

## Aug 21 2020~ Idioms from Sports (Lesson 147c)

**Note:** Many widely-used idioms in American English are related to sports like baseball and American football.  
**Sports idioms in this lesson:** \*\*Remember: **sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.

1. at this stage of the game = at this time/point in the project/activity/process **The coach was wise to replace the pitcher at this stage of the game, because his arm needed a rest.** ♪ **At this stage of the game, I do not think we should invest more money in expanding our company.**
2. go to bat for sb = support or defend sb. **In baseball, many coaches allow another player to go to bat for the pitcher to save his valuable arm from stress.** ♪ **My colleagues went to bat for me when our boss wanted to fire me, because they believe I'm valuable to the team.**
3. is in the homestretch (from the sport of horseracing) = is in the last part of an activity/event/project. **Three horses are neck-and-neck (ie. side by side), coming around the last turn into the homestretch for an exciting finish!** ♪ **The project to build the new bridge is now in the homestretch.**
4. score points with sb = gain sb's favor **In boxing, you score points with the judges by doing certain things, not just by knocking out your opponent.** ♪ **Ted often worked extra hours in order to score points with his boss.**
5. dive/jump right into sth = begin to do sth without hesitation or delay **Competitive swimmers don't slowly wade into the water, they dive right in!** ♪ **Most students dive right into their studies as soon as they get on campus, but some just want to party.**
6. tackle a problem = put strong effort into solving a problem **Put simply, the goal of a football offense player is to tackle whoever has the ball.** ♪ **All of the members of the sales team gathered to tackle the problem of decreasing sales.**
7. blow the whistle on sb = reveal information about sb who has done something wrong, like a referee signaling a penalty. **The referee blew the whistle on number 43 because you are not allowed to knock down the quarterback after he throws the ball.** ♪ **The secretary blew the whistle on her boss after he stole money in his department.**
8. it is a whole new ball game = it's a completely new set of circumstances; it's a completely new situation. **WOW! That home run scored 4 points! The team is no longer behind and this is a whole new ball game!** ♪ **The presidential campaign became a whole new ball game when the main candidate dropped out because of a personal scandal.**
9. take a suggestion/plan and run with it = implement sth; put sth new into practice because it (often unexpectedly) looks like a good idea. **Though the quarterback planned to throw the ball as usual, he saw an opening and decided to run with it.** ♪ **I was grateful that my boss took my idea and ran with it.**

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**Questions:** (Use the underlined phrase when you answer a question, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

1. Share about one time when somebody went to bat for you, or when you went to bat for somebody.
2. COVID-19 has presented many problems. Pick one and explain how sb (university, government, boss, etc) is trying to tackle it. If you prefer, briefly describe how you tackled one problem in the past, related to your studies, work, or personal life.
3. When you begin a new task/activity/job/challenge, do you usually dive right into it? Or do you usually prefer to think about it for a while, or even put off beginning it for as long as possible? Explain.
4. In the homestretch before the US November elections, what are some promises politicians may make to score points with voters? Can you believe these promises? Explain why or why not. If you prefer, talk about ways that people can score points with their boss, their neighbor, their employees, or another person.
5. Talk about things a student or employee might do when just getting started, that he/she would not do at a later stage in the game. Can you think of a way to use this idiom in regard to COVID-19?
6. Share about one time when you or somebody you know took a new suggestion/idea/plan and ran with it. Also, what was the final result?
7. Describe a new situation that started a whole new ball game for you or somebody you know, and why it was a whole new ball game. **It was a whole new ball game when .....**

====lower level classes can omit the red type=====

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