

Name _____

Baseball's Run Scoring System: The Art of Crossing Home Plate

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. As a base runner on first base with no outs, I could potentially score a run by advancing around the bases in several ways:
 - If the batter hits a double, I would advance to third base and could round third and head home to score when the outfielder retrieves the ball and throws it to the infield.
 - If the batter hits a single and there is an error by the outfielder, I might have a chance to advance to third base or even score from first base.
 - If the batter hits a deep fly ball that is caught by an outfielder, I could tag up at first base and try to advance to second base when the ball is caught. From there, I could attempt to score on a subsequent hit.
2. Teamwork and communication are crucial in scoring runs in baseball. Players must work together to advance runners and make split-second decisions. For example, a batter needs to communicate with a runner on second base to signal whether they should round third and try to score on a base hit. Infielders and outfielders need to coordinate to relay the ball accurately to prevent or allow runners to score. Base coaches play a role in guiding runners. Ultimately, effective teamwork and communication ensure that players are aware of the game situation and can make the right decisions to score runs.
3. Yes, a defensive team can employ several strategies to prevent a runner from scoring when they are on third base with fewer than two outs. These strategies include:
 - Bringing the infielders in closer to cut off the runner's path to home plate, making it harder to score on a ground ball.
 - Instructing the pitcher to throw pitches that are difficult to hit solidly, increasing the chances of a weakly hit ball that won't advance the runner.
 - Attempting to pick off the runner at third base by having the catcher or pitcher make a quick throw to the third baseman.
 - Using a pitchout to prevent a potential squeeze play, where the runner on third tries to score on a bunt.
4. Baseball's scoring system is simple at its core, with runs being scored by advancing around the bases and touching home plate. However, it becomes complex due to the various ways runs can be scored, such as home runs, base hits, walks, and sacrifice plays. The complexity arises from the need for players to make split-second decisions based on factors like the game situation, base runners, and the score. Players must consider whether to advance or stay on base, whether to swing the bat or not, and whether to attempt to score or hold up. These decisions require a deep understanding of the game and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, making baseball both simple and complex at the same time.

