

# ENGLISH PLUS

WITH  
ANSWER  
KEY

## PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



### SPORTS

### BABE RUTH

# Sports | Babe Ruth

## Comprehension

1. *Put the heading above the appropriate part of the text.*

[1]

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Baseball fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run records that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George Herman Ruth, and he became one of the greatest heroes in American sports.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to three World Series championships. Then he helped make the New York Yankees the most successful major league team of his time.

[2]

---

Ruth **overcame** a **troubled** childhood to achieve baseball glory. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage** and **reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

[3]

---

Young Ruth showed great promise as an all-around player. At the reform school, he played first base, third base, and the outfield when needed. He eventually became a catcher. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching mound. Ruth had never pitched before, but he amazed onlookers with his powerful sidearm throwing style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural hitter, easily swatting balls from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then a minor league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the young ballplayer under his wing**. People soon began calling Ruth "Dunn's baby." Eventually they just started calling him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his first professional **at-bat**.

[4]

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Baltimore sold Ruth's contract to the Boston Red Sox, and he made his major league **debut** in 1914. Although Ruth was signed as a pitcher, the Red Sox also used him as an outfielder. That way, he could play more games and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major leagues with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a single season.

As a home run hitter, Ruth was just getting started. He was traded to the New York Yankees in 1920,

and he hit 54 homers that year. The following year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That stood as the major league, season home run record until Roger Maris of the Yankees hit 61 in 1961.

In 1923, the Yankees opened a new ballpark called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon began calling Yankee Stadium "The House That Ruth Built" to honor their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played in seven World Series, with the Yankees winning four of them.

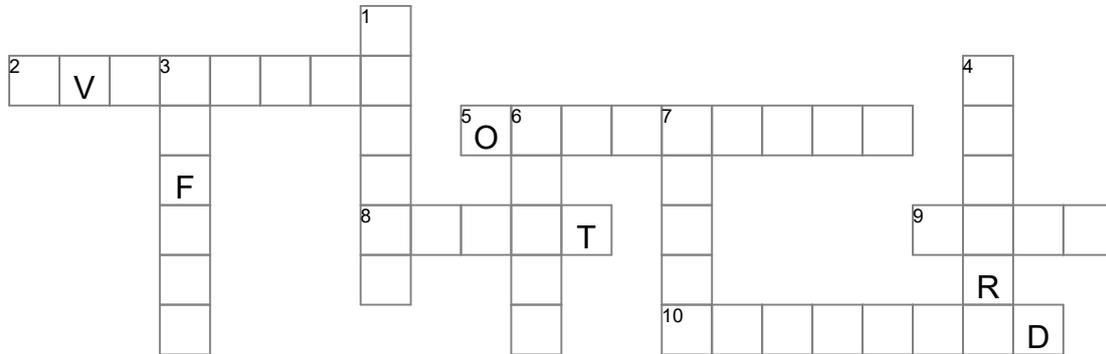
**[5]**

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22-year major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a lifetime batting average of .342. He hit a total of 714 home runs, drove in 2,213 runs, and scored 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players **elected** to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

- A. A NATURAL HITTER                      B. MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS  
D. BABE RUTH                                C. A BASEBALL LEGEND  
E. A TOUGH CHILDHOOD

# Key Vocabulary

2. **Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.**



**ACROSS**

- 2. If you are \_\_\_\_\_ by a feeling or event, it is so strong or has such a strong effect that you cannot think clearly.
- 5. an institution for orphans and abandoned children
- 8. a first appearance before the public, as of an actor
- 9. If you say that something or someone clips your \_\_\_\_\_s, you mean that they restrict your freedom to do what you want.
- 10. Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is worried because they have problems.

**DOWN**

- 1. He was born in the last \_\_\_\_\_ of the nineteenth century.
- 3. Reform consists of changes and improvements to a law, social system, or institution. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an instance of such a change or improvement.
- 4. When older people \_\_\_\_\_, they leave their job and usually stop working completely.
- 6. If a surface is \_\_\_\_\_, it is uneven and not smooth.
- 7. Alfonzo finally hit a homer in his 150th \_\_\_\_\_ of the season.

**Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:**

- 3. \_\_\_\_ If you spread your \_\_\_\_\_s, you do something new and rather difficult or move to a new place, because you feel more confident in your abilities than you used to and you want to gain wider experience.  
a. at-bat   b. wing   c. overcome   d. orphanage   e. troubled
- 4. \_\_\_\_ If someone \_\_\_\_\_s something such as a law, social system, or institution, they change or improve it.  
a. reform   b. decade   c. debut   d. retire   e. rough
- 5. \_\_\_\_ taking a turn at batting  
a. orphanage   b. at-bat   c. wing   d. reform   e. debut
- 6. \_\_\_\_ It was the fastest selling \_\_\_\_\_ album in the history of the British charts.  
a. decade   b. at-bat   c. debut   d. retire   e. rough
- 7. \_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ was his home until he was 10.  
a. at-bat   b. overcome   c. reform   d. orphanage   e. troubled
- 8. \_\_\_\_ If you pour oil on \_\_\_\_\_ waters, you try to calm down a difficult situation.  
a. troubled   b. reform   c. decade   d. overcome   e. rough

9. \_\_\_ If you are \_\_\_\_\_ by smoke or a poisonous gas, you become very ill or die from breathing it in.  
a. retire b. troubled c. debut d. wing e. overcome
10. \_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ area, city, school, or other place is unpleasant and dangerous because there is a lot of violence or crime there.  
a. troubled b. decade c. at-bat d. overcome e. rough
11. \_\_\_ I have decided to \_\_\_\_\_ from Formula One racing at the end of the season.  
a. debut b. rough c. reform d. retire e. wing
12. \_\_\_ a period of ten consecutive years  
a. wing b. retire c. orphanage d. decade e. orphanage

**For each question below a number of similar words appear, but only one is spelled correctly and matches the clue that is provided. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space by the question number.**

13. \_\_\_ a. DIBUT b. DEBUD c. DEBUT d. DEBBUT  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of a performer or sports player is their first public performance, appearance, or recording.
14. \_\_\_ a. REFERM b. REFFORM c. REFORM d. REFORME  
When someone \_\_\_\_\_s or when something \_\_\_\_\_s them, they stop doing things that society does not approve of, such as breaking the law or drinking too much alcohol.
15. \_\_\_ a. WENG b. WING c. WONG d. WHING  
If you take someone under your \_\_\_\_\_, you look after them, help them, and protect them.
16. \_\_\_ a. DECADE b. DENADE c. DICADI d. DCAD  
A \_\_\_\_\_ is a period of ten years, especially one that begins with a year ending in 0, for example 1980 to 1989.
17. \_\_\_ a. TROBLED b. TROUBLLED c. TROUBLED d. TROUBLEB  
A \_\_\_\_\_ place, situation, organization, or time has many problems or conflicts.
18. \_\_\_ a. AT-BAT b. AT-BBAT c. AK-BAT d. ATBAT  
In baseball, an \_\_\_\_\_ is a turn at hitting the ball.
19. \_\_\_ a. ROUGGH b. ROGH c. ROWGH d. ROUGH  
You say that people or their actions are \_\_\_\_\_ when they use too much force and not enough care or gentleness.
20. \_\_\_ a. RATIRA b. RATIRE c. RTIR d. RETIRE  
When a sports player \_\_\_\_\_s from their sport, they stop playing in competitions. When they \_\_\_\_\_ from a race or a match, they stop competing in it.
21. \_\_\_ a. ORPHANAG b. ORPHANAGE c. ARPHANAGE d. ORFANAGE  
An \_\_\_\_\_ is a place where orphans live and are looked after.

22. \_\_\_ a. OVERCCOME b. OVERCOME c. OVIRCOME d. AVERCAME

If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem or a feeling, you successfully deal with it and control it.

23. Beginning with the circled letter, use the clues to find and mark the trail of letters of all the connected words through the maze to the last letter. The path can wander up, down, left, right, and diagonally.

A	B	J	J	F	C	K	D	Q	Y	A	L	V	B	C	O	T	C	I	X
D	L	L	Q	F	K	V	J	A	Y	L	C	O	A	M	F	R	K	D	U
S	B	M	C	E	M	R	V	W	M	J	Q	W	B	S	O	Q	S	E	U
<b>O</b>	V	C	O	M	G	B	C	R	N	Y	W	U	P	W	X	I	Y	O	E
B	E	R	Z	E	R	I	L	S	T	A	N	N	O	U	G	N	I	X	P
Y	G	I	O	R	E	Y	U	O	G	Q	W	G	Z	P	A	R	H	W	Q
O	H	E	D	H	T	L	A	F	N	O	D	T	R	J	M	R	G	Z	C
P	A	C	E	R	I	M	C	F	T	E	C	X	U	N	Y	N	C	Y	Q
S	I	A	H	Q	U	I	I	E	J	Q	V	P	G	J	O	S	Q	Y	C
G	J	D	N	J	O	C	J	D	K	Z	Q	P	Q	T	T	U	I	Z	I
H	H	E	R	I	O	U	T	O	Y	P	V	O	G	V	H	O	A	R	G
E	R	O	Z	T	R	B	L	E	O	K	F	Y	E	T	A	E	W	N	O
G	P	H	A	N	T	G	U	D	E	F	T	I	R	T	U	O	A	U	U
Q	N	E	G	A	T	H	O	R	R	O	O	O	B	U	E	E	I	B	Q
B	M	A	T	B	A	W	I	N	G	R	M	D	E	P	I	F	U	W	C

