closer, retired in 2013.
<b>line drive</b>	Two words.

<b>line up, lineup</b>	line up (vb.), lineup (n.) Ex: The publicity director will lineup the interview; the manager submitted his team's lineup to the umpire.
<b>linescore</b>	One word
<b>Little League</b>	Capitalize in all references. Corporate title is Little League Baseball, Softball and Challenger.
<b>longball</b>	An acceptable reference for a home run.
<b>long term, long-term</b>	long term (n.), long-term (adj.). Ex: Dustin Pedroia has committed to the Red Sox for the long term. He signed a long-term contract.
<b>longtime, longtime</b>	longtime (n.), longtime (adj.). Ex: Tony La Russa managed the Cardinals for a long time. La Russa was the Cardinals' longtime manager.
<b>magazine names</b>	Capitalize and italicize the name but do not place it in quotes. Lowercase "magazine" unless it is part of the publication's formal title. Ex: <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , <i>Sports Illustrated</i> .
<b>Major League Baseball®</b>	Capitalize when referring to the entity, its Clubs and the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball. Ex: The team celebrated 50 years in Major League Baseball. On second reference, MLB is acceptable. If at all possible, avoid using the possessive.
<b>Major League Baseball Enterprises, Inc.</b>	Always capitalized.
<b>Major League Baseball Players Association</b>	No apostrophe. On second reference, Players MLBPA are acceptable.
<b>Major Leaguer™</b>	Two words. Never hyphenate, always capitalize. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>Major Leagues™</b>	Two words. Never hyphenate, always capitalize. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>make up,</b>	Make up (vb.) and makeup (n. and adj.).

<b>makeup</b>	Ex: I think we should make up and forget about our differences. The makeup was applied by a makeup artist.		
<b>manager</b>	Use caps when title precedes the name. Ex: Manager Joe Maddon. Note, however, that it is lowercase if after the name. Ex: Joe Maddon, manager of the Cubs. See <b>titles</b> entry.		
<b>Manager of the Year</b>	A title, use no hyphens. Capitalize as noted, and follow the same format for Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year		
<b>M.D.</b>	A word such as physician or surgeon is preferred. Avoid the redundant Dr. James Andrew, M.D. Also see <b>doctors</b> entry.		
<b>medical terms</b>	Here is a listing of commonly misspelled medical terms:		
abdominal	Achilles	arthroscopic	bursitis
cartilage	collateral	groin	hamstring
ligament	rotator cuff	surgery	tendinitis
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		rehabilitation	X-ray
In the knee...			
ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) LCL (lateral cruciate ligament) MCL (medial cruciate ligament) PCL (posterior cruciate ligament) meniscus; menisci (pl.) (cartilage in space in knee joint that serves as pad to keep bones from rubbing together)			
In the elbow:			
UCL (ulnar collateral ligament)			
<b>Memento</b>	Note the spelling (NOT "momento").		
<b>middle infield, middle infielder</b>	As shown. Refers to the defensive positions of second base and shortstop.		
<b>Midseason</b>	One word.		
<b>Midsummer Classic</b>	Refers to the All-Star Game. Always capitalize and "Midsummer" is one word, with only the "m" capitalized.		
<b>miles per hour</b>	Spelled out unless accompanied by a number. The abbreviation is always acceptable. Never hyphenate or		



	use periods. Ex: The last pitch was clocked at 92 mph. He threw a 92 mph fastball.
<b>Minor League classifications</b>	The classifications are: Triple-A, Double-A, Class A Advanced, Class A and Rookie. Do not hyphenate Class A.
<b>Minor Leagues™</b>	Capitalize if referring to Minor League Baseball. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>MLB</b>	Preferred reference is Major League Baseball.
<b>MLBAM</b>	Major League Baseball Advanced Media. The interactive and Internet company of Major League Baseball, which manages MLB.com and each of the 30 individual Club sites, and delivers live online streaming audio and video of every game, as well as the most complete real-time baseball information and interactivity on the Internet and wireless devices.
<b>MLB.com</b>	Official website of Major League Baseball. Always try to fit entire URL on one line.
<b>MLB Authentic Collection™</b>	The brand of licensed merchandise. Should be capitalized. Use trademark designation wherever possible. Official title for the all-baseball network launched on Jan. 1, 2009.
<b>MLB Network Programs</b>	“MLB Tonight” “Intentional Talk” “MLB Central” “MLB Now” “High Heat” “Play Ball” “Prime 9” “Saturday Night Baseball” (Sat. night game) “The Rundown” “Thursday Night Baseball” (Thurs. night game) “Quick Pitch”
<b>MLB Photos</b>	“P” in Photos always capitalized.
<b>“MLB Tonight”</b>	Two words, in quotes. Used only when referring to the MLB Network program.
<b>month-long</b>	Hyphenate as an adjective. Otherwise use as two words. Ex: A month-long slump. He has been slumping all month long.
<b>months</b>	Capitalize the names of months in all uses. Spell out when

using alone, or with a year alone. It is required to abbreviate months when one is used with a specific date, such as: Jan. 4, Feb. 4, Aug. 4, Sept. 4, Oct. 4, Nov. 4, and Dec. 4. When a phrase lists only a month and a year, do not separate the year with commas. When a phrase refers to a month, day and year, set off the year with commas. Ex: October 1988 was an exciting month. Jan. 19 was the coldest day of the month. March 20 is a long day. The Sept. 27 attendance was 32,000. Helmet Day is slated for July 22, 2014. The use of 9/11 is acceptable.

