

Lesson Six
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Baseball

Ball = sgwatlesdi (skwat lay stee)

Unless you hear specifically otherwise, when the word 'ball' is used in Cherokee it refers to baseball or a baseball. Cherokees love their baseball. This is a list of baseball terms. Notice the roots of the words to get an idea of the thought behind the words. Note also that these are all verbs in Cherokee. That guy in the dark suit is not 'an umpire' but the guy 'who umpires.'

Let's play ball! i-da-ne-tso-hv-ga! (ee dah naytsho huh gah)

Catcher ga-ni-yi-s-gi (gah nee yee skee)
(root '-ni-y-' means catch, grab, grasp, capture)

Hind catcher o-hni ga-ni-yi-s-gi (o hnee gah nee yee skee)
(ohni means 'back' or 'behind' or 'last')

Ball player a-ne-tso-hv-s-gi (ah naytsho huh skee)
(root '-netso-' refers to sports or gym)

Shortstop u-s-gwa-la (oo skwa lah)
(root '-sgwala-' means 'short')

Stop a-le-wi-s-di-s-gi (ah lay wee stee skee)
(as in telling the troops to 'halt')

Outfielder tso-ge-si (tsho gay shee)
(root '-gesi-' means 'field')

Pitcher u-de-gi (oo day ghee)
(yep, root means 'to throw;' here, 'thrower')

Umpire di-yu-g-di-s-gi (dee yoog dee skee)
(note 'duyugda' root = 'makes things right' or 'puts things in balance')

Glove a-li-ye-su-lo (ah lee yay shoo low)
(worn on the hand')

Bat tsa-ma-ha (tshah mah ha)
(root refers to the little furry flying critter)

Hitter gv-s-do-di (guh stow dee)
(hits with it, meaning with the bat)

Hit the ball with the bat gv-ni-s-di-ha (guh nee stee ha)
(he hits' or 'he swings')

Steal tsi-no-s-gi (chee no skee)
(root '-nosg-' same as for 'thief')

Ball = sgwatlesdi (skwat lay stee)
(root is 'gasgwalv,' 'round,' with that 'tle' syllable it refers to that round moving thing that you throw around the field hoping to get a runner out or hit at for a home run)

<lee uwoyeni