- If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem or a feeling, you successfully deal with it and control it.
- When a sports player \_\_\_\_\_s from their sport, they stop playing in competitions. When they \_\_\_\_\_ from a race or a match, they stop competing in it.
- He was born in the last \_\_\_\_\_ of the nineteenth century.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ was his home until he was 10.
- Alfonzo finally hit a homer in his 150th \_\_\_\_\_ of the season.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ place, situation, organization, or time has many problems or conflicts.
- If a surface is \_\_\_\_\_, it is uneven and not smooth.
- If you take someone under your \_\_\_\_\_, you look after them, help them, and protect them.
- If someone \_\_\_\_\_s something such as a law, social system, or institution, they change or improve it.
- a first appearance before the public, as of an actor

24. **Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.**

M	H	E	J	R	E	J	P	D	A	F	Q	X	A	B	E	S	Z	D	M
B	R	O	C	I	K	L	E	D	Q	E	G	X	C	R	A	M	M	Z	J
M	F	V	N	N	R	R	G	Y	U	N	J	T	I	O	N	D	M	E	P
H	R	E	U	V	I	L	A	J	I	Z	T	T	Y	U	N	E	O	E	S
A	A	R	T	E	Y	Q	N	W	P	M	E	M	P	G	V	B	D	K	T
D	E	C	A	D	E	I	A	Y	R	R	R	X	R	H	M	U	E	P	P
L	F	O	R	D	O	A	H	M	E	M	O	A	D	N	F	T	L	U	J
Z	J	M	N	N	Z	U	P	E	F	F	Z	Y	S	B	B	C	B	B	W
C	P	E	C	P	V	C	R	A	O	K	Q	D	Z	X	P	R	U	W	N
A	T	B	A	T	O	P	O	R	R	N	D	Y	P	V	G	A	O	R	E
V	Y	L	K	N	D	B	X	D	M	E	N	W	J	D	X	W	R	U	H
P	I	B	F	N	L	K	O	T	D	A	H	I	V	L	V	O	T	S	R

wing  
retire

debut  
overcome

at-bat  
orphanage

reform  
rough

troubled

decade

## Listening Practice | Intermediate

25. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

### BABE RUTH

Baseball fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run [1] \_\_\_\_\_ that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George Herman Ruth, and he became one of the [2] \_\_\_\_\_ heroes in American sports.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to three World Series championships. Then he helped make the New York Yankees the most successful major league team of his time.

### A [3] \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDHOOD

Ruth [4] \_\_\_\_\_ a **troubled** childhood to achieve baseball glory. He was born in [5] \_\_\_\_\_, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage** and [6] \_\_\_\_\_ school. While there, a [7] \_\_\_\_\_ [8] \_\_\_\_\_ priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

### A [9] \_\_\_\_\_ HITTER

Young Ruth showed great promise as an all-around player. At the reform school, he played first base, third base, and the outfield when needed. He eventually became a [10] \_\_\_\_\_. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching mound. Ruth had never pitched before, but he amazed onlookers with his powerful sidearm throwing style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural hitter, easily swatting balls from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then a [11] \_\_\_\_\_ league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the [12] \_\_\_\_\_ ballplayer under his wing**. People soon began calling Ruth "Dunn's baby." Eventually they just started calling him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his first [13] \_\_\_\_\_ **at-bat**.

### [14] \_\_\_\_\_ LEAGUE SUCCESS

Baltimore sold Ruth's contract to the Boston Red Sox, and he made his major league **debut** in 1914. [15] \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth was signed as a pitcher, the Red Sox also used him as an [16] \_\_\_\_\_. That way, he could play more games and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major leagues with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a single season.

As a home run hitter, Ruth was just getting [17] \_\_\_\_\_. He was [18] \_\_\_\_\_ to the New York Yankees in 1920, and he hit 54 homers that year. The following year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That stood as the major league, season home run record until Roger Maris of the Yankees hit 61 in 1961.

In 1923, the Yankees opened a new ballpark called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon began calling Yankee Stadium "The House That Ruth Built" to honor their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played in seven World Series, with the Yankees winning four of them.

