

## Who's On First?

*(Costello is joining Abbot's Baseball team, and is seeking knowledge necessary to get to know the team. Abbot gladly provides.)*

COSTELLO: Hey Abbott!

ABBOTT: Mornin' Costello.

COSTELLO: So, I'm joining your team.

ABBOTT: So I've heard! Glad to have you on. Now, naturally, you'll have to learn the others' names.

COSTELLO: That would be useful.

ABBOTT: I will warn you, though.

COSTELLO *interjecting*: Oh?

ABBOTT: Players can have really, really weird names these days.

COSTELLO: I'm sure they can't be *\*that\** weird. Fire away.

ABBOTT: Let's see... starting in the infield. We have Who on first.

*(COSTELLO exhibits a look of confusion)*

ABBOTT, *continuing*: What is on second... and I Don't Know is on third.

COSTELLO, *dumbfounded*: So... You're the manager...

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: And you don't know the player's names...???

ABBOTT: I do too know their names!

COSTELLO: If you know their names, then tell me this. Who's on First?

ABBOTT: Yep.

COSTELLO: No, no, that was the question.

ABBOTT: And you got it right!

COSTELLO: Please just tell me who is playing first base.

ABBOTT: That he is.

COSTELLO: Please tell me his name.

ABBOTT: Who?

COSTELLO: The guy on first base.

ABBOTT: Yeah, Who.

COSTELLO: That's what I'm asking you for!

ABBOTT: Who's Name?

COSTELLO: I've already told you! The person who is playing first base!

ABBOTT: Oh..... Who.

COSTELLO: Why won't you tell me what the first baseman's name is?

ABBOTT: No, What plays second base.

COSTELLO: I'm just trying to figure out who plays first base. I don't care who's on second.

ABBOTT: No, who's on first.

COSTELLO: I. DON'T. KNOW.

ABBOTT: No, he's on third.

COSTELLO: I'm not talking about third base.

ABBOTT: Well, that was his name.

COSTELLO: If I said his name, whose name did I say for third base?

ABBOTT: No, Who is on First.

COSTELLO: No, no, what name did I say that was the third baseman's?  
ABBOTT: No, he's on second.  
COSTELLO: I'm not asking who's on second.  
ABBOTT: Who's on first.  
COSTELLO: I don't know.  
ABBOTT: He's on third.  
COSTELLO: And would you please let me know the third baseman's name?  
ABBOTT: I Don't Know.  
COSTELLO: Please tell me who's on third!  
ABBOTT: Why do you insist on putting who on third?  
COSTELLO: Who am I putting on third?  
ABBOTT: Yes, and he doesn't go there.  
COSTELLO: So what is the third baseman's name?  
ABBOTT: No, What is on second.  
COSTELLO: Who's on second?  
ABBOTT: Who's on first.  
COSTELLO: I DON'T KNOW!  
BOTH: THIRD BASE!  
\*BOTH stand for a few seconds\*  
COSTELLO: So, is there an... outfield?  
ABBOTT: Well of course There is!  
COSTELLO: Do I even want to ask for the left fielder's name?  
ABBOTT: Why.  
COSTELLO: I was curious, and thought I'd ask you.  
ABBOTT: And I just thought I'd tell you!  
COSTELLO, *fuming*: So who's playing left field?  
ABBOTT: No, who's on fi-  
COSTELLO: STAY OUT OF THE INFIELD!!! I. JUST. WANT. TO. KNOW. WHAT. THE. LEFT. FIELDERS. NAME. IS.  
ABBOTT: What's on second.  
COSTELLO *snippily*: I'm not asking you who's on second.  
ABBOTT: Who's on first.  
COSTELLO: I don't know!  
BOTH: THIRD BASE!!  
COSTELLO: So... the Left Fielder's name is...  
ABBOTT: ... Why.  
COSTELLO: Because.  
ABBOTT: Oh. He's in Center Field.  
COSTELLO: \*sigh\*(*make this a long sigh.*) Do you have a pitcher?  
ABBOTT: Yeah.  
COSTELLO: And their name is...  
ABBOTT: Tomorrow.  
COSTELLO: You don't want to tell me today?  
ABBOTT: I'm telling you now.

COSTELLO: Then go ahead.

ABBOTT: Tomorrow.

COSTELLO: What time?

ABBOTT: What time what?

COSTELLO: What time tomorrow are you going to tell me who's pitching?

ABBOTT: Now listen. Who is not pitching. Who is on f-

COSTELLO: IF YOU TELL ME WHO'S ON FIRST ONE MORE TIME, I'M GOING TO HURT YOU. JUST TELL ME WHAT THE PITCHER'S NAME IS.

ABBOTT: What's on second.

COSTELLO: I don't know.

BOTH: THIRD BASE!!!

(BOTH *stand for a few seconds again*)

COSTELLO: Okay, I gotta try to sort this out. So, if, as you say, Tomorrow is pitching.

ABBOTT: Correct.

COSTELLO: So. Tomorrow throws the ball. The other team's batter decides to bunt the ball. So I pick up the ball, and throw it to... Who?

ABBOTT: That's the first thing you've said right!

COSTELLO, *exasperated*: I don't even know what I'm talking about!

ABBOTT: Well, that's all you have to do.

COSTELLO: Is throw the ball to first base.

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: Now... who's got it?

ABBOTT: Naturally.

COSTELLO: I threw the ball to first base and who's caught it?

ABBOTT: Naturally.

COSTELLO: Who caught it?

ABBOTT: Naturally.

COSTELLO: Naturally.

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: So I pick up the ball and throw it to Naturally.

ABBOTT: No no no. You throw the ball to first base and who gets it? (*attempting to lead COSTELLO to the same conclusion*)

COSTELLO: Naturally.

ABBOTT: That's right. There we go.

COSTELLO: So I pick up the ball and throw it to Naturally.

ABBOTT: You don't.

COSTELLO: So I throw it to who?

ABBOTT: Naturally.

COSTELLO: THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING!!!

ABBOTT: No, you're not.

COSTELLO: I said I throw the ball to naturally.

ABBOTT: You don't. You throw the ball to who?

COSTELLO: Naturally.

ABBOTT: Thank you.

COSTELLO: So I throw the ball to Naturally,

ABBOTT: No.

COSTELLO: I throw it to who?

ABBOTT: Yes, you throw it to who.

COSTELLO: SO... I throw the ball to whoever, they drop the ball, so the guy runs to second.

Whoever it is throws it to what, what throws it to I Don't Know, and I Don't Know throws it back to Tomorrow. Triple Play.

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: Another guy gets up, and hits the ball to Because. Why? I Don't Know. He's on third and I don't care.

ABBOTT: What was that?

COSTELLO: I. DON'T. CARE.

ABBOTT: Oh. That's our shortstop.