<b>mop up, mop-up</b>	mop up (vb.), mop-up (adv. and adj.).
<b>Most Valuable Player</b>	Capitalize or abbreviate without periods as MVP.
<b>MVP Award</b>	Capitalize as noted.
<b>mountains</b>	Capitalize as part of a proper name. Ex: Appalachian Mountains, Rocky Mountains.
<b>multimedia</b>	One word, no hyphen.
<b>multiple-hit</b>	Hyphenate. Ex: He led the league in multiple-hit games. Can also be shortened to “multi-hit.”
<b>national anthem</b>	Lowercase national anthem, but capitalize “The Star-Spangled Banner.”
<b>national pastime</b>	Note this is lowercase and there is only one “t” in pastime.
<b>national teams</b>	Capitalize when used as a proper name. Ex: The Chinese National Team took home the gold. He played for China’s national team in the 1980s.
<b>nationalities</b>	Capitalize proper names of nationalities, peoples, races, tribes, etc. Ex: Arab, Arabic, African, African-American, American, Caucasian, Cherokee, Chinese, French Canadian, Jewish, Latino. Also see “ <b>citizen, resident, national, native</b> ” entry.
<b>National League®</b>	Always capitalize National and American League. Use NL and AL without periods when abbreviated. When referring to specific divisions, also use caps. Ex: National League West

Division, NL East Division. Use trademark designation when possible.

**Negro Leagues** Capitalized and plural.

**newspaper names** Italicize within text. Capitalize “the” in a newspaper’s name if that is the way the publication prefers to be known. Lowercase “the” before newspaper names if a story mentions several papers, some of which use “the” as part of the name and some of which do not. Where location is needed but is not part of the official name, use parentheses. Ex: *The Huntsville (Ala.) Times*.

**nicknames** Use double quotes around nicknames, except in headlines and decks. Ex: Alexander the Great: The man they called ‘Old Pete’ was a master of accuracy. By Bill Francis; His name was Mordecai, but everyone called him “Three Finger.”

There is an exception for players whose nicknames are used in place of first names. Ex: Tug McGraw.

**Nippon Professional Baseball** Japan’s highest level of baseball. Consists of two leagues: Central League and Pacific League. All should be capitalized. Use Japan league casually, with a lowercase ‘l’.

**no-decision** Hyphenate. Ex: The pitcher had a no-decision in last night’s game.

**no-hitter** Always hyphenate. No-no (n., lowercase) is also acceptable. Past tense is “no-hit,” not “no-hitte.” Ex: He no-hit the Cardinals.

**numbers** Also see **age, batting innings, percentage, records, scores, statistics, time** and **years** entries. As a general rule, spell out whole numbers below 10 except when used as an age (5 years old), a score (3-2) or a series of statistics (3 runs, 5 hits). Use figures for 10 and above. Ex: Nine players, 24 players.

*At the beginning of a sentence:* Always spell out a number when it begins a sentence. If necessary, re-write the sentence. There is one exception: a number that identifies a calendar year.

Wrong: 93 players showed up for tryouts last year. Correct: Last year, 93 players showed up for tryouts. Correct: 1995 was a good season for the Braves.

*Uniform numbers:* Use “No.” before listing a player’s jersey number if used in a

story. Ex: Jackie Robinson's jersey, No. 42, was retired in June 1972.

*Casual uses:* Spell out casual expressions and approximations. Ex: Thanks a million. A thousand times, no! There must have been a hundred people in there.

<b>official scorekeeper</b>	Lowercase.
<b>off-day</b>	Hyphenated.
<b>offseason</b>	Not hyphenated.
<b>off-speed pitch</b>	Hyphenated.
<b>okay</b>	Use "okay" spelled out instead of "o.k."
<b>old-timer, old-time, times</b>	old-timer (n.), old-time (adj.), old times (n.). Use caps when referring to a specific promotion. Ex: Old-Timers' Day was <b>old</b> held last June. He is an old-time Brooklyn Dodger fan. We were reminiscing about old times.
<b>Olympics</b>	Capitalize all references to the international athlete contests held every four years. Ex: The Winter Olympics, the Olympic Games, the Games, an Olympic-sized pool
<b>on-base percentage</b>	<b>on-base</b> Hyphenated. Ex: He boasts a .350 on-base percentage. Also OBP.
<b>on-deck, on deck</b>	on-deck (adj.), on deck (adv.). Ex: The on-deck batter is Cruz. He's waiting in the on-deck circle. Jones is on deck.
<b>online</b>	Always one word.
<b>Opening Day</b>	Capitalize when referring to the first day of the MLB season.
<b>OPS</b>	An advanced offensive stat derived by adding on-base percentage with slugger percentage. OPS measures a player's ability to get on base while also hitting for power.
<b>organization (clubs)</b>	Do not use the possessive when discussing a specific organization. Ex: He is the top prospect in the Mariners organization.

<b>organizations and institutions</b>	Capitalize the full names of organizations and institutions. Ex: Society of Professional Journalists.
<b>others batted in (OBI)</b>	A counting stat for the number of runs batted in by a batter that does not include the batter himself. OBI is distinguished from RBI (runs batted in) in that OBI does not credit the batter for scoring on his own home run. OBI = RBI - HR
<b>others batted in percentage (OBI%)</b>	The fraction of runners on base who were driven in during a batter's plate appearances.
<b>outfielder</b>	One word.
<b>overhand</b>	One word.
<b>owner</b>	Capitalize when directly in front of a name. Ex: Dodgers Owner Magic Johnson
<b>Oxford comma</b>	A comma used after the penultimate item in a list of three or more items, before "and" or "or." Per AP Style, do not use the Oxford comma. Instead, separate all items in a list by a comma except for the final two. Ex: Tulowitzki collected a single, double, triple and home run last night.
<b>parentheses</b>	Use to show that you've inserted necessary background or reference information. Use brackets inside of quotation marks.
<b>part time, part-time</b>	part time (adv.), part-time (adj.) Ex: She works part time. She has a part-time job.
<b>passed ball</b>	A pitch that gets by the catcher by his own fault.
<b>pastime</b>	One word when referring to baseball as the "national pastime."
<b>pavilion</b>	Note the word "pavilion" is spelled with one "L." Ex: The Left Field Pavilion.
<b>pennant</b>	The championship of a league.
<b>people, persons</b>	Use person when speaking of an individual. Ex: One person walked to the dugout. The word people is preferred

to persons in all plural uses. Ex: Thousands of people will receive blue helmets on Helmet Night.