### A BASEBALL LEGEND

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22-year major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a lifetime batting [19] \_\_\_\_\_ of .342. He hit a total of 714 home runs, drove in 2,213 runs, and scored 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players **elected** to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

- |                 |              |               |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| A. average      | B. started   | C. Although   |
| D. MAJOR        | E. Catholic  | F. minor      |
| G. traded       | H. overcame  | I. young      |
| J. professional | K. Baltimore | L. records    |
| M. reform       | N. Roman     | O. greatest   |
| P. catcher      | Q. NATURAL   | R. outfielder |
| S. TOUGH        |              |               |

# Listening Practice | Advanced

26. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

## BABE RUTH

[1] \_\_\_\_\_ fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run records that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George [2] \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth, and he [3] \_\_\_\_\_ one of the greatest heroes in American sports.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to [4] \_\_\_\_\_ [5] \_\_\_\_\_ Series championships. Then he [6] \_\_\_\_\_ make the New York Yankees the most successful major league team of his time.

A [7] \_\_\_\_\_ [8] \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth **overcame** a [9] \_\_\_\_\_ childhood to achieve [10] \_\_\_\_\_ glory. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough** [11] \_\_\_\_\_ on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an [12] \_\_\_\_\_ and **reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

A [13] \_\_\_\_\_ [14] \_\_\_\_\_

Young Ruth [15] \_\_\_\_\_ great promise as an all-around player. At the reform school, he [16] \_\_\_\_\_ [17] \_\_\_\_\_ base, third base, and the outfield when needed. He eventually [18] \_\_\_\_\_ a [19] \_\_\_\_\_. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching [20] \_\_\_\_\_. Ruth had never pitched before, but he amazed onlookers with his [21] \_\_\_\_\_ sidearm [22] \_\_\_\_\_ style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural [23] \_\_\_\_\_, easily swatting [24] \_\_\_\_\_ from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then a [25] \_\_\_\_\_ league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the young** [26] \_\_\_\_\_ [27] \_\_\_\_\_ **his wing**. People soon [28] \_\_\_\_\_ [29] \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth "Dunn's baby." Eventually they just started calling him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his first professional **at-bat**.

## MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS

[30] \_\_\_\_\_ sold Ruth's [31] \_\_\_\_\_ to the Boston Red Sox, and he made his major league [32] \_\_\_\_\_ in 1914. Although Ruth was signed as a pitcher, the Red Sox

also used him as an outfielder. That way, he could play more [33] \_\_\_\_\_ and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major [34] \_\_\_\_\_ with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a [35] \_\_\_\_\_ season.

As a home run [36] \_\_\_\_\_, Ruth was just getting [37] \_\_\_\_\_. He was traded to the New York [38] \_\_\_\_\_ in 1920, and he hit 54 homers that year. The [39] \_\_\_\_\_ year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That [40] \_\_\_\_\_ as the major league, [41] \_\_\_\_\_ home run record [42] \_\_\_\_\_ [43] \_\_\_\_\_ Maris of the [44] \_\_\_\_\_ hit 61 in 1961.

In 1923, the Yankees opened a new [45] \_\_\_\_\_ called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon [46] \_\_\_\_\_ calling [47] \_\_\_\_\_ [48] \_\_\_\_\_ "The House That Ruth Built" to [49] \_\_\_\_\_ their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played in seven [50] \_\_\_\_\_ Series, with the Yankees winning four of them.

### A BASEBALL LEGEND

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22 [51] \_\_\_\_\_ major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a [52] \_\_\_\_\_ batting average of .342. He hit a [53] \_\_\_\_\_ of 714 home runs, [54] \_\_\_\_\_ in 2,213 runs, and [55] \_\_\_\_\_ 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players [56] \_\_\_\_\_ to the National [57] \_\_\_\_\_ Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

# Spelling Practice

27. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

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## A TOUGHE CHILDHOOD

Ruth **overcame** a **troubled** childhood too achieve baseball glory. He was born in Baltimore, Marylande, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city’s waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage** end **reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to plae baseball.

## A NATURALE HITTER

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At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Oriales, then a minor league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the yong ballplayer under his wing**. People soon began calling Ruth “Dun’s baby.” Eventually they just started callling him “Babe.” It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his frst professional **at-baz**.

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1. \_\_\_\_\_
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32. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sports | Babe Ruth

## Comprehension

1. *Put the heading above the appropriate part of the text.*

### [1] **BABE RUTH**

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Baseball fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run records that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George Herman Ruth, and he became one of the greatest heroes in American sports.

