



Lesson 2 – Pre-Visit Step Up to the Plate for Baseball Idioms

Objective: Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of idioms by creating and interpreting simple examples.
- Create a PowerPoint show illustrating two types of baseball idioms.

Time Required: 1 class period

Materials Needed:

- Access to computers with PowerPoint software.
- Pencils and paper
- A printed copy of the “Baseball Lingo” ideas list (included)

Vocabulary:

Idiom - A common, everyday phrase, saying or expression whose meaning cannot be understood by the individual words or elements



Applicable Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3, RF.4.3, RF.5.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4, RF.4.4, RF.5.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4, L.4.4, L.5.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade-appropriate reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5, L.4.5, L.5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.6 With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.6 With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.6 With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.



Lesson

1. To begin this lesson, discuss that the common use of baseball words and phrases in our language reveals how the game has made a lasting impact on American culture.
2. To demonstrate, ask each student to write down one word or phrase that is associated with baseball.
3. Call each student, one at a time, to come up to the board and write down their word or phrase. Let students know that words cannot be repeated, so if necessary, some students may have to come up with something new. Allow students to ask classmates for help if necessary.
4. Review students' list of words and phrases. Point out that many of the words and phrases have other meanings that have nothing to do with baseball.
5. Introduce or review **idioms**. These are common, everyday phrases, sayings or expressions whose meanings cannot be understood by their individual words. Many baseball words and phrases are idioms.
6. Highlight or underline any baseball idioms already listed by students. Provide additional examples using the "Baseball Lingo" list included with this lesson.
7. Discuss the following:
 - "Can you think of any stories or books that use idioms?"
 - "Why might a writer or an average person choose to use an idiom?"
8. Encourage students to practice this concept by writing two sentences using the same word or phrase. Sentence 1 should reflect the word or phrase in its baseball context. Sentence 2 should reflect the word or phrase in its non-baseball context.
9. Introduce the activity.



Activity

1. Explain that students will be creating PowerPoint slide shows to illustrate common baseball idioms.
2. Review project requirements. Each PowerPoint must contain the following:
 - One title slide containing the student's name
 - Two slides with illustrated examples of two baseball idioms in baseball context.
 - Two slides with illustrated examples of the same baseball idioms in non-baseball context.
3. You may want to provide students with a copy of your class list from the lesson, or printed copies of the "Baseball Lingo" list to have as a reference tool.
4. Review or explain how to create a PowerPoint presentation, and how to add words and images.
5. Have students complete their presentations in your school's media lab. Provide technical assistance as necessary.

Conclusion:

To complete this lesson and check for understanding, students will participate in a "round robin" computer lab activity in which they will "visit" each computer and view each student's PowerPoint. You may also review the presentations in your classroom if you have a whiteboard and projector. Have each student narrate his or her presentation.



Baseball Lingo

Idiom	Baseball Meaning	Other Meaning
Strike out	to be declared out after making three strikes	to fail
Play ball	to play a ball game with someone	to cooperate
Throw someone a curveball	to pitch a curve ball to the batter	to surprise someone unpleasantly
Ball park	place where baseball is played	a general, rather than exact figure; a "ballpark" implies a large area
In the big leagues	to be in the major leagues	to be a big shot, a major player, to be well-known
Out in left field	to be in the left field of a ballpark	to be away from the action, from what's happening
Drop the ball	to make an error by dropping a ball	to fail in some way
Two strikes against you	the batter has only one more strike before he is out	to have one more chance
Knock one out of the park	to hit a ball out of the baseball park	to have a great idea, to do something very well
Step up to the plate	the batter steps up to the plate and gets ready to hit the ball	get ready to do something
A whole new ball game	a change in circumstances in the ball game	a change in circumstances
To make a hit	to reach base without being called "out"	to do well
To play hardball	as opposed to soft ball, to throw a hard ball	to play tough, to play to win