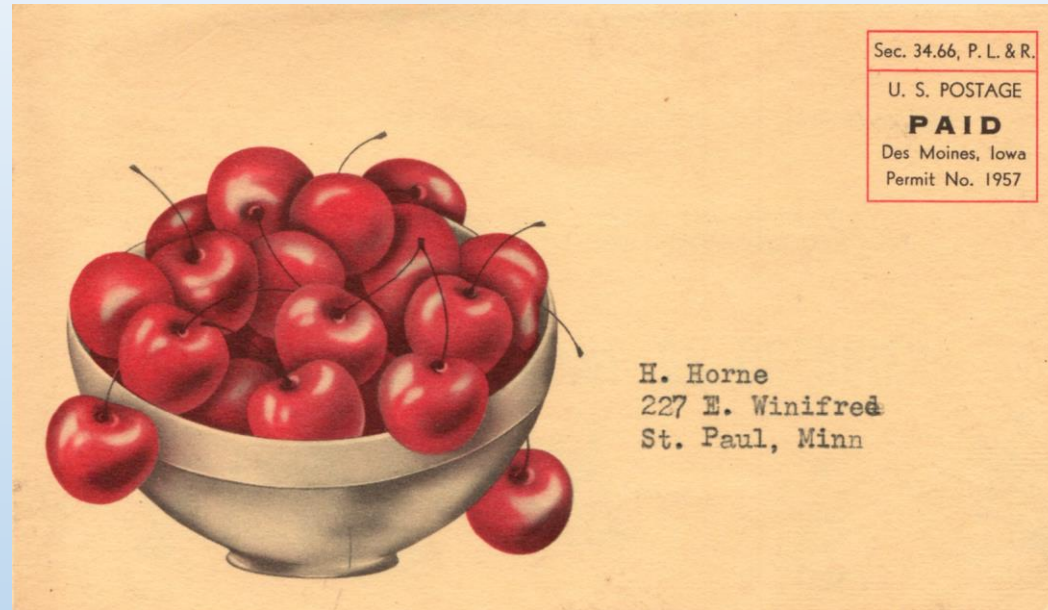


Life is Just a _____



[Bowl of Cherries]

Idioms Illustrated and Explained – Part IV Sports & Games (9 phrases)

by Tom Fortunato

idiom (n.)- an expression whose meaning can not be derived from its elements

How many times over the course of a day do you hear these? They're so common in our vernacular that we hardly take the time to recognize them with thousands in the English language alone. A few are presented here using a wide variety of material found mostly in dealer junk boxes. Don't expect to find philatelic rarities, but you will see some interesting items.

Most important is your participation! This presentation is in "fill in the blank" game format. You'll see a partial phrase at the top of each page related to the item shown along with a clue to the idiom's meaning. Just complete the phrase and keep track of your number right and wrong.

PowerPoint users have 5 seconds before a 15 second timeclock counts down then "dings," by which time an answer must be given. PDF users play on the honor system! Clicking the next page reveals the answer along with details of the origins and meaning of the idiom. Ten references were used researching these. Not all agreed, but the majority plausible response appears here.

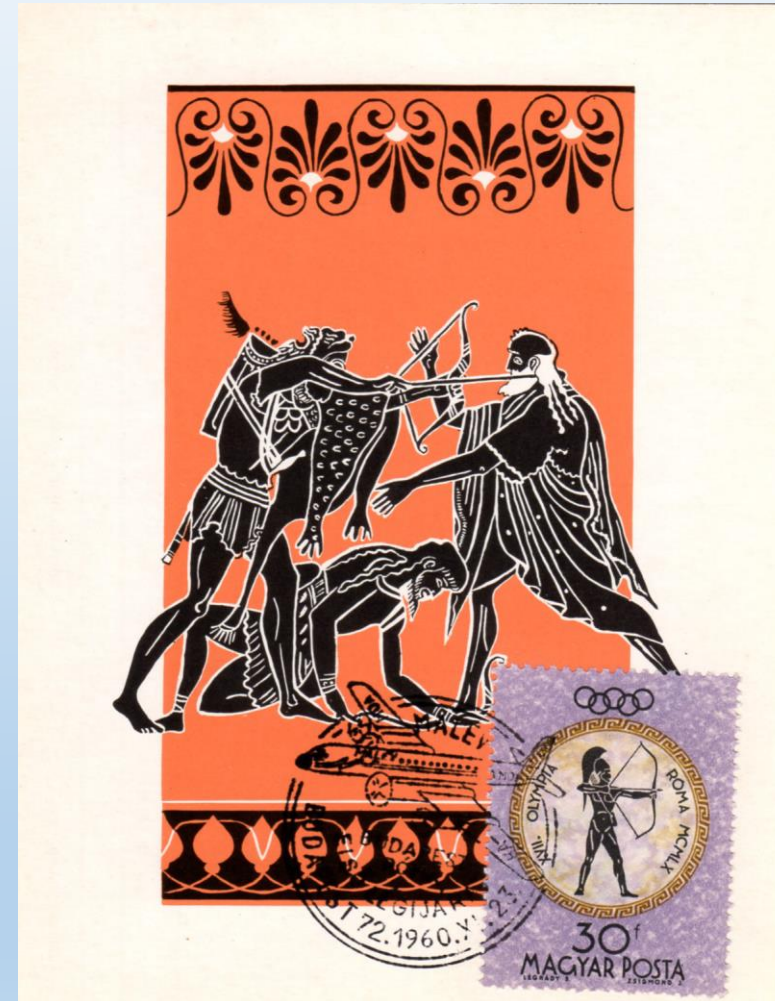
This is 1 of 7 thematic related parts (# phrases in each). Enjoy them all!