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### [2] **A TOUGH CHILDHOOD**

---

Ruth **overcame** a **troubled** childhood to achieve baseball glory. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage** and **reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

### [3] **A NATURAL HITTER**

---

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### [4] **MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS**

---

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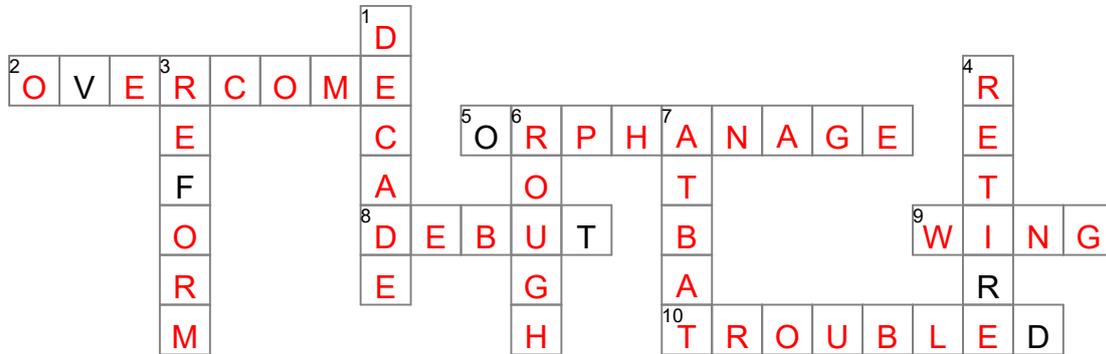
### **[5] A BASEBALL LEGEND**

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22-year major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a lifetime batting average of .342. He hit a total of 714 home runs, drove in 2,213 runs, and scored 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players **elected** to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

- A. A NATURAL HITTER                      B. MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS  
D. BABE RUTH                                C. A BASEBALL LEGEND  
E. A TOUGH CHILDHOOD

# Key Vocabulary

2. **Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.**



**ACROSS**

- 2. If you are \_\_\_\_\_ by a feeling or event, it is so strong or has such a strong effect that you cannot think clearly.
- 5. an institution for orphans and abandoned children
- 8. a first appearance before the public, as of an actor
- 9. If you say that something or someone clips your \_\_\_\_\_s, you mean that they restrict your freedom to do what you want.
- 10. Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is worried because they have problems.

**DOWN**

- 1. He was born in the last \_\_\_\_\_ of the nineteenth century.
- 3. Reform consists of changes and improvements to a law, social system, or institution. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an instance of such a change or improvement.
- 4. When older people \_\_\_\_\_, they leave their job and usually stop working completely.
- 6. If a surface is \_\_\_\_\_, it is uneven and not smooth.
- 7. Alfonzo finally hit a homer in his 150th \_\_\_\_\_ of the season.

**Choose the best option the completes the sentences below:**

- 3.  b  If you spread your \_\_\_\_\_s, you do something new and rather difficult or move to a new place, because you feel more confident in your abilities than you used to and you want to gain wider experience.  
a. at-bat   b. wing   c. overcome   d. orphanage   e. troubled
- 4.  a  If someone \_\_\_\_\_s something such as a law, social system, or institution, they change or improve it.  
a. reform   b. decade   c. debut   d. retire   e. rough
- 5.  b  taking a turn at batting  
a. orphanage   b. at-bat   c. wing   d. reform   e. debut
- 6.  c  It was the fastest selling \_\_\_\_\_ album in the history of the British charts.  
a. decade   b. at-bat   c. debut   d. retire   e. rough
- 7.  d  The \_\_\_\_\_ was his home until he was 10.  
a. at-bat   b. overcome   c. reform   d. orphanage   e. troubled
- 8.  a  If you pour oil on \_\_\_\_\_ waters, you try to calm down a difficult situation.  
a. troubled   b. reform   c. decade   d. overcome   e. rough

9. e If you are \_\_\_\_\_ by smoke or a poisonous gas, you become very ill or die from breathing it in.  
a. retire b. troubled c. debut d. wing e. overcome
10. e A \_\_\_\_\_ area, city, school, or other place is unpleasant and dangerous because there is a lot of violence or crime there.  
a. troubled b. decade c. at-bat d. overcome e. rough
11. d I have decided to \_\_\_\_\_ from Formula One racing at the end of the season.  
a. debut b. rough c. reform d. retire e. wing
12. d a period of ten consecutive years  
a. wing b. retire c. orphanage d. decade e. orphanage

**For each question below a number of similar words appear, but only one is spelled correctly and matches the clue that is provided. Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space by the question number.**