<b>percentages</b>	Use figures. Ex: 1 percent, 2.5 percent (use decimals not fractions). For amounts less than 1 percent, precede the decimal with a zero. Ex: The cost of tickets went up 0.3 percent. *Note—Be careful to distinguish between changes in percent and percentage points. Ex: A batter who has increased his average from .250 to .300 has increased it by <i>20 percent</i> or by <i>50 percentage points</i> .
<b>perfect game</b>	When a pitcher retires all 27 batters he faces in a game.
<b>personal, personnel</b>	“Personal” is relating to a particular person. “Personnel” means a body of employees.
<b>pickoff, pick off</b>	Pickoff (n., adj.), pick off (vb.). Ex: Nothing kills a rally like a pickoff. Mark Buehrle’s pickoff move was one of the best. The manager ordered the pitcher to pick off the runner.
<b>pinch-hit, pinch-hitter</b>	hyphenated in verb form or when referring specifically to the batter.
<b>pinch hits</b>	Two words, no hyphen, when referring specifically to the hits.
<b>pinch -runner</b>	Hyphenated. Ex: He was inserted as a pinch-runner. Avoid using as a verb. Instead say, “Jones came in to run for the pitcher,” or just “Jones ran for Cruz.”
<b>Ping-Pong</b>	Capitalize both ‘P’s and hyphenate.
<b>pitchers’ duel</b>	Two words. Plural possessive.
<b>pitcher’s mound</b>	Two words, no hyphen. Singular possessive.
<b>pitcher’s park</b>	Singular possessive.
<b>pitches</b>	The following types of pitches should be written as follows: change-up, circle-change, curveball, cut fastball, fastball, forkball, knuckleball, knuckle-curve, screwball, sinker, slider, slurve, spitball, split-finger fastball, two-seam fastball. Also see lingo section for nicknames, etc.

<b>pitch out, pitchout</b>	Pitch out (vb.), pitchout (n.). Ex: To be a true ace, you have to be able to pitch out of a jam. A team might pitch out if there is a fast base runner on first. The manager signaled to the catcher for a pitchout.	
<b>Pitch Smart</b>	Capitalized. The joint Major League Baseball and USA Baseball initiative to promote arm safety for youth players.	
<b>Play Ball</b>	Play Ball is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and USA Baseball whose goal is to foster kids' interest in the game of baseball. Its website, PlayBall.org, features educational resources for coaches, umpires, parents and players.	
<b>Player of the Month</b>	Capitalize the "P" and "M." Ex: Stanton won the Player of the Month Award.	
<b>Player of League the Week</b>	Capitalize the "P" and "W." Ex: MLB honors the National Player of the Week.	
<b>play off, playoff</b>	Play off (vs.), playoff (n. or adj.). Ex: The teams will play off to decide the division winner. A one-game playoff will decide the division winner.	
<b>p.m., a.m.</b>	Lowercase with periods. Avoid the redundant, "10 p.m. tonight."	
<b>pop fly</b>	Two words.	
<b>Pop out</b>	Always two words, as a noun and a verb.	
<b>Pop-up</b>	Always hyphenated, as a noun and a verb.	
<b>Positions</b>	Pitcher (P) Catcher (C) First baseman (1B) Second baseman (2B) Third baseman (3B) Shortstop (SS)	Left fielder (LF) Center Fielder (CF) Right Fielder (RF) Designated hitter (DH) Starting pitcher (SP) Relief pitcher (RP)
<b>possessives</b>	Do not use an apostrophe when using a club nickname as a descriptive: <i>Yankees slugger Babe Ruth</i> . A general rule of thumb is that unless the nickname is preceded by the word	

"the" (or an implied "the" in the case of headlines), it is being used as a descriptive and does not take an apostrophe. Even in cases where the nickname is preceded by the word "the," it is often still descriptive and not a possessive: *"Sandy Koufax, the Dodgers left-hander, is in the Hall of Fame."* Unless you mean to say Koufax is the Dodgers' only left-hander, no apostrophe should be used. When an apostrophe is needed, follow AP style: Red Sox's, Rox's Exception: Per club request, White Sox should never be used as a possessive on the club site .

<b>postgame</b>	One word.
<b>postseason</b>	As an adjective or the noun describing the Wild Card Game, Division Series, League Championship Series and World Series: one word. Ex: Several postseason trades were made. The Braves continually rallied from behind during the postseason.
<b>power hitter</b>	Two words, hyphen as an adjective ("power-hitting first baseman").
<b>pregame, preseason</b>	Not hyphenated. Ex: Pregame interviews are slated for 6:15 p.m.
<b>president</b>	Capitalize president only as a formal title before one or more names. Ex: President Obama or Honorary American League President Frank Robinson. Lowercase in all other uses. Ex: The president spoke today.
<b>press box</b>	Two words.
<b>principal, principle</b>	Principal (n. and adj.) means someone or something first in rank, authority, importance or degree. Ex: She is the school principal. Principle (n.) means a fundamental truth, law, doctrine or motivating force. Ex: They fought the principle of self-determination.
<b>prior to</b>	"Before" is less stilted for most uses. "Prior to" is appropriate, however, when a notion of requirement is involved. Ex: The fee must be paid prior to the examination.



<b>publications</b>	<i>Official Major League Baseball All-Star Game Program Official Major League Baseball American League Championship Series Program Official Major League Baseball National League Championship Series Program Official Major League Baseball World Series Program World Baseball Classic Official Souvenir Program</i>
<b>putout, put out</b>	Putout (n.) and put out (v.). Ex: Syndergaard recorded a putout to end the inning. Arenado was put out on a 6-4-3 double play.
<b>quarterfinals</b>	One word.
<b>Races</b>	See <b>nationalities</b> entry.
<b>rainout, rain out</b>	Rainout (n.) and rain out (v.).
<b>RBI, RBIs</b>	Acceptable in all references to runs batted in. Use in plural form in text, unless the total is one. Do not add an "S" when used in a stat line with other abbreviations. Ex: <i>Hank Aaron (.305, 755 HR, 2,297 RBI, 3,771 H)</i> .
<b>RBI™</b>	Also a trademark for the youth baseball program, "Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities." Always spell out on first reference.
<b>records</b>	Always use numerals. Set these off with parentheses if offering extra information. Ex: Lincecum (7-5) will face Jimenez (14-1) in tomorrow's game. When it is an integral part of a sentence, do not use parentheses. Ex: The Indians finished the '95 season with a 100-44 record.
<b>regular season, regular-season</b>	Regular season (n.), regular-season (adj.). Ex: In the 2000 regular season, the Giants collected the most wins. The Giants collected 97 regular-season wins in 2000.
<b>Replay Operations Center</b>	The hub of MLB's instant replay system.
<b>Replay Review</b>	See <b>instant replay</b> .
<b>re-sign, resign</b>	To sign again: hyphenate. To give up one's position: one word.