I – Animals (24) II – Food (14) III – Man (18) **IV - Sports & Games (9)**

V – Nature (25) VI – Music (8) VII - Pot Luck (39)

IV- Sports & Games draw the _____

- *exaggerate*



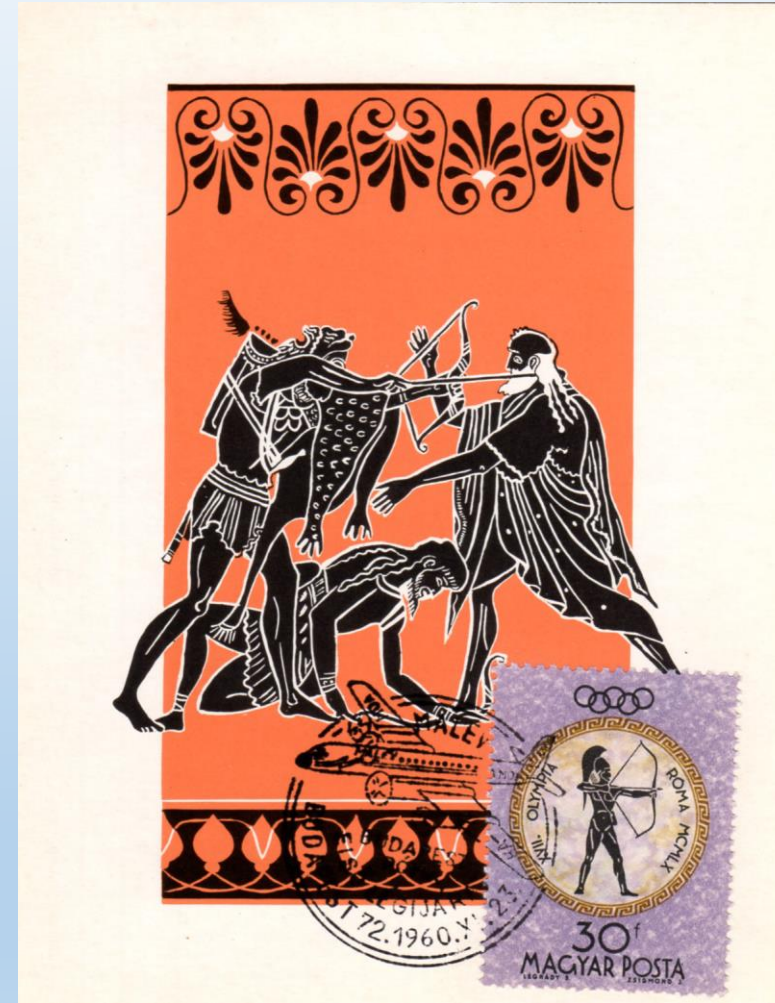
- 1
- 5
- 1
- 4
- 1
- 3
- 1
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 0
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1