13. c a. DIBUT b. DEBUD c. DEBUT d. DEBBUT  
The \_\_\_\_\_ of a performer or sports player is their first public performance, appearance, or recording.
14. c a. REFERM b. REFFORM c. REFORM d. REFORME  
When someone \_\_\_\_\_s or when something \_\_\_\_\_s them, they stop doing things that society does not approve of, such as breaking the law or drinking too much alcohol.
15. b a. WENG b. WING c. WONG d. WHING  
If you take someone under your \_\_\_\_\_, you look after them, help them, and protect them.
16. a a. DECADE b. DENADE c. DICADI d. DCAD  
A \_\_\_\_\_ is a period of ten years, especially one that begins with a year ending in 0, for example 1980 to 1989.
17. c a. TROBLED b. TROUBLLED c. TROUBLED d. TROUBLEB  
A \_\_\_\_\_ place, situation, organization, or time has many problems or conflicts.
18. a a. AT-BAT b. AT-BBAT c. AK-BAT d. ATBAT  
In baseball, an \_\_\_\_\_ is a turn at hitting the ball.
19. d a. ROUGGH b. ROGH c. ROWGH d. ROUGH  
You say that people or their actions are \_\_\_\_\_ when they use too much force and not enough care or gentleness.
20. d a. RATIRA b. RATIRE c. RTIR d. RETIRE  
When a sports player \_\_\_\_\_s from their sport, they stop playing in competitions. When they \_\_\_\_\_ from a race or a match, they stop competing in it.
21. b a. ORPHANAG b. ORPHANAGE c. ARPHANAGE d. ORFANAGE  
An \_\_\_\_\_ is a place where orphans live and are looked after.

22. b a. OVERCCOME b. OVERCOME c. OVIRCOME d. AVERCAME

If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem or a feeling, you successfully deal with it and control it.

23. Beginning with the circled letter, use the clues to find and mark the trail of letters of all the connected words through the maze to the last letter. The path can wander up, down, left, right, and diagonally.

A	B	J	J	F	C	K	D	Q	Y	A	L	V	B	C	O	T	C	I	X
D	L	L	Q	F	K	V	J	A	Y	L	C	O	A	M	F	R	K	D	U
S	B	M	C	E	M	R	V	W	M	J	Q	W	B	S	O	Q	S	E	U
<b>O</b>	V	C	O	M	G	B	C	R	N	Y	W	U	P	W	X	I	Y	O	E
B	E	R	Z	E	R	I	L	S	T	A	N	N	O	U	G	N	I	X	P
Y	G	I	O	R	E	Y	U	O	G	Q	W	G	Z	P	A	R	H	W	Q
O	H	E	D	H	T	L	A	F	N	O	D	T	R	J	M	R	G	Z	C
P	A	C	E	R	I	M	C	F	T	E	C	X	U	N	Y	N	C	Y	Q
S	I	A	H	Q	U	I	I	E	J	Q	V	P	G	J	O	S	Q	Y	C
G	J	D	N	J	O	C	J	D	K	Z	Q	P	Q	T	T	U	I	Z	I
H	H	E	R	I	O	U	T	O	Y	P	V	O	G	V	H	O	A	R	G
E	R	O	Z	T	R	B	L	E	O	K	F	Y	E	T	A	E	W	N	O
G	P	H	A	N	T	G	U	D	E	F	T	I	R	T	U	O	A	U	U
Q	N	E	G	A	T	H	O	R	R	O	O	O	B	U	E	E	I	B	Q
B	M	A	T	B	A	W	I	N	G	R	M	D	E	P	I	F	U	W	C

- If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem or a feeling, you successfully deal with it and control it.
- When a sports player \_\_\_\_\_s from their sport, they stop playing in competitions. When they \_\_\_\_\_ from a race or a match, they stop competing in it.
- He was born in the last \_\_\_\_\_ of the nineteenth century.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ was his home until he was 10.
- Alfonzo finally hit a homer in his 150th \_\_\_\_\_ of the season.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ place, situation, organization, or time has many problems or conflicts.
- If a surface is \_\_\_\_\_, it is uneven and not smooth.
- If you take someone under your \_\_\_\_\_, you look after them, help them, and protect them.
- If someone \_\_\_\_\_s something such as a law, social system, or institution, they change or improve it.
- a first appearance before the public, as of an actor

