# How To Score a Baseball Game
# With Pencil and Paper

Scoring a baseball game with paper and pencil is a tradition that goes back to the early days of the game. Keeping score is a great way to get more involved as a fan. You'll get really engaged in the game. Moreover, each scorecard is a story of each game that you go to. Here's how to do it.

## Ready the card

Get your card. Write each team's batting line-up down the left hand side of the card. In addition to the players' name, include their position number (if applicable [see below]) and jersey number.

| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| 2 | Jeter, D. | 6 | ◇ |
| | sub | | |

## Learn the code

There's a shorthand that has developed to assist in scoring baseball games. You can develop your own style, but here's the standard method:

**Position numbers.** Each position is assigned a number. These numbers will be used when you record fielding plays.

- Pitcher- 1
- Catcher- 2
- First Base- 3
- Second base- 4
- Third base- 5
- Shortstop- 6
- Left field- 7
- Center field- 8
- Right field- 9

**Batter shorthand.** When a batter is up, keep track of whether he hit, got walked, or struck out with these basic abbreviations:

- Strikeout- **K**
- Looking strikeout (where the batter doesn't swing)- **backwards K**
- Walked- **BB** (base on balls)
- Single- **1B**
- Double- **2B**
- Triple- **3B**
- Homerun- **HR**
- Fly out-**F**
- Double Play- **DP**
- Hit by Pitch-**HBP**
- Line Drive-**L**

# Follow the game

With your card ready you're ready to score the game. Each player has a row of squares with baseball diamonds next to their name. We'll use these squares to track the progress of each batter.

If a batter hits a single, write 1B outside the diamond and darken the line from home plate to first. If the runner on first advances to second, darken the line from first to second. And so on until the runner gets home. Here's an example:



If the runner scores, fill in the diamond with your pencil.

If a batter strikes out, write a K in the middle of the diamond. If that batter was the first out, write a "1" with a circle around it. Indicate subsequent outs in the similar fashion.

If the batter makes an out after hitting the ball, you want to record how the play happened. Going back to our Jeter example. Say Jeter hits a grounder to the pitcher and the pitcher fields it and throws it to first base, the out would be recorded by writing "1-3" across the diamond. This indicates that the pitcher fielded the ball first and then threw it to first getting Jeter out.

Easy enough. How about double plays? Let's say we have Jeter on first base after hitting a single. The scorecard will look like this:

| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| 2 | Jeter, D.  sub | 6 | ◇ 1B |

Now, Giambi is up to bat and hits a grounder to the shortstop. The shortstop throws it to second, getting Jeter on the force out. The second baseman throws it to first, getting Giambi out. Here's how we record it. First, we want to indicate Jeter got out at second on a grounder by Giambi. Do this by darkening the line from first to second only halfway. Write 25 next to that line indicating that it was Giambi that hit the ball that caused Jeter's out. Jeter's row will look like this:

| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| 2 | Jeter, D.  sub | 6 | ◇ 25 ① 1B |

On Giambi's row, we'll write "6-4-3" across the diamond indicating the fielding sequence. Above that we write "DP" indicating that he caused a double play. Don't forget to add a "2" with a circle around it indicating that he was the second out. Giambi's row will look like this:

| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| 25 | Gambini, J  sub | 3 | DP 6-4-3 ② |

If a batter flys out, write "F" followed by the fielder who caught the ball. So, if the centerfielder catches a fly ball, you would write "F8" inside the diamond of the batter who hit the ball.

If you want to show a runner on base getting tagged out or forced out, draw a line half way to the base they were headed to as well as the fielding sequence of the out. For example, say Jeter was on first after hitting a single. Giambi hits a grounder to third. Third baseman fields and throws it to second getting the force out. This is what Jeter's row would look like:

| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| 2 | Jeter, D.  sub | 6 | ◇ 5-4 1B |