Click ³ after bell

IV- Sports & Games draw the long bow

- *exaggerate*

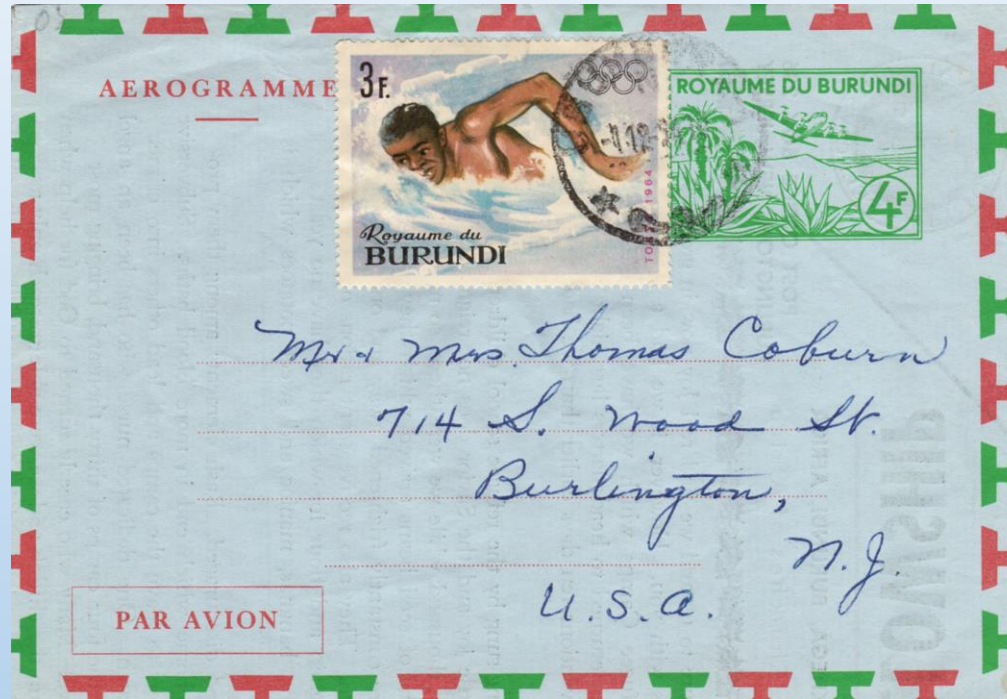
The long bow was the primary weapon used in medieval times. In 1668 Sir Roger L'Estrange wrote, "There came to us several tradesmen, the first of them a poor rogue that made a profession of drawing the long bow."



- 1
- 5
- 1
- 4
- 1
- 3
- 1
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 0
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1

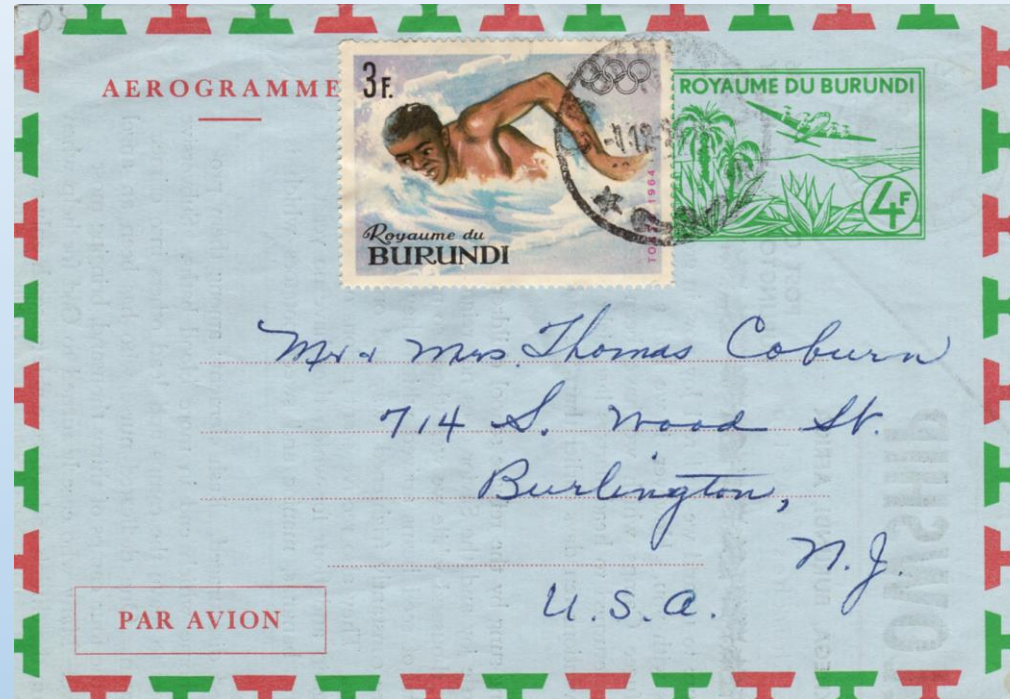
IV- Sports & Games sink _____

- *fail or succeed*



IV- Sports & Games sink or swim

- *fail or succeed*



From the 13th century, in telling of fate. In 1368, Chaucer wrote in *The Complaynte onto Pyte*, “flete or synke.”