<b>resume</b>	Acceptable without the “é” when referring to the list of a person’s accomplishments.
<b>right-center</b>	Always hyphenate when referring to the area between right and center fields.
<b>right field, right-field, right fielder</b>	Right field (n.), right-field (adj.). Ex: He plays right field. The ball was hit into the right-field corner. Someone who plays there is a right fielder.
<b>right-handed, right-hander</b>	Right-handed (adj. and adv.), righty (n.). Ex: A right-handed batter. He bats right-handed. The right-hander will pitch <b>righty</b> tomorrow. The righty looked good warming up.
<b>rights holder</b>	Two words.
<b>Rookie Career Development Program</b>	A three-day event run jointly by the Office of the Commissioner and the Players Association in which young players are exposed to challenges and issues that they may face in their new environment as Major Leaguers.
<b>Rookie League</b>	Always capitalized. A classification for several leagues within the Minor Leagues.
<b>Rookie of the Year Award</b>	Capitalize as noted.
<b>roster</b>	40-man roster, 26-man roster.
<b>roundtripper</b>	An acceptable reference for a home run. One word with no hyphen.
<b>Rule 4 Draft</b>	See <b>First-Year Player Draft</b> entry. Do not use Roman numerals.
<b>Rule 5 Draft</b>	Held in the winter, a way in which a club can select a Minor League player from another team and advance that player in its own organization. Always use numerals, not Roman numerals.
<b>rulebook</b>	Two words.

<b>rundown</b>	One word when describing a base runner being caught between two or more fielders. (*Note — may be one word or hyphenated as adjective: a rundown building, a run-down building.)		
<b>runner-up runners-up</b>	Hyphenate in all cases. To pluralize, add “s” to the first word.		
<b>sacrifice</b>	When a player uses his at-bat to advance a runner. See <b>sacrifice fly</b> , <b>sacrifice hit</b> for details. In a sentence or stat line, “sac” is also acceptable.		
<b>sacrifice bunt</b>	A bunt in which the batter intentionally makes an out in order to advance one or more base runners.		
<b>sacrifice fly</b>	A fly ball in which the batter is recorded as an out, but at least one base runner scores.		
<b>safety squeeze</b>	A bunt with a runner on third base. The runner doesn’t break for home until after the ball is bunted.		
<b>St. Louis</b>	Note that this comes after “San Francisco” when listing National League teams alphabetically.		
<b>scorebook scorecard scorekeeper</b>	All one word.		
<b>scores</b>	Use figures exclusively, placing a hyphen between the totals of the winning and losing teams. Ex: The Twins lost, 4-3, to the A’s; the Pirates knocked off the Phillies, 5-0. When listing scores, use a comma in this format: Chicago 6, Houston 2.		
<b>Scoring</b>	There are many different methods of keeping score. One constant is the numerical symbol for each position in the field:		
1- Pitcher	3- First base	5- Third base	7- Left field
2- Catcher	4- Second base	6- Shortstop	8- Center field
9- Right field			

As a general guide, a groundout that goes from the shortstop to the first baseman would be scored “6-3.” A fly out to the center fielder: “F8.” An error by the shortstop would be “E6.” A single would be scored “—,” a double would be “=,” etc. Other commonly used symbols:

SH-Sacrifice Hit

HBP-Hit By Pitch

BB-Walk  
 K-Strikeout  
 BK-Balk  
 FC-Fielder's Choice  
 DP-Double Play  
 SF-Sacrifice Fly  
 L-Line Drive  
 U-Unassisted

WP-Wild Pitch  
 PB-Passed Ball  
 SB-Stolen Base  
 FO-Force Out  
 E-Error  
 IBB-Intentional Walk  
 B-Bunt  
 CS-Caught Stealing

**Season's Greetings**

An apostrophe is necessary.

**second base**

Two words. A person who plays here is a second baseman.

**sellout, sellout**

Sellout (n. and adj.), sell out (vb.). Ex: Last night's Brewers game was a sellout. The Brewers played before a sellout crowd. The Brewers will sell out tomorrow night's game.

**semi-finals**

Hyphenated.

**semipro**

One word.

**Senior Circuit**

An acceptable reference to the National League.

**Series, series**

Capitalize when referring to the World Series or the proper name of an event, but not for a regular-season series or the shortened form of a playoff series. Numerals can be used in place of spelling out the words, as in a score. The word "none" should be used in place of "0". Use dashes in adjective form. Ex: The Blue Jays won the season series against the Tigers; The Braves won the NLCS, 4 games to 2. They had trailed 2 games to none in the series; The Yankees took a 3-games-to-2 lead in the World Series.

**seventh-inning stretch**

Hyphenate.

**setup man**

"Setup" is one word when referring to the type of relief pitcher.

**shoestring catch**

A catch made by a fielder just before the ball hits the ground.

**Short-Season A**

See **Minor League classifications** entry.

**Shortstop**

Always one word.

