



English and Culture
Tutoring Services

How to Make Small Talk with Americans about Baseball

Listening Script

A: All right so Dad I guess when you were in graduate school you said you went to Fenway a lot, yeah? and um, so what are the **traditions** that happen, sort of in a typical baseball game at Fenway, what are some of the things that happen.

B: Well two things, uh, that happen as sure as the sun will rise, is the uh, 7th inning stretch and that's between the first half and the second half of the, uh, of the game, people just stand up and they **just plain old** stretch, they, they **get the kinks out of their backs**, they try to move around a little bit 'cause by then your butt is kind of tired and ya need to get up and get a little bit of exercise that way, maybe grab a Fenway Frank...

A: A Fenway Frank? How are those Fenway Franks? They're any good?

B: Oh there's nothing like 'em in the world.

A: Are they overpriced or what?

B: Amazing, they're incredibly overpriced and amazingly fatty and caloric.

A: How much do they **run for**?

B: They run for five times more than what you buy in the supermarket but it's all about the experience.

A: Yeah, absolutely and during the **seventh inning stretch** do they play any music or are there any games that go on like trivia?

B: Oh yeah there's typically some kind of a rock music going on, people get up and, by then people are pretty much **tanked** for the most part so people are happy and if they're not fighting in the stands they're just kind of enjoying the experience of being out there that way and then of course sometimes during the seventh inning stretch you get **the wave** and the wave was when one small group of people decides to stand up and just kind of **undulate** their arms like a snake and what happens is, it goes across the entire stadium and it's really amazing to watch if you're looking at the other side of the stadium you can see this mass of humanity just ebbing and flowing, it's really pretty cool.

A: ok and does that only happen during the seventh inning stretch or is that at any time during the game?

B: Oh no that could be any time- usually, fortunately it's usually when there's, when there's not the heat of the action and people are kinda, lookin' for something, a little bit of a diversion from the game.

A: Yeah

B: But it could happen any time.

A: So baseball's fun- I mean, people love their baseball in Boston. Are there any other, sort of, traditions that happen every time, so junk food, eating Fenway Franks, the wave, um the seventh inning stretch- anything else that comes to your mind?

B: Ya know, it's just the whole experience, when you get there it's really fun, people are excited and **anticipating** the game, if you get good weather there's nothing like it-half the, half the stadium has their shirts off getting tan, it's just people....

A: Even now? Back in the '70's maybe but even now?

B: Well ya know, actually back then they used to put Johnson's Baby Oil on to intensify the tan now all those people have skin cancer.

A: Haha ok

B: But uh, I guess that doesn't happen quite as much as it used to but the **spirit** is still there.

A: Alright so a day at Fenway.

B: Yes, so a day at Fenway.