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Jargon

When Grayson and Maniac talk about baseball, the old man uses several phrases that probably would not be found in most dictionaries. These phrases, “shag fungoes,” “whiff on the stopball,” and “play pepper on the outfield grass,” are a special use of words that only people who play baseball or who are very interested in the sport would probably know.

Every sport, as well as every business and profession, has its own special vocabulary. See how many of the following examples of jargon you can match up with the meanings and professions (found in parentheses).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. ambulance chaser | A. (sport) loose fitting “boxer” shorts worn for surfing |
| _____ 2. anchorman/woman | B. (TV) the first and last episodes of a TV series |
| _____ 3. axe | C. (sport) in golf, a ball that is half buried in the sand |
| _____ 4. baggies | D. (military) a helicopter |
| _____ 5. benched (adjective) | E. (architecture) for an architect to leave his office and visit the site of a building under construction |
| _____ 6. bookends | F. (aerospace) an indicator board, as on an airplane, full of flashing lights |
| _____ 7. cans (noun) | G. (law/police) a lawyer who makes a business out of finding accident victims to represent in court |
| _____ 8. chop the clock | H. (rock music) a performer’s musical instrument; usually a guitar |
| _____ 9. Christmas tree | I. (theater) a laugh, as a comedian might get after telling a joke |
| _____ 10. eggbeater | J. (TV) newscaster who actually reads the news |
| _____ 11. fried egg | K. (press) to finish writing and editing the newspaper and then sending it to be printed |
| _____ 12. garbage | L. (movies, TV) to end the day’s filming; to finish |
| _____ 13. get mud on your boots | M. (computers) inaccurate or useless data |
| _____ 14. put to bed | N. (sport) retaining of a player on the bench rather than allowing to play |
| _____ 15. wrap (verb) | O. (audio) earphones, as for a stereo |
| _____ 16. yuck (noun) | P. (business) illegally turning back the mileage on a car’s odometer to make the car seem a better value |

Family Differences

Maniac learns that there is more to a family than a group of related people who are all living under the same roof. In your own group of three to five people, discuss the following situations and then write your own answers.

The differences between the Beales and McNabs are obvious. Explore the different feelings Maniac has while living with them.

The Beales

1. Mr. Beale takes Maniac back to his house when he realizes the boy has no home.

Maniac's feeling:

2. Mrs. Beale hits Maniac for talking "trash."

Maniac's feeling:

3. Amanda pleads with Maniac not to leave.

Maniac's feeling:

The McNabs

1. The McNabs build a fortress in their living room.

Maniac's feeling:

2. The McNabs tear into their food.

Maniac's feeling:

3. George McNab never learns Maniac's name.

Maniac's feeling:
