

# Teacher Notes: Who's On First?

This is a fun exercise for students to perform a longer dialog. It's also a chance to teach them about American baseball. Start by asking them what they know about baseball. Then draw a simple diagram of a baseball diamond on the board, highlighting First Base, Second Base, Third Base, Pitcher, and Short Stop.

I perform Section 1 in front of the class with a higher-level student. Then I pass out page one and have the class practice it in pairs. Then a few pairs will come to the front of the class and perform them for everyone.

Then I pass out sections 2-7, so that each partner pair has one section. (I give section 7 to higher-level student pairs.) I tell them to practice it, and get ready to perform it in front of the class.

Then a few students from each section will come up and perform their section, in order. So a couple partners will perform section 2, a few will do section 3, and so forth. After everyone finishes, I show a video of Who's on First. (see below)

Students really like this act. And, after they've warmed up with the simplified version, they can really get the (much faster) original version.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sShMA85pv8M>

I hope your students liked this as much as mine have!

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# Who's on First?

## 1.

**A:** I want to be on your baseball team.

**B:** Ok. If you want to join my team, you have to know everyone's name.

**A:** I can do that. I can remember lots of names.

**B:** We have Who's on first base, What's on second base, and I Don't Know on third base.

**A:** That's what I want to find out.

**B:** I said, Who's on first, What's on second, and I Don't Know on third.

**A:** Are you the owner of the team?

**B:** Yes.

**A:** And you don't know your players' names?

**B:** Of course I do.

**A:** So who's on first?

**B:** Yes.

**A:** I mean the player's name.

**B:** Who.

**A:** The player on first base.

**B:** Who.

**A:** The person on...

**B:** Who is on first!

**A:** I'm asking YOU who's on first!

**B:** That's his name.

**A:** That's who's name?

**B:** Yes.

## 2.

A: Look, you have someone playing on first base.

B: Of course.

A: Who's playing on first base?

B: That's right.

A: When you pay the player on first base every month, who gets the money?

B: Every dollar of it.

A: I only want to know the name of the person playing first base.

B: Who.

A: Who gets the money?

B: He gets the money. Sometimes his wife comes and gets the money for him.

A: Who's wife?

B: Yes.

A: I just want to know what's the person's name on first base.

B: No. What is on second base.

A: I'm not asking about second base.

B: Who's on first base.

A: One at a time!

B: Don't change the names around!

A: I'm not changing anything! I'm only asking who's on first base.

B: That's right.

A: Ok.

B: All right.

### 3.

A: What's the name of the person on first base?

B: No. What's on second.

A: I'm not asking you who's on second.

B: Who's on first.

A: I don't know.

B: He's on third, we're not talking about him.

A: Now how did I get on third base?

B: When you said his name.

A: If I said the name of the person on third base, who did I say is playing third base?

B: No. Who's playing first.

A: What's on first?

B: What's on second.

A: I don't know.

B: He's on third.

A: There I go, back on third again! Would you just stay on third base and don't go off it.

B: All right, what do you want to know?

A: Now who's playing third base?

B: Why do you always put Who on third base?

A: What am I putting on third.

B: No. What is on second.

A: You don't want who on second?

B: Who is on first.

A: I don't know.

A *and* B: Third base!

## 4.

A: Look, do you have someone playing left field?

B: Sure.

A: The left fielder's name?

B: Why.

A: I just wanted to ask you.

B: Well, I just wanted to tell you.

A: Then tell me who's playing left field.

B: Who's playing first.

A: I want to know, what's the guy's name in left field?

B: No, What is on second.

A: I'm not asking you who's on second.

B: Who's on first!

A: I don't know.

A *and* B: Third base!

## 5.

A: The left fielder's name?

B: Why.

A: Because!

B: Oh, he's centerfield.

A: Look, do you have a pitcher on this team?

B: Sure.

A: The pitcher's name?

B: Tomorrow.

A: You don't want to tell me today?

B: I'm telling you now.

A: Then go ahead.

B: Tomorrow!

A: What time?

B: What time what?

A: What time tomorrow will you tell me who's pitching?

B: Now listen. Who is not pitching.

A: I'll break your arm if you say who's on first! I want to know, what's the pitcher's name?

B: What's on second.

A: I don't know.

A *and* B: Third base!

## 6.

A: Do you have a catcher?

B: Of course.

A: The catcher's name?

B: Today.

A: Today, and tomorrow's pitching.

B: Now you understand.

A: All we got is a couple of days on the team.

A: You know I'm a catcher too.

B: I know.

A: I start playing in a game. Tomorrow is pitching for my team. He throws me the ball, and I need to throw it to first base. So I pick up the ball and throw it to who?

B: Now that's the first thing you've said right.

A: I don't even know what I'm talking about!

B: That's all you have to do.

A: Is to throw the ball to first base.

B: Yes!

A: Now who's got it?

B: Of course.

## 7.

A: Look, if I throw the ball to first base, somebody must get it. Now who has it?

B: Of course.

A: Who?

B: Of course.

A: Of course.

B: Of course.

A: So I pick up the ball and I throw it to Of Course.

B: No you don't, you throw the ball to Who.

A: Of course.

B: That's different.

A: That's what I said.

B: You're not saying it.

A: I throw the ball to Of Course.

B: You throw it to Who.

A: Of Course.

B: That's it.

A: That's what I said!

B: Now you ask me.

A: I throw the ball to who?

B: Of course.

A: Now you ask me.

B: You throw the ball to Who?

A: Of Course.

B: That's it.

A: Same as you! Same as YOU! I throw the ball to who. Whoever it is drops the ball and the guy runs to second. Who picks up the ball and throws it to What. What throws it to I Don't Know. I Don't Know throws it back to Tomorrow. Another guy gets up and hits the ball to Because. Why? I don't know! He's on third and I don't care!

B: What?

A: I said I don't care!

B: Oh, that's our shortstop!