

Science of  
**batting**



What is a player's  
"on base percentage"?



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A player's "on base percentage" (OBP) tells you how often a player doesn't get an out when they are at the plate.

Here's the formula for calculating OBP:

$$\frac{(H+BB+HBP)}{(AB+BB+HBP+SF)} = \text{OBP}$$

Here's what it means:

H=Hits; BB= Bases on Balls (walks); HBP= Hit by Pitch; AB=At Bats  
SF=Sacrifice Fly

And here is an example for Dustin Pedroia for the 2009 season:

$$\frac{(185+74+5)}{(626+74+5+6)} = .371$$

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Pedroia had a batting average of .296

The best leadoff hitters in baseball have high on-base percentages. Coaches want their first batter to reach base and get into scoring position!

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