<b>Show, The</b>	Capitalize in reference to Major League Baseball.
<b>shut out, shutout</b>	Shut out (vb.), shutout (n.). Ex: Arrieta shut out the Nationals. Price pitched his third consecutive shutout.
<b>Sidearm</b>	One word.
<b>Silver Slugger</b>	Capitalize as noted.
<b>Single-A</b>	See <b>Minor League classifications</b> entry.
<b>slash line</b>	Use a “/”. For example, 40/40 indicates a player who reached these numbers in home runs and steals in a single season, while .300/.400/.500 indicates a player’s batting average, OBP and slugging percentage.
<b>Slugfest</b>	A game with many hits and runs.
<b>Slugger</b>	A batter known for his power.
<b>Southern California</b>	Notice the “S” in Southern is capitalized
<b>Southpaw</b>	One word to describe a left-handed pitcher. Also see entry in the lingo section.
<b>South Side</b>	As shown. Refers to the area of Chicago that is home to the White Sox.
<b>Souvenir</b>	Notice correct spelling.
<b>Speakers Bureau</b>	No apostrophe; not “Speaker’s Bureau.”
<b>“SportsCenter”</b>	No space between the words, note the capitalization and quote usage. Used only when referring to the ESPN program.
<b>sports editor</b>	Capitalize as a formal title before a name. See <b>titles</b> entry.
<b>Sports on Earth</b>	SportsonEarth.com launched in August 2012 as a destination dedicated to great sports writing from some of the most respected voices in the industry. It was owned and operated by MLBAM, but shut down in 2018.
<b>sports reporter</b>	Two words.
<b>sportswriter</b>	One word. Also sportswriting.

<b>Spring Training™</b>	Capitalize. Use trademark designation whenever possible.
<b>squeeze play</b>	A bunt when there is a runner on third base.
<b>stadium</b>	Capitalize only when part of a proper name. Ex: Dodger Stadium, Busch Stadium. Preferred plural form is “stadiums” but “stadia” is also acceptable. See <b>Ballpark names</b> entry for list of official stadium names.
<b>stand-up double</b>	Hyphenate “stand-up.”
<b>Statcast</b>	MLB.com’s state-of-the-art tracking technology. Statcast gathers data from around the league, using high-resolution optical cameras and radar equipment from all 30 MLB ballparks. The technology precisely tracks the location and movements of the ball and every player on the field at any given time, and is used by both front offices and fans to better evaluate the game.
<b>state</b>	Lowercase in all “state of” uses (eg, state of Maine). Also New York state. Also see <b>cities</b> entry.

\*If needed to distinguish from Washington, D.C., use “Washington state” or “state of Washington” (\*Note —Washington State is a university)

<b>state abbreviations</b>	Spell out the names of all 50 U.S. states when standing alone. Ex: Carol will travel to New Mexico for a meeting. Use non-postal state abbreviations (noted below) in text and set off (before and after) with commas.
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Ex: The star from Springfield, Mass., hit a home run.

Ala.	Md.	N.D.
Ariz.	Mass.	Okla.
Ark.	Mich.	Ore.
Calif.	Minn.	Pa.
Colo.	Miss.	R.I.
Conn.	Mo.	S.C.
Del.	Mont.	S.D.
Fla.	Neb.	Tenn.
Ga.	Nev.	Vt.
Ill.	N.H.	Va.
Ind.	N.J.	Wash.
Kan.	N.M.	W.Va.

Ky.	N.Y.	Wis.
La.	N.C.	Wyo.

Always spell out Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah in text. Use postal codes (CA, FL, NY, etc.) in roster lists.

<b>statistics</b>	Numerals can be used in place of full words when they're part of a statistic. Ex: Trout collected 2 HR and 6 RBI in the game. When referring to someone who reached the 30-home run, 30-steal plateau, refer to it as 30/30. For usage of stat lines, see the <b>slash line</b> entry.
<b>straightaway</b>	One word, no hyphens.
<b>strikeout, strike out</b>	strikeout (n.), strike out (vb.). Ex: He picked up one strikeout in the first three innings, but went on to strike out eight over the next five innings. Often abbreviated "K." Ex: He has accumulated 90 K's in 95.2 innings pitched.
<b>strike zone</b>	Two words.
<b>Studio 3</b>	MLB Network studio named to honor Babe Ruth. Primary home of "MLB Tonight."
<b>Studio21</b>	MLB Network studio named in honor of Hall of Famer and humanitarian Roberto Clemente. Home to three daily shows: "MLB Central," "MLB Now" and "Quick Pitch."
<b>Studio42</b>	MLB Network studio named to honor Jackie Robinson. Designed as a replica baseball field. Since 2009, Studio 42 has hosted the MLB First-Year Player Draft.
<b>suicide squeeze</b>	A bunt with a runner on third base in which the runner breaks for home as soon as the ball is pitched (i.e. before the bunt is laid down).
<b>switch-hitter</b>	Hyphenated.
<b>tag up, tag-up</b>	Tag up (vb.) is the act by which a base runner touches the base currently occupied before attempting to advance to the next base after a catch. A tag-up (n.) is the description of the base runner's action. Ex: The runner on third base must tag

up before attempting to score when an outfielder catches a deep fly ball. That was a smart tag-up play.

<b>tailgate</b>	One word.
<b>teammate</b>	One word.
<b>teams</b>	See <b>Clubs</b> entry.
<b>Tee Ball</b>	Not “T-ball.” The batter hits the ball off the “tee.”
<b>Texas Leaguer</b>	Capitalize both words. See lingo section for definition.
<b>that, which</b>	“That” is the defining, or restrictive pronoun. “Which” is the nondefining, or nonrestrictive. Ex: The rake that is broken is in the garage (Tells which one). The rake, which is broken, is in the garage (Adds a fact about the only rake in question).
<b>third base</b>	Two words. A person who plays there is the third baseman. Hyphenate as adj. as in “third-base line.” No hyphen for “third base coach.”
<b>TicketMaster</b>	When referring to ticket outlets, note that TicketMaster is one word, with a capital “M.”
<b>Ticket Office</b>	Use caps when referring to, for example, “the Padres Ticket Office.” Lowercase in all other references.
<b>tie, tying</b>	Notice the correct spellings. Ex: The Blue Jays and the Orioles were in a tie for first place. The tying run was on third when the game ended.
<b>tiebreaker</b>	One word.
<b>time</b>	Use figures except for noon and midnight. Use a colon to separate hours from minutes. Ex: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Avoid such redundancies as 10 a.m. this morning, 10 p.m. tonight, etc.
<b>timeline</b>	One word.
<b>time zones</b>	Capitalize the full name of the time in force within a particular



zone: Eastern Standard Time, Central Standard Time, etc. Lowercase all but the region in short forms: the Eastern time zone, Eastern time, Mountain time, Pacific time, etc. The abbreviations EST, CDT, etc., are acceptable on first reference for zones used within the continental United States, Canada and Mexico only if the abbreviation is linked with a clock reading: noon EST, 9 a.m. (PST). (Do not set the abbreviations off with commas, but parentheses are acceptable).