IV- Sports & Games no

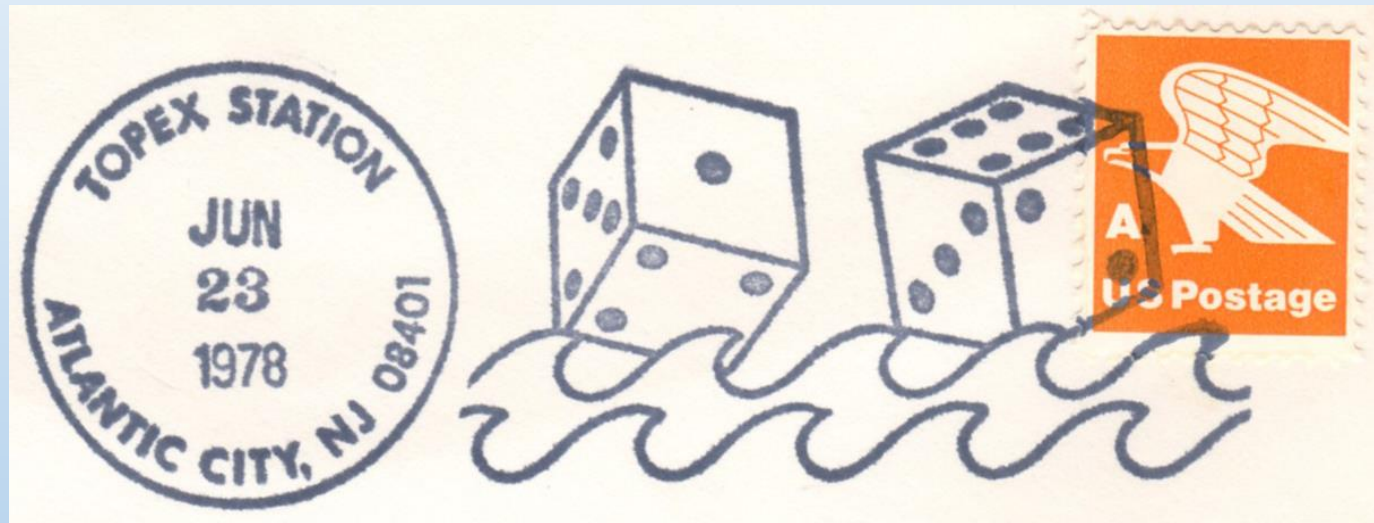
- *not possible, no*



Click after bell

IV- Sports & Games no dice

- *not possible, no*

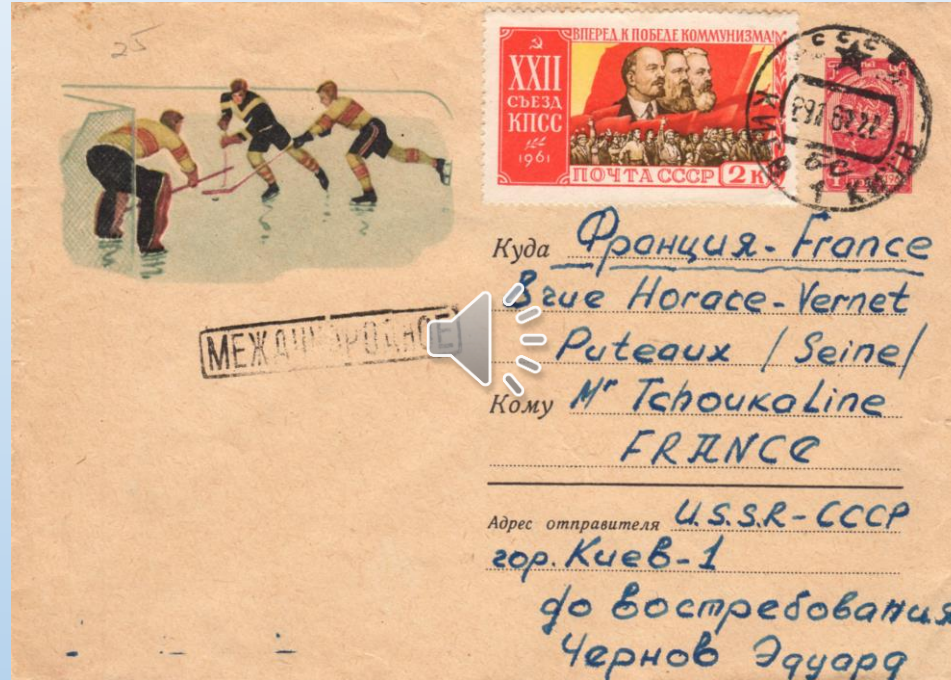


20th century American term of unknown origin, but without dice there would be no game.