24. **Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.**

M	H	E	J	R	E	J	P	D	A	F	Q	X	A	B	E	S	Z	D	M
B	R	O	C	I	K	L	E	D	Q	E	G	X	C	R	A	M	M	Z	J
M	F	V	N	N	R	R	G	Y	U	N	J	T	I	O	N	D	M	E	P
H	R	E	U	V	I	L	A	J	I	Z	T	T	Y	U	N	E	O	E	S
A	A	R	T	E	Y	Q	N	W	P	M	E	M	P	G	V	B	D	K	T
D	E	C	A	D	E	I	A	Y	R	R	X	R	H	M	U	E	P	P	
L	F	O	R	D	O	A	H	M	E	M	O	A	D	N	F	T	L	U	J
Z	J	M	N	N	Z	U	P	E	F	F	Z	Y	S	B	B	C	B	B	W
C	P	E	C	P	V	C	R	A	O	K	Q	D	Z	X	P	R	U	W	N
A	T	B	A	T	O	P	O	R	R	N	D	Y	P	V	G	A	O	R	E
V	Y	L	K	N	D	B	X	D	M	E	N	W	J	D	X	W	R	U	H
P	I	B	F	N	L	K	O	T	D	A	H	I	V	L	V	O	T	S	R

wing  
retire

debut  
overcome

at-bat  
orphanage

reform  
rough

troubled

decade

# Listening Practice | Intermediate

25. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

## BABE RUTH

Baseball fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run [1] **records** that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George Herman Ruth, and he became one of the [2] **greatest** heroes in American sports.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to three World Series championships. Then he helped make the New York Yankees the most successful major league team of his time.

## A [3] **TOUGH** CHILDHOOD

Ruth [4] **overcame** a **troubled** childhood to achieve baseball glory. He was born in [5] **Baltimore**, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage** and [6] **reform** school. While there, a [7] **Roman** [8] **Catholic** priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

## A [9] **NATURAL** HITTER

Young Ruth showed great promise as an all-around player. At the reform school, he played first base, third base, and the outfield when needed. He eventually became a [10] **catcher**. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching mound. Ruth had never pitched before, but he amazed onlookers with his powerful sidearm throwing style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural hitter, easily swatting balls from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then a [11] **minor** league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the** [12] **young** **ballplayer under his wing**. People soon began calling Ruth "Dunn's baby." Eventually they just started calling him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his first [13] **professional** **at-bat**.

## [14] **MAJOR** LEAGUE SUCCESS

Baltimore sold Ruth's contract to the Boston Red Sox, and he made his major league **debut** in 1914. [15] **Although** Ruth was signed as a pitcher, the Red Sox also used him as an [16] **outfielder**. That way, he could play more games and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major leagues with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a single season.

As a home run hitter, Ruth was just getting [17] **started** \_\_\_\_\_. He was [18] **traded** \_\_\_\_\_ to the New York Yankees in 1920, and he hit 54 homers that year. The following year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That stood as the major league, season home run record until Roger Maris of the Yankees hit 61 in 1961.

In 1923, the Yankees opened a new ballpark called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon began calling Yankee Stadium "The House That Ruth Built" to honor their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played in seven World Series, with the Yankees winning four of them.

### A BASEBALL LEGEND

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22-year major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a lifetime batting [19] **average** \_\_\_\_\_ of .342. He hit a total of 714 home runs, drove in 2,213 runs, and scored 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players **elected** to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

- |                 |              |               |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| A. average      | B. started   | C. Although   |
| D. MAJOR        | E. Catholic  | F. minor      |
| G. traded       | H. overcame  | I. young      |
| J. professional | K. Baltimore | L. records    |
| M. reform       | N. Roman     | O. greatest   |
| P. catcher      | Q. NATURAL   | R. outfielder |
| S. TOUGH        |              |               |

## Listening Practice | Advanced

26. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

### BABE RUTH

[1] **Baseball** fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. He set home run records that lasted for **decades**. His full name was George [2] **Herman** Ruth, and he [3] **became** one of the greatest heroes in American sports.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to [4] **three** [5] **World** Series championships. Then he [6] **helped** make the New York Yankees the most successful major league team of his time.

### A [7] **TOUGH** [8] **CHILDHOOD**

Ruth **overcame** a [9] **troubled** childhood to achieve [10] **baseball** glory. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough** [11] **crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an [12] **orphanage** and **reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to play baseball.

### A [13] **NATURAL** [14] **HITTER**

Young Ruth [15] **showed** great promise as an all-around player. At the reform school, he [16] **played** [17] **first** base, third base, and the outfield when needed. He eventually [18] **became** a [19] **catcher**. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching [20] **mound**. Ruth had never pitched before, but he amazed onlookers with his [21] **powerful** sidearm [22] **throwing** style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural [23] **hitter**, easily swatting [24] **balls** from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles, then a [25] **minor** league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the young** [26] **ballplayer** [27] **under** his wing. People soon [28] **began** [29] **calling** Ruth "Dunn's baby." Eventually they just started calling him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his first professional **at-bat**.

### MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESS

[30] **Baltimore** sold Ruth's [31] **contract** to the Boston Red Sox, and he made his major league [32] **debut** in 1914. Although Ruth was signed as a pitcher, the Red Sox

also used him as an outfielder. That way, he could play more [33] **games** and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major [34] **leagues** with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a [35] **single** season.