Use daylight time (EDT) during the summer months when daylight saving time is not in effect.

<b>titles</b>	For departments, use caps. Ex: Publicity, Ticket Department, Community Services. For an individual's title, capitalize title if used before the person's name. However, if a title follows a name, use lowercase. *Note — Director of Publishing Richard Johnson vs. Richard Johnson, director of publishing. See <b>magazine names</b> , <b>newspaper names</b> , <b>books</b> , <b>movies</b> , <b>italics</b> entries.
<b>trademarked words</b>	Use the appropriate trademark designation whenever possible. If possible, the following trademarked words should not be plural or possessive: All-Star Game, Division Series, Fall Classic, League Championship Series, Major League Baseball, Midsummer Classic, Minor League Baseball and World Series.
<b>travel, traveled, traveling</b>	Preferred spelling is with only one "l."
<b>tripleheader</b>	Lowercase and one word.
<b>Triple-A</b>	See <b>Minor League classifications</b> entry.
<b>Triple Crown</b>	Honor given to a player who leads his respective league in batting average, home runs and runs batted in, all in the same season. (A pitcher who leads the league in wins, earned run average and strikeouts can also win a "Triple Crown," but the term is conventionally used for batters.)
<b>triple play</b>	Two words.
<b>true rookie</b>	A rookie who has absolutely no previous Major League experience prior to the current season.

<b>tryout, try out</b>	tryout(n.), tryout(vb.). Ex: Tryouts took place last month. He was invited to try out for the Olympic team.
<b>T-shirt</b>	Use the capital letter “T,” instead of spelling out the word “tee.”
<b>twi-night doubleheader</b>	A doubleheader in which the first game starts in the late afternoon or evening.
<b>two-time</b>	Hyphenate. Ex: He was a two-time Gold Glove Award winner. Same rule applies for three-time, four-time, etc.
<b>umpire</b>	Lowercase unless it’s used as a title. Ex: Umpire Dale Scott. The umpire was in position to make the call.
<b>uniform numbers</b>	See <b>numbers</b> entry.
<b>uni’s</b>	An abbreviated form of “uniforms.” Note the apostrophe.
<b>United States</b>	Spell out when used as a noun. Use U.S. (no space, but with periods) only as an adjective.
<b>URL</b>	Acceptable in all references to Universal Resource Locator, used in conjunction with the Internet.
<b>Utility man</b>	Two words.
<b>value over replacement player(VORP)</b>	The number of runs contributed beyond what a replacement-level player at the same position would contribute if given the same percentage of team’s plate appearances. VORP scores do not consider the quality of a player’s defense.
<b>verb parallels</b>	Do not combine a singular subject with a plural verb tense, and vice versa. Pay special attention to is/are, it/they and which/who parallels. *Note — “team,” “club” and city names are singular subjects; team nicknames are plural (even when nickname sounds like a single entity). Incorrect: Pittsburgh are leading the NL in hits. Correct: Pittsburgh is leading the NL in hits. Correct: The Pirates are leading the NL in hits. Correct: The Salt Lake City Buzz are heading for a victory. Other examples: The Atlanta Braves salute the 1995 world

champions. The Atlanta Braves organization salutes the 1995 world champions.

<b>video board</b>	Two words.
<b>visitors' clubhouse</b>	Apostrophe after the "s" in "visitors".
<b>vote-getter</b>	Always hyphenate.
<b>walk off, walk-off</b>	Walk off (v.), walk-off (adj.). Ex. If Joey Gallo connects for a game-ending home run, the Rangers will walk off as winners. The base runner walked off three steps to take his lead. Fielder hit a walk-off homer to end the game in the bottom of the 10th inning.
<b>WAR, WARP</b>	<p>Attempts to express the total number of wins that a given player adds to his team over the course of a season by comparing the player's performance with that of a fictitious "replacement player". A "replacement player" is assumed to be an average Triple-A callup who might appear in the Majors only as replacement for an injured player, and whose hitting, fielding, and (if applicable) pitching skills are below league average.</p> <p>According to Baseball Prospectus, a team consisting entirely of replacement-level players would likely be historically bad, winning only 20-25 games over a full 162-game season. To compute WARP, Baseball Prospectus uses three other proprietary statistics: batting runs above replacement (BRAR), fielding runs above replacement (FRAR), and pitching runs above replacement (PRAR). The three numbers are added and divided by the number of runs per win that season (another proprietary number, which in recent years has been around 10). <i>NOTE: Fangraphs uses a slightly different formula to determine WAR, and it should be made clear which source is being used when utilizing the stat.</i></p>
<b>warm-up, warm up</b>	Warm-up (adj.), warm up (v.). Ex. The pitcher threw warm-up pitches. The pitcher was sent to the bullpen to warm up
<b>website</b>	Lowercase and one word. Most addresses do not need "www." Don't italicize.
<b>weight</b>	When referring to an individual's weight, do not use the term

“lb.” but instead follow the format in the examples: the 200-pound pitcher, the 155-pound shortstop. If combining height and weight, use a hyphen following the player’s weight. Ex: Drysdale, a 6'5", 190-pound pitcher.