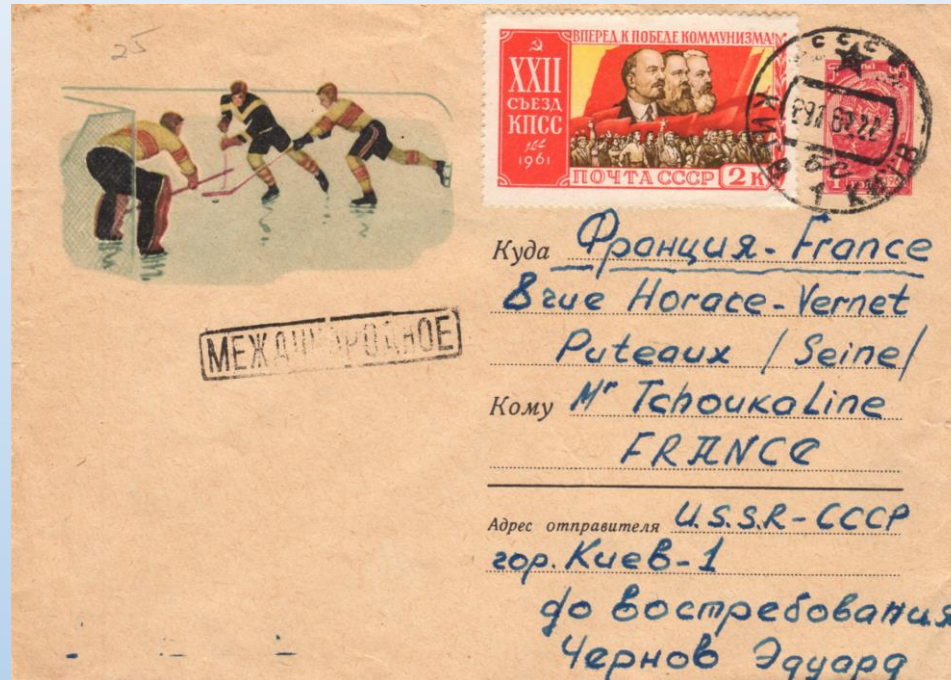
IV- Sports & Games on thin ice

- *risky, unsubstantiated*



IV- Sports & Games skating on thin ice

- *risky, unsubstantiated*

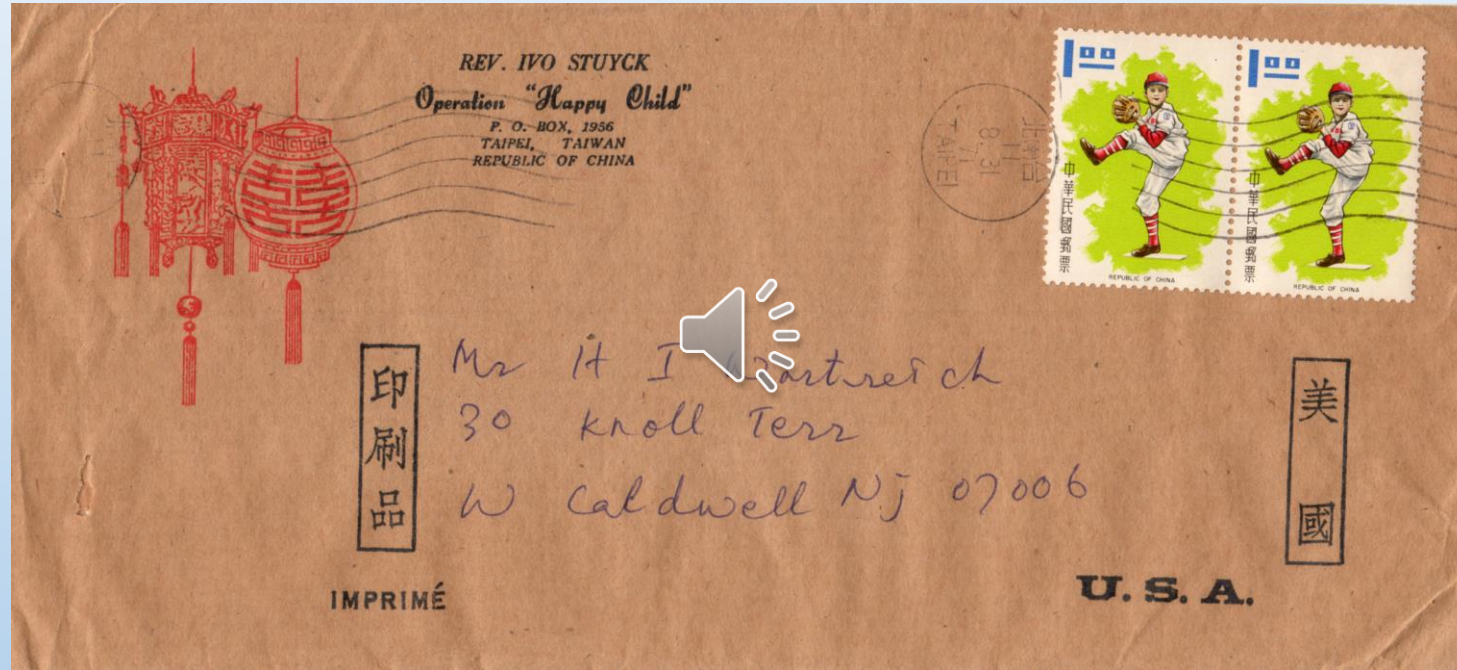


Ice skating originated in its natural setting on lakes or ponds. If one went too quickly, and the ice was thin, you couldn't stop and fell in. An 1897 reference in *Church Times* tells, "Cardinal Vaughn is an adept at skating on thin ice... his many points were weak, but he glided over them."