As a home run [36] **hitter**, Ruth was just getting [37] **started**. He was traded to the New York [38] **Yankees** in 1920, and he hit 54 homers that year. The [39] **following** year he hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That [40] **stood** as the major league, [41] **season** home run record [42] **until** [43] **Roger** Maris of the [44] **Yankees** hit 61 in 1961.

In 1923, the Yankees opened a new [45] **ballpark** called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon [46] **began** calling [47] **Yankee** [48] **Stadium** "The House That Ruth Built" to [49] **honor** their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played in seven [50] **World** Series, with the Yankees winning four of them.

## A BASEBALL LEGEND

Ruth **retired** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22 [51] **-year** major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a [52] **lifetime** batting average of .342. He hit a [53] **total** of 714 home runs, [54] **drove** in 2,213 runs, and [55] **scored** 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five players [56] **elected** to the National [57] **Baseball** Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

# Spelling Practice

27. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

## BABE RUTHE

Baseball fans called him Babe, the Bambino, and the Sultan of Swat. **H** set home run records **thet** lasted for **decades**. His full name was George Herman Ruth, and he became one of the **graitest** heroes in American **sperts**.

Babe Ruth led the Boston Red Sox to three World Series **championchips**. Then **hee** helped make the New York Yankees the most successful major **leagoo** team of his time.

## A TOUGHIE CHILDHOOD

Ruth **overcame** a **troubled** childhood **too** achieve baseball glory. He was born in Baltimore, **Marylande**, in 1895. The young Ruth fell in with a **rough crowd** on the streets of the city's waterfront. When he was seven, he was sent to live in an **orphanage end reform** school. While there, a Roman Catholic priest taught Ruth to **plae** baseball.

## A NATURALE HITTER

Young Ruth showed great promise as an all-around player. **Ate** the reform school, he played first base, third base, **end** the outfield when needed. He eventually became a **catchir**. One day during practice, Ruth took the pitching mound. Ruth **hed** never pitched before, but he amazed **onlookirs** with his powerful sidearm throwing style. Most of all, Ruth was a natural **hiter**, easily swatting balls from his first time at bat.

At the age of 19, Ruth signed a contract with the Baltimore **Oriales**, then a minor league team. The owner, Jack Dunn, **took the yong ballplayer under his wing**. People soon began calling Ruth "Dun's baby." Eventually they just started **callling** him "Babe." It was a sign of things to come when Babe hit a home run in his **frst** professional **at-baz**.

## MAJOR LEAGUE SUCCESV

Baltimore sold Ruth's contract to the Boston Red Sox, **end** he made his major league **debut** in 1914. Although Ruth was signed as a **pitchir**, the Red Sox also used him **az** an outfielder. That way, he could play more **gameese** and get to bat more times. In 1919, Ruth led the major leagues

- 1. RUTH \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. He \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. that \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. greatest \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. sports \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. championships \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. he \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. league \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. TOUGH \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. to \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Maryland \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. s \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. and \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. play \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. NATURAL \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. At \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. and \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. catcher \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. had \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. onlookers \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. hitter \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Orioles \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. young \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. Dunn \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. calling \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. first \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. bat \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. SUCCESS \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. and \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. pitcher \_\_\_\_\_
- 31. as \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. games \_\_\_\_\_

with 29 home runs. No player had ever hit that many in a single **seison**.

As a home run **hiter**, Ruth was just getting started. He was traded to the New **Yerk** Yankees in 1920, and he hit 54 homers that year. The following year **hee** hit 59, and in 1927 he hit 60. That stood as the major league, **seasen** home run record until Roger Maris of the Yankees hit 61 **inn** 1961.

**Ine** 1923, the Yankees opened a new ballpark called Yankee Stadium. But fans soon began calling Yankee Stadium "The House That Ruth **Build**" to honor their hero. As a Yankee, Ruth played **inn** seven World Series, with the **Yankeas** winning four of them.

### **A BASEBALL LEGEND**

Ruth **ratirad** from baseball in 1935. Over the course of his 22-year major league career, he played in 2,503 games and had a **lifetim** batting average **off** .342. He hit a total of 714 home runs, drove in 2,213 runs, and **sored** 2,174 times. In 1936, Ruth was one of the first five **plaeers** **electd** to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He died in 1948.

33. **season**

34. **hitter**

35. **York**

36. **he**

37. **season**

38. **in**

39. **In**

40. **Built**

41. **in**

42. **Yankees**

43. **A**

44. **retired**

45. **lifetime**

46. **of**

47. **scored**

48. **players**