<b>weightlifter, weightlifting</b>	As shown, two words for the person, one word for the activity.
<b>Wiffle Ball</b>	Capitalize as shown.
<b>Wild Card</b>	Two words and capitalize when referring to the fourth and fifth teams from each league to qualify for the postseason aside from the division winners.
<b>Wild Card Game</b>	Capitalize. First game of postseason, matching up the two Wild Card teams in each league.
<b>wild pitch</b>	A pitch that gets past the catcher by fault of the pitcher.
<b>win-loss record</b>	Remain consistent with verb tenses when describing an individual’s or a team’s win-loss record. Do not use the present tense “win” combined with the past tense “lost” and vice versa. Either form is acceptable as long as it remains consistent in tense. Abbreviation for win-loss/won-lost records is W-L.
<b>wind-up</b>	Hyphenate.
<b>winter league</b>	Lowercase. Referring to leagues played in the winter, generally in Latin America.
<b>won-lost record</b>	See <b>win-loss record</b> entry.
<b>World Baseball Classic™</b>	Proper name for the quadrennial international baseball tournament. The term “World Cup” and the abbreviation “WBC” are never acceptable. “Classic” is acceptable in subsequent references. Capitalize team names. Ex: Team Venezuela.
<b>World Baseball Classic, Inc.</b>	The organizing entity for the tournament, which is jointly governed by MLB and the MLBPA. Do not refer to the tournament or the organizing entity as the WBC.
<b>world champion,</b>	Do not capitalize, even before a proper name. Ex:

**world championship** Konerko led the world champion Chicago White Sox in 2005.

**World Series®** Capitalize and use trademark designation whenever possible. Can be referred to as the “Series” or “Fall Classic” on second reference. Acceptable abbreviation is “WS.” Lowercase the word “championship” if it follows World Series. Games should be capitalized when referring to specific game. Ex: Game 1 of the World Series.

**World Wide Web** Capitalize all three words.

**X-ray** Capitalize only the “X.” Ex: He underwent X-rays for a broken ankle.

**years** Use figures, without commas. Ex: 1986. Use an “s” without an apostrophe to indicate spans of decades or centuries. Ex: In the 1960s the Yankees won two world championships. In the '80s, the Dodgers won two world championships. Decades: no apostrophe, lowercase “-s.” (the '90s) Series of years: 1988, '89, '90  
Seasons: 1996–97 season; '96–97 season  
But “From 1995 to 1997” or “From 1995 to '97” is the preferred construction. “From 1995–97” is also acceptable.  
\*Note — make sure smart quotes apostrophe is facing correct way (single closed quotation mark) before year:

Wrong: '80s

Right: '80s

\*\*Note—when referencing a range of years, use a short dash (–), not a hyphen. Ex: He played for the Mariners from 1984–88.

## BASEBALL LINGO

### A fan's guide to commonly used terms and phrases.

<b>ace</b>	A team's best starting pitcher.
<b>air mail</b>	An errant throw.
<b>alley</b>	Section of the outfield between the outfielders. Also "gap," "power alley."
<b>around the horn</b>	From third base to second to first.
<b>backdoor slider</b>	A pitch that appears to be out of the strike zone, but then breaks back over the plate.
<b>backstop</b>	A catcher.
<b>bag</b>	A base.
<b>Baltimore chop</b>	A ground ball that hits in front of home plate (or off of it) and takes a large hop over the infielder's head.
<b>bandbox</b>	A small ballpark that favors hitters.
<b>bang-bang play</b>	A play in which the base runner hits the bag a split-second before the ball arrives or vice versa.
<b>basket catch</b>	When a fielder catches a ball with his glove near belt level.
<b>battery mates</b>	The pitcher-catcher combination.
<b>bonus baby</b>	An amateur player who goes straight to the Major Leagues.
<b>Bronx cheer</b>	When the crowd boos.
<b>brushback</b>	A pitch that nearly hits a batter.
<b>bush</b>	Also "bush league." An amateur play or behavior.
<b>butcher boy</b>	A poor fielder.

<b>can of corn</b>	An easy catch by a fielder.
<b>caught looking</b>	When a batter is called out on strikes.
<b>cellar</b>	Last place. Also “basement.”
<b>cheese</b>	Also “good cheese.” Refers to a good fastball.
<b>chin music</b>	A pitch that is high and inside.
<b>circus catch</b>	An outstanding catch by a fielder.
<b>clean-up hitter</b>	The fourth batter in the lineup, known for power.
<b>closer</b>	A team’s relief pitcher who finishes the game.
<b>clout</b>	Home run.
<b>clutch</b>	A tight situation. Ex. He came through in the clutch. Most often refers to batting with runners in scoring position, late in a close game (clutch hitting, clutch hit, clutch hitter), but can refer to any big play at a critical time (he got a clutch out, a clutch strikeout).
<b>crow hop</b>	Small hop (like a crow) that an outfielder takes to get extra power on long throws.
<b>cup of coffee</b>	A brief stint, usually referring to time in the Major Leagues.
<b>cutter</b>	A cut fastball (one with a late break to it).
<b>cycle</b>	When a batter hits a single, double, triple and home run in the same game. A “natural cycle” is when the feat is achieved in that order.
<b>daisy cutter</b>	A sharply hit ground ball.
<b>dinger</b>	A homerun.
<b>dish</b>	Home plate.
<b>Ducks on the pond</b>	Runners on base.
<b>eephus pitch</b>	A slow, high-arching pitch. Note spelling.

<b>fat pitch</b>	See <b>meatball</b> entry. An easy pitch to hit, usually right down the middle of the plate.
<b>filthy stuff</b>	A pitcher with a good deal of movement on his pitches.
<b>fireballer, flame thrower</b>	A hard-throwing pitcher. Note that “flame thrower” is two words.
<b>flashing leather</b>	A fielder making an outstanding play.
<b>fireman</b>	A team’s closer or late-inning relief pitcher.
<b>frozen rope</b>	Line drive.
<b>fungo</b>	A ball hit to a fielder during practice. It’s usually hit by a coach using a “fungo bat,” which is longer and thinner than a normal bat.
<b>gamer</b>	A player known for his effort — for playing hard and often being scrappy.
<b>gap</b>	See <b>alley</b> entry. A ball hit here is a “gapper.”
<b>give it a ride</b>	Hit a ball far.
<b>golden sombrero</b>	A dubious feat accomplished when a player strikes out four times in one game.
<b>gopherball</b>	A pitch hit for a home run, as in “go for.”
<b>grand slam</b>	A home run with the bases loaded.
<b>green light</b>	1.) A batter is allowed to swing. 2.) A base runner is allowed to steal.
<b>heat</b>	A good fastball. Also “heater.”
<b>high and tight</b>	Referring to a pitch that’s up in the strike zone and inside on a hitter. Also known as “up and in.”
<b>hill</b>	Pitcher’s mound.
<b>homer</b>	A home run. Other terms include: big fly, blast, dinger, four-bagger, four-base knock, longball, moonshot, roundtripper, tape-measure blast and tater.



