

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.