OPEN CLOZE EX. 4

Complete the text about baseball by finding ONE word that fits into each blank.

**Baseball – America's National Sport**

Baseball is America's national sport. But, (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it originated in the USA baseball is played in (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_other countries, especially in Central and South America and Japan. Baseball became an Olympic sport at the 1992 Olympics. Baseball is not (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a sport but an American way of life. Many families spend summer afternoons (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their children at a baseball park, sitting in the stands with popcorn and hot dogs. They cheer for their favorite team and wear their baseball caps. The game (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ played with a long wooden bat and a small hard ball. The players have large heavy gloves (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ catch the ball. They usually wear light shirts and knee-long trousers. Shoes have spikes on (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to help players run on the field. A baseball field is divided (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ two parts. The infield has the shape of a diamond and is bordered by the bases that runners run around. A few players stand in the grassy outfield and wait to catch the ball (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ letting it drop on the ground. A baseball game consists (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nine parts called innings. Teams take turns trying to score runs and defend. A pitcher throws the ball towards a batter (11) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tries to hit it so that the other team can't catch it. The batter tries to run around the bases as fast (12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ possible. A ball that is hit into the stands is called a home run. The team that scores the (13) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_runs after nine innings wins the game.