<b>hook</b>	A curveball. Also when a manager takes a pitcher out of the game. Ex: He's getting the hook from the manager; Tony La Russa had a quick hook.
<b>hot corner</b>	Third base.
<b>immaculate inning</b>	An outing in which a pitcher strikes out all three batters in an inning on the minimum nine pitches.
<b>in the hole</b>	The batter after the on-deck hitter; "in the hold" is also acceptable.
<b>Interstate</b>	A player with an average between .100 and .199 is on the interstate.
<b>Jack</b>	Home run.
<b>jam</b>	When a hitter gets a pitch near his hands, he is "jammed." Also when a pitcher gets himself in trouble, he is in a "jam."
<b>knock (base knock)</b>	A single.
<b>Knock the cover off</b>	Hit the ball extremely hard.
<b>leather</b>	Refers to how good a player plays defensively or handles the glove. Ex: "He flashed some leather on that play."
<b>little bingo</b>	A rally.
<b>longball</b>	Home run.
<b>LOOGY</b>	Left-handed one-out guy.
<b>meatball</b>	An easy pitch to hit, usually right down the middle of the plate.
<b>Mendoza line</b>	A batting average of .200, named after Mario Mendoza, whose career batting average for the Pirates, Mariners and Rangers was .215.
<b><i>Moneyball</i>, moneyball</b>	A book written by Michael Lewis about the 2004 Oakland Athletics that was later made into a movie starring Brad Pitt. Also philosophy referring to building a team by taking advantage of inefficiencies in the players market.

<b>moonshot</b>	A very long, high homerun.
<b>mop-up duty</b>	When a pitcher comes in to pitch during a blowout.
<b>murderers' row</b>	A lineup of powerful hitters.
<b>nail down</b>	As in "nail down a victory." Refers to a relief pitcher finishing off the game.
<b>no-no</b>	No-hitter.
<b>On the screws</b>	When a batter hits the ball hard. Also "on the button."
<b>Opposite field</b>	When a right-handed hitter hits a ball to right field or a left-handed hitter hits a ball to left field.
<b>Painting the black</b>	When a pitcher throws the ball over the edge of the plate.
<b>pea</b>	A ball traveling at high speed, either batted or thrown. Also: seed.
<b>perfecto</b>	Perfect game.
<b>pick</b>	A good defensive play by an infielder on a ground ball. Also a shortened version of "pick-off."
<b>pickle</b>	A rundown.
<b>platoon</b>	Two players splitting time at a position.
<b>punchout</b>	A strikeout.
<b>rake</b>	To hit well.
<b>rally cap</b>	Wearing something odd as a hat to help motivate a team.
<b>Rhubarb</b>	A fight or scuffle. Also: brouhaha.
<b>ribbie</b>	Another way of saying RBI. Also "ribeye."
<b>right down</b>	A pitch that is down the middle of the plate. Also "down the pipe," "right
<b>Main Street</b>	down Broadway"

<b>ringin' the dinner bell</b>	A grand slam: everyone comes home.
<b>Rosin or rosin bag</b>	The fist-sized pouch kept on the pitcher's mound to help pitchers grip the ball better. Also known as "resin bag." *Note — "Rosin" is a type of "resin," and is a yellowish-brown substance derived from the sap of various pine trees.
<b>rope</b>	A hard line drive hit by a batter. Also "frozen rope."
<b>rubber arm</b>	A pitcher who can throw a lot of innings and needs little rest.
<b>rubber game</b>	The deciding game of a series.
<b>rundown</b>	When a base runner gets caught between bases by the fielders.
<b>Ruthian</b>	With great power.
<b>Sabermetrics</b>	Advanced statistics that measure a player's performance.
<b>safety</b>	A base hit.
<b>seeing-eye single</b>	A soft ground ball that finds its way between infielders for a base hit.
<b>set-up man</b>	A relief pitcher who usually enters the game in the 7th or 8th inning.
<b>Shoestring catch</b>	A running catch made just above the fielder's shoe tops.
<b>small ball</b>	A style of play encompassing base running and bunting and not relying on extra-base hits.
<b>snap throw</b>	A quick, short throw made with the flick of a wrist, usually by the catcher.
<b>southpaw</b>	A left-handed pitcher.
<b>submarine,</b>	Pitching from extreme sidearm motion, such that it is almost underhand.

<b>submariner</b>	Chad Bradford was a submariner; his knuckles nearly scraped the ground.
<b>suicide squeeze</b>	To send a runner home from third on a pitcher's delivery; the batter then attempts to bunt.
<b>sweet spot</b>	The part of the bat just a few inches from the barrel.
<b>table setter</b>	Batter whose job is to get on base for other hitters to drive him in. Usually a leadoff or No. 2 hitter.
<b>tape-measure blast</b>	An extremely long home run.
<b>tater</b>	A home run.
<b>Texas Leaguer</b>	A bloop hit that drops between an infielder and outfielder.
<b>through the wicket</b>	A ball hit between a fielder's legs.
<b>tipping pitches</b>	When a pitcher accidentally gives away what he is throwing to hitters.
<b>tools of ignorance</b>	Catcher's equipment.
<b>touch 'em all</b>	Hitting a home run (touching all the bases).
<b>twin bill</b>	A doubleheader.
<b>twin killing</b>	A double play.
<b>Uncle Charlie</b>	A curveball.
<b>utility player</b>	A player who fills in at many positions.
<b>walk-off homer,</b>	A home run that immediately wins/ends a game, leaving the home team to
<b>walk-off victory</b>	walk off as winners. Can also have a walk-off victory on a hit other than a homer. Note the hyphenation in the adjective form.
<b>warning track</b>	The dirt area in front of the wall that tells a fielder the wall is near.

<b>wheelhouse</b>	A hitter's power zone. Usually a pitch waist-high and over the heart of the plate.
<b>wheels</b>	A ballplayer's legs.
<b>whiff</b>	Strikeout.
<b>yakker</b>	Curveball.