

# Whole New "Word" Game

---

By Paulette C. Jordan

Winners never quit and quitters never win.

—*Author unknown*

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing."

—*Vince Lombardi, American football coach*

The winners in life think constantly in terms of I can, I will, and I am. Losers, on the other hand, concentrate their waking thought on what they should have or would have done, or what they can't do.

—*Dennis Waitley*

It's a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired—you quit when the gorilla is tired.

—*Robert Strauss, Swimmer*

If you chase two rabbits, both will escape.

—*Author unknown*

First there are those who are winners, and know they are winners. Then there are the losers who know they are losers. Then there are those who are not winners, but don't know it. They're the ones for me. They never quit trying.

—*"Bear" Bryant, American football coach*

## Sports Idioms

### Ball of fire

a very active and energetic person

*She's a ball of fire; she seems to succeed no matter what.*

### Fun and games

characterized by playing around; doing worthless things

*He is all fun and games, but he seems to get the job done on time.*

### Gear up

to prepare for something

*We were so geared up for the game that we scored ten goals.*

### **Catch it**

to get into trouble and receive punishment

*We're going to catch it if she comes back to the office early.*

### **Horse around**

to waste time; to be careless

*During the meeting the boss shouted, "Stop horsing around and get to work."*

### **Play ball**

to cooperate with someone

*As soon as both sides sign the contract, then we can play ball.*

### **All balled up**

troubled; confused; in a mess

*The orientation was so hurried that afterwards the staff members were all balled up.*

### **At this stage of the game**

currently

*At this stage of the game, we knew we had no chance of winning the bid.*

### **Sporting chance**

a reasonably good possibility

*We thought we had a sporting chance when the other company withdrew its bid.*

### **Have the ball in someone's court**

to have to make a response

*They've rejected our proposal, so the ball's in their court now.*

### **Whole new ball game**

a new set of circumstances

*We found our way around Washington DC, without getting lost, but New York City is a whole new ball game.*

### **Ball park figure**

an estimate

*At this time all we need is a ball park figure. Exactness comes later.*

### **Bench**

to withdraw someone; to stop someone from participating

*The director of the play benched the lead actress because she was always late for rehearsals.*

### **Major league**

a high level of performance

*You're in the major leagues now—no more wearing jeans to the office.*

## **On the ball**

knowledgeable; competent; attentive

*If we were on the ball, the bills wouldn't have been paid late.*

## **The following three sayings are used to console or encourage someone who is disappointed:**

*You win a few, you lose a few.*

*You can't win them all.*

*That's the way the ball bounces.*

## **Baseball idioms**

### **Be a hit**

to please someone or something

*The award ceremony went well. It was a hit in Washington.*

### **Throw a curve ball**

to surprise someone with an unexpected act or event

*Jim really threw us a curve ball by making that last-minute change.*

### **Off base**

unrealistic; inexact; wrong

*His cost estimate was off base. I will have to ask someone else.*

### **Out of left field**

not relevant; unexpected

*His silly solutions to the problem were out of left field.*

## **Boxing idioms**

### **Pull one's punches**

to hold back in one's criticism

*My English teacher doesn't pull any punches when it comes to discipline.*

### **Throw in the towel**

to quit; to give up

*When they found out he was receiving bribes, the Senator knew it was time to throw in the towel.*

## **Bowling idiom**

### **Bowl over**

to surprise or overwhelm

*When I heard the news that I got the new job, it bowled me over.*