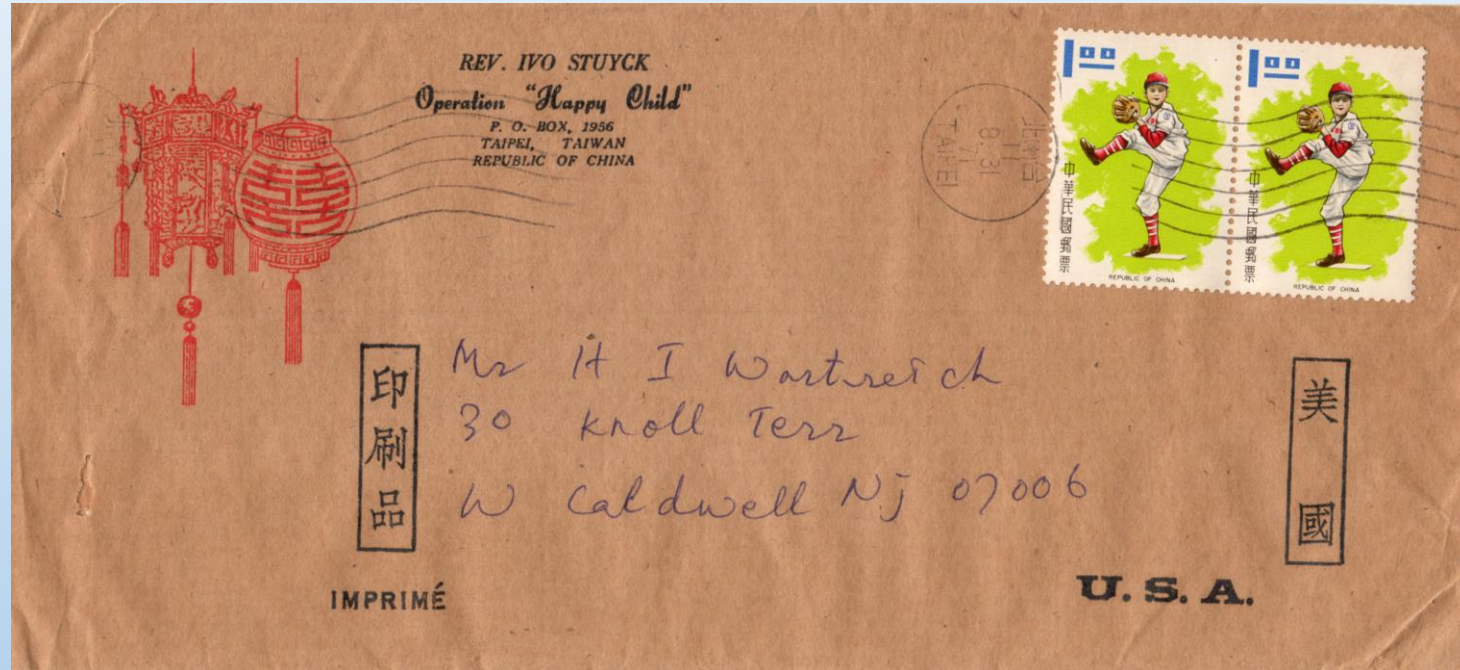
IV- Sports & Games _____ have big ears

- *children are smarter than you think*



IV- Sports & Games **little pitchers** have big ears

- *children are smarter than you think*



Phrase attributed to John Heywood in 1546 actually referring to a child's ear resembling a handle of a water pitcher. Modern connotation is given to the sport of baseball.



IV- Sports & Games _____ you later

- *goodbye, see you around*



IV- Sports & Games **catch** you later

- *goodbye, see you around*



African-American expression from the mid 20th century. Catch referring to grab, trap, or capture.



