

Cricket vocabulary

Ashes – the historic Test series between England and Australia, symbolised by a tiny urn.

Bails – two small pieces of wood that sit on top of the stumps to form the wicket.

Bat – a flat wooden tool made of willow used by the batter to hit the ball.

Boundary – the edge of the field; hitting the ball to it scores four runs, over it scores six.

Captain's Review – a challenge system that allows teams to request a video review of an umpire's decision.

Hawk-Eye – ball-tracking technology that shows the path, bounce, and predicted movement of a delivery.

IPL (Indian Premier League) – the world's richest T20 cricket league, known for high salaries and big crowds.

Pitch – the central 22-yard strip where the bowler delivers the ball and the batters run.

Run – the basic unit of scoring; earned when batters successfully switch ends of the pitch.

Street Cricket – informal cricket played with simple or improvised equipment such as tennis balls and painted wickets.

Stumps – the three vertical wooden posts that form part of the wicket.

Test Match – the longest cricket format, played over up to five days and considered the most traditional.

T20 (Twenty20) – a fast, short cricket format where each team bats for 20 overs.

Ultra Edge – audio-visual technology that detects tiny touches between bat and ball.

Wicket – the combination of stumps and bails; also used to mean a batter's dismissal.

Idioms from Cricket

A good innings – a long life or a successful period of time.

Batting for the other team – supporting someone else instead of your own side.

Bowled over – shocked, amazed, or extremely impressed.

Bowling a googly – presenting someone with an unexpected challenge or surprise.

Caught out – exposed or discovered doing something wrong.

Hit for six – overwhelmed or badly affected by news or events.

Keep a straight bat – remain honest, calm, or fair under pressure.

Level playing field – a situation where everyone has a fair and equal chance.

Off one's own bat – doing something independently or through your own effort.

On a sticky wicket – in a difficult or awkward situation.

Stumped – completely confused or unable to answer.

That's not cricket – behaviour that is unfair or not in the right spirit.