



Le Baseball

It was with great sadness that I was forced to accept the extinction of the baseball team in Montreal! As a passionate supporter of both the French language and the sport of baseball, it was the one place where I could meld the two together. However, there are more and more local baseball clubs popping up in villages and towns around Canada and France to justify embracing the vocabulary. **Un match de baseball** can be a wonderful vehicle for review at any level of French learning. The only time commitment is the initial preparation of question cards.

Begin by setting up the baseball diamond on your classroom floor, **le terrain**. Mark off the bases, **les buts**, and for fun, create the players' positions on card stock with ribbons to hang around the students' necks. Divide your class into two teams, **les équipes**, and send half into the field and the other half will "bat." If your classes are small, just label the field positions (see below) and everyone just bats. Competition will be individual rather than team competition, which is fine, too.

For younger children, the teacher is the pitcher, **le lanceur**. Older children can take turns "pitching" which is reading the questions to the batter, **le frappeur**. Prepare a set of cards with material you wish to review. Indicate on each card if it is worth a single (one base), **un simple**; a double (two bases), **un double**; or a triple (three bases), **un triple**. The most difficult questions would be for a home run, **un coup de circuit**. An incorrect response is an out, **un retrait**, and a correct answer is a hit, **un coup sûr**, and the batter advances to the base. You can mix in a few cards for surprise, especially if the students will know the material well and not make an out by not knowing an answer. An out on a fly ball is **un retrait sur un ballon**. A double play, **un double jeu**, would put out the batter and a runner on base. A strike out is **un retrait sur trois prises**. You can decide how many outs, **les retraits**, you wish before changing the team at bat, although I prefer to just have everyone bat. The teacher can keep score, or you can assign the job to a student. When you are ready to begin, shout "**Au jeu!** (Play ball!)" Your pitching cards can be just vocabulary, numbers, dates, time, or questions. Once you have the materials prepared you can use the game for a few minutes at the end of class or for a solid part of your class. I have used this as a way to challenge the Spanish classes, with the Spanish teacher preparing cards in Spanish. It's a wonderful way to bring the language classes together and create some healthy competition. **Au jeu et amusez-vous bien!**

Do you have a game that you have adapted to your French classes? We invite FLES* and middle school teachers to share ideas, classroom gimmicks, and games for oral interaction. Send your ideas to Elizabeth Miller, 74 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027.

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