

Title:	Baseball talk	Level: medium
Text:	<p>There were baseball related conversations in two different lessons last week. One was about the annual draw that saw Nippon Ham get lucky with first choice for Kotaro Kiyomiya, a highly rated high school player who will be available to them for next season. This was the first time in five years that Nippon Ham had drawn their first choice recruit.</p> <p>Also, Akiko told us that she is going to watch a Hawks game with a young British woman who is actually an avid Hiroshima Carp fan, but will do her best to support the home team!</p> <p>But what about baseball in the UK? Does it exist and, <b>if so</b>, how many people play it?</p> <p>According to Wikipedia, there was a professional league in the UK for only one year in 1890. The Baseball Ground in the city of Derby was used for eight years from 1890, and following the quick demise of the professional game there, the ground was used for football. It remained the home of Derby County Football Club until 1997.</p> <p>There are some 100 competitive teams with 1500 players in total in the UK, and an area where the game is growing is in UK universities.</p>	
Discussion:	Do you know the history of a sport in your country? <b>If so</b> , tell us about it.	
Words and usage:	<p><b>If so</b></p> <p>Meaning 'if that is the case', this is often used at the start of a question or sentence. Less common alternatives are 'if 'yes',... ' and 'If (subject + verb),...', per the following example.</p> <p>'<b>Do you</b> like baseball? <b>If you do</b>, we could go to see a game.'</p>	
Resources:	<p><a href="https://translate.weblio.jp">https://translate.weblio.jp</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com">Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org">The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</a></p>	
Practice idea:	Write about a favourite sports team or person you support, but don't mention their name. Ask listeners to guess who the subject is.	
Listening link:	<p><a href="#">Baseball talk - audio</a></p> 	
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p><b>Card number E9 below is from Starter pack 1, available at <a href="http://englishbooks.jp">englishbooks.jp</a>, <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk">Amazon</a> and <a href="https://www.rakuten.co.uk">Rakuten</a></b></p>	

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Which sports team  
or person  
do you follow?

[quizme.jp](http://quizme.jp)