

Complete the text about baseball by finding ONE word that fits into each blank.

Baseball is America's national sport. But, **(1)** _____ it originated in the USA baseball is played in many other countries, especially in Central and South America and Japan. Baseball **(2)** _____ an Olympic sport at the 1992 Olympics.

Baseball is not only a sport but an American **(3)** _____ of life. Many families spend summer afternoons **(4)** _____ their children at a baseball park, sitting in the stands with popcorn and hot dogs. They cheer for their favourite team and wear their baseball caps.

The game **(5)** _____ played with a long wooden bat and a small hard ball. The players have large heavy gloves to **(6)** _____ the ball. They usually **(7)** _____ light shirts and knee-long trousers. Shoes have spikes on them to help players run on the field.

A baseball field is divided **(8)** _____ two parts. The infield has the shape of a diamond and is bordered by the bases that runners run around. A few players stand in the grassy outfield and wait to catch the ball **(9)** _____ letting it drop on the ground.

A baseball game consists of nine parts **(10)** _____ innings. Teams take turns trying to score runs and defend. A pitcher throws the ball towards a batter **(11)** _____ tries to hit it so that the other team can't catch it. The batter tries to run around the bases as **(12)** _____ as possible. A ball that is hit into the stands is called a home run. The team that scores the most runs after nine innings **(13)** _____ the game.

KEY

Note: There may be more solutions than the ones in this key.

Baseball is America's national sport. But, **although/even though/while** it originated in the USA baseball is played in many other countries, especially in Central and South America and Japan. Baseball **became/was** an Olympic sport at the 1992 Olympics.

Baseball is not only a sport but an American **way/style** of life. Many families spend summer afternoons **with** their children at a baseball park, sitting in the stands with popcorn and hot dogs. They cheer for their favourite team and wear their baseball caps.

The game **is** played with a long wooden bat and a small hard ball. The players have large heavy gloves to **catch/grab/capture** the ball. They usually **wear/have** light shirts and knee-long trousers. Shoes have spikes on them to help players run on the field.

A baseball field is divided **into** two parts. The infield has the shape of a diamond and is bordered by the bases that runners run around. A few players stand in the grassy outfield and wait to catch the ball **without** letting it drop on the ground.

A baseball game consists of nine parts **called** innings. Teams take turns trying to score runs and defend. A pitcher throws the ball towards a batter **who** tries to hit it so that the other team can't catch it. The batter tries to run around the bases as **quickly/fast/rapidly** as possible. A ball that is hit into the stands is called a home run. The team that scores the most runs after nine innings **wins** the game.