

## Zeller Speller #8

Bat is one of many, many words in English that can be a noun or a verb.

### **noun**

An implement with a handle and a solid surface, usually of wood, used for hitting the ball in games such as baseball, cricket, and table tennis.

### **verb** (bats, batting, batted)

1. take in turns the role of hitting rather than fielding: Ruth came to bat in the fifth inning.
2. hit at (someone or something) with the palm of one's hand: he batted the flies away.

### **3 sayings using "bat":**

#### **bat a thousand (US informal)**

be very successful; achieve perfection: With the tortellini, I batted a thousand—both kids had seconds.

#### **right off the bat (North American)**

At the very beginning: I managed to have a disagreement with him right off the bat.

#### **bat around (also British bat about)**

informal discuss an idea or proposal casually or idly: we bat around a wide variety of issues; ideas for another movie are being batted about.

(New Oxford American Dictionary online)

# Fun things to do

Here are some baseball terms. See which ones you know by matching the term on the left with the proper definition on the right.

- a) Ace           \_\_A substitute hitter in baseball and softball
- b) Hot Corner   \_\_A team plays two games in a row
- c) Balk           \_\_Term used to describe a hard, line-drive base hit
- d) Bull pen      \_\_Third base
- e) Cup of Coffee \_\_An illegal move performed by the pitcher before he or she pitches the ball
- f) Clean up Hitter \_\_A person who can fill any position.
- g) Fly Ball       \_\_Unlawful pitch in which the ball is coated with saliva, grease, or other such substance, causing the ball to react unpredictably
- h) Pinch Hitter   \_\_Best starting batter
- i) Squeeze Play   \_\_An offensive strategy where a team tries to score a runner from third base on a bunt
- j) Zinger         \_\_The batter who bats fourth in the batting order because they tend to provide the most power and they usually hit the most home runs and extra base hits
- k) Bottom        \_\_The second half of the inning
- l) Double Header \_\_The area where a pitcher and batter warm up before a game
- m) Spit Ball     \_\_Any batted ball that is hit very high into the air. It can be in fair or foul territory, with the fielder trying to catch the ball before it hits the ground to make an out
- n) Utility Player  \_\_A person who comes up to a Major League from a Minor league, but doesn't make it and returns to the Minor League

Sources: ([sportslingo.com](https://www.sportslingo.com)) ([baseball.epicsports.com](https://www.baseball.epicsports.com))