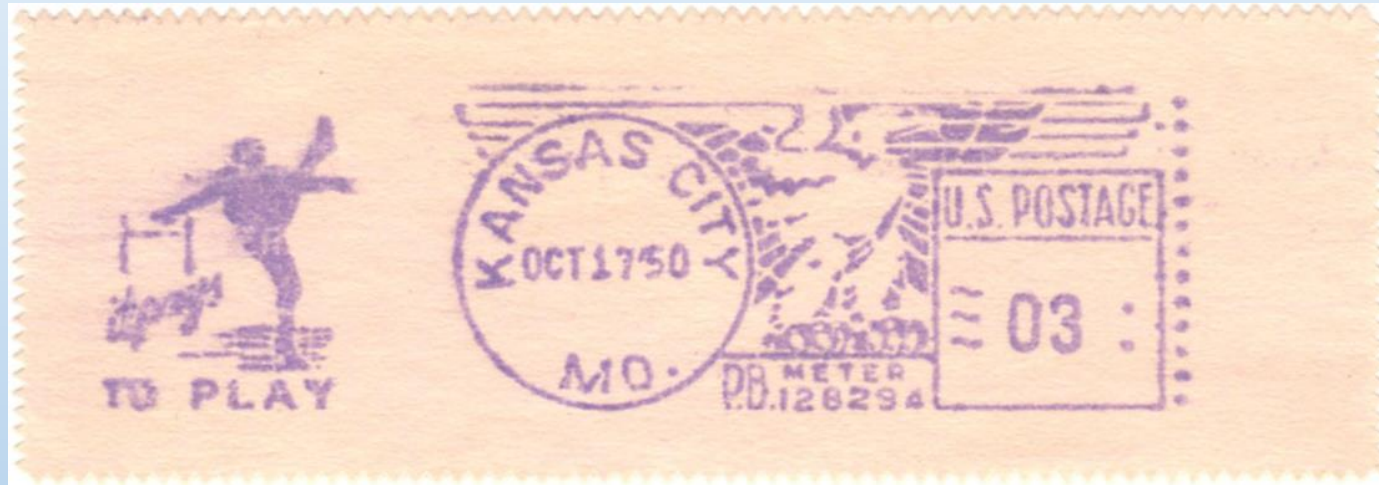
IV- Sports & Games the field

- *uncommitted, unattached*



IV- Sports & Games **play** the field

- *uncommitted, unattached*



Racing gamblers in the 19th century “played the field” by betting on all horses except the favorite. 20th century expression mainly deals with the dating of many boyfriends/girlfriends.



