
■ Strike Three!

With baseball's opening day just around the corner, I present to you a puzzle where you'll need to show your pitching finesse. As a pitcher, you'll have four pitches you can throw:

FASTBALL: World capitals, 9 letters
SCREWBALL: A type of container, 8 letters
CURVE: Math term, 7 letters
SLIDER: Kind of animal, 6 letters
KNUCKLEBALL Flavor, 5 letters

Your goal is to get three strikes against each batter below. To get a strike, find a word that falls between the batter's two words that matches your pitch. For example, if the batter's words were STICKY STOOGE, you could throw STOCKHOLM (9 letters), but not STOAT (5 letters, not "fast" enough) or SUBTEND (outside the strike zone).

Plurals are not allowed, nor can you repeat a pitch with a single batter. Can you fan all nine?

1. BABIES

4. JAYVEE

7. NUMBER

BAFFLE

JOCKEY

ODDITY

2. COBWEB

5. LITTLE

8. PUZZLE

COURSE

LLANOS

RACKET

3. IMMUNE

6. MIXING

9. VICTOR

ISLAND

MOHAIR

WABASH