IV- Sports & Games par _____

- *the norm, expected*



IV- Sports & Games par for the course

- *the norm, expected*

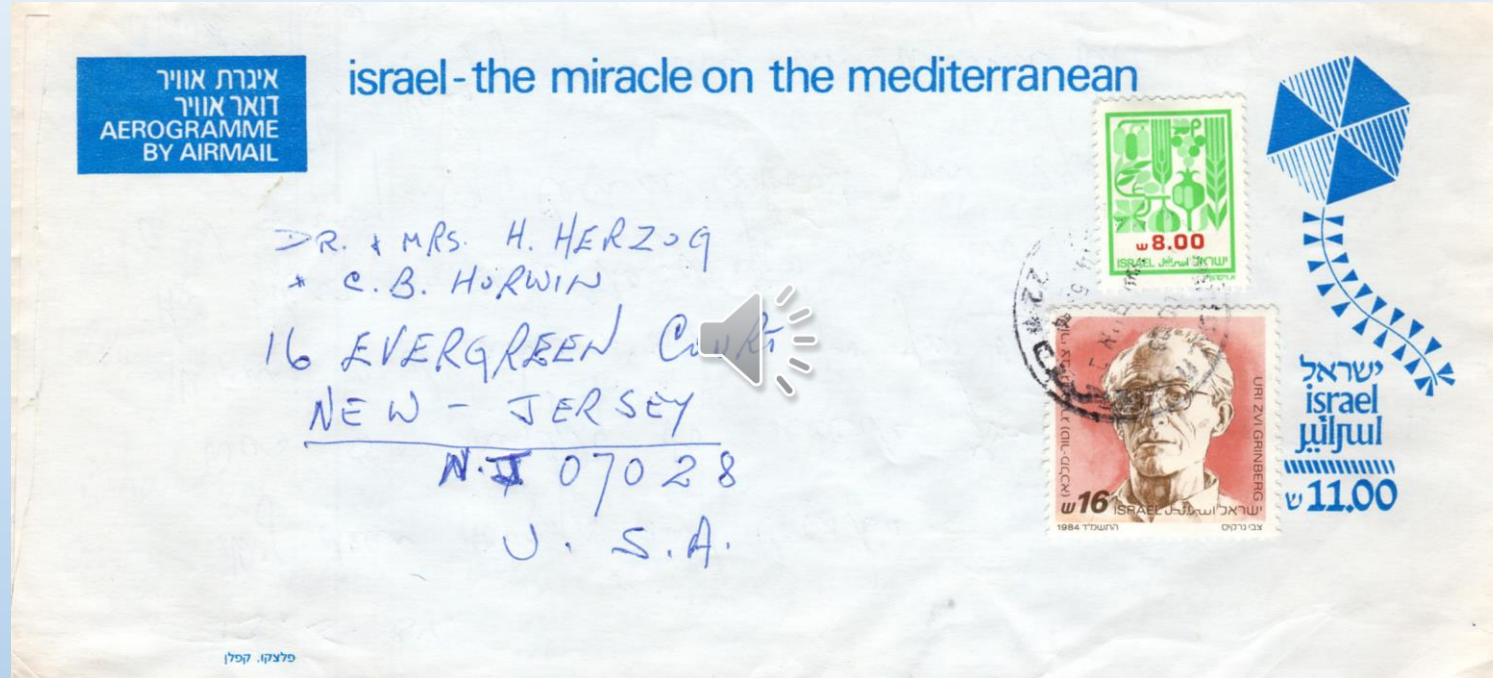


First used in the 20th century, par being the term for breaking even in golf.



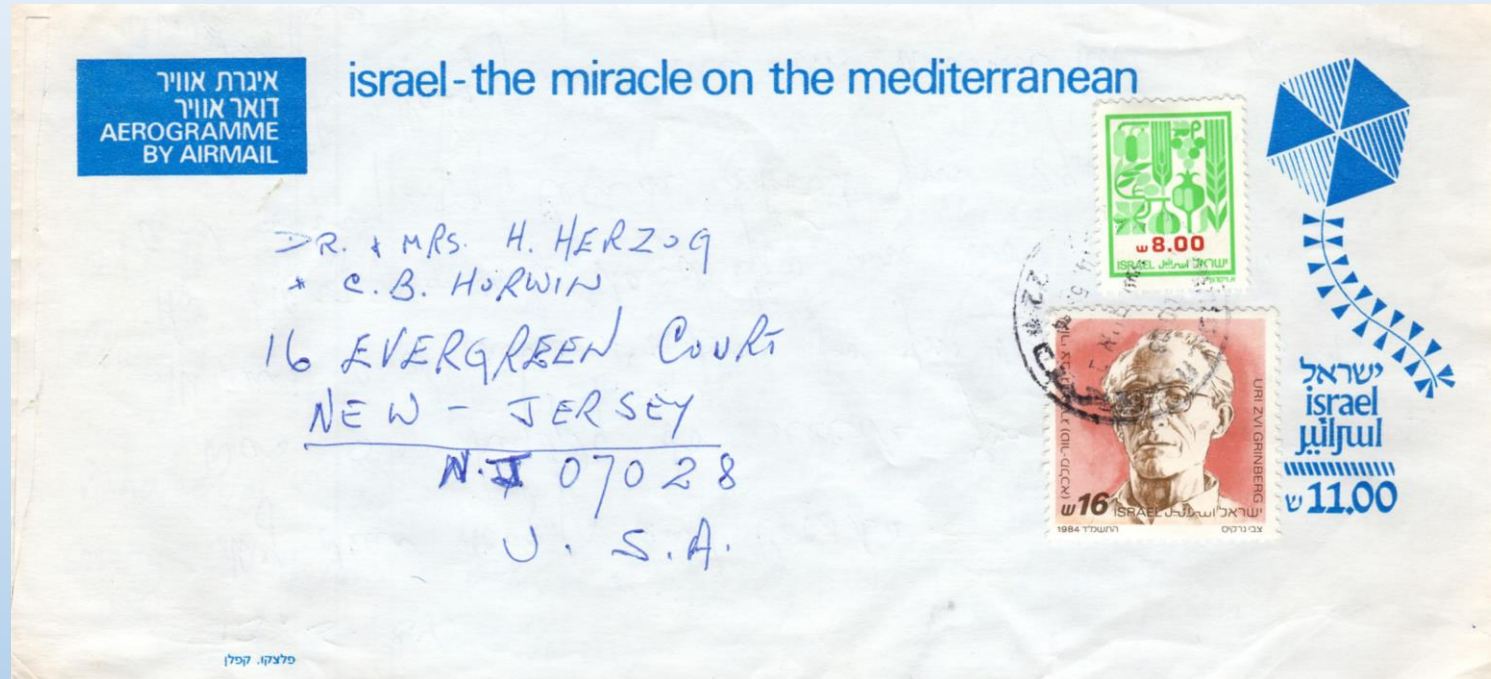
IV- Sports & Games go _____

- *leave, go away*



IV- Sports & Games go fly a kite

- *leave, go away*



Unknown origin. Flying a kite should keep anyone busy for a while, as long as there's wind.



This is the end of Part IV- Sports & Games.

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try one of the other parts!

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exhibit online at:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/presentations>