The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY BASEBALL PLAYER SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 66. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

SPORTS & FITNESS

In MLB, where is the top of the strike zone?

- **A** Midway between shoulders and top of the pants
- **B** At the top of the batter's shoulders
- **C** At the batter's belt buckle

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Midway between shoulders and top of the pants

WHY The rulebook puts the top of the zone at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants. It is judged from the batter's stance, ready to swing.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the umpire get a new job? He was great at making calls.

SESK.INFO #10154

SPORTS & FITNESS

A pitch hits the ground, then bounces through the strike zone. The batter does not swing. What is it?

- **A** A strike
- **B** A ball
- **C** A do-over pitch

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A ball

WHY The rulebook says a pitch that touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone is a ball. Only a pitch that goes through the zone in the air can be a called strike.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitch go to therapy? It kept hitting rock bottom.

SESK.INFO #10155

SPORTS & FITNESS

How many strikes does it take for a batter to strike out?

- **A** Three
- **B** Four
- **C** Two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Three

WHY A batter strikes out on three strikes. Strike three can be called, swinging, a caught foul tip, or a two-strike foul bunt.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter love his phone plan? Three strikes and you are out of data.

SESK.INFO #10156

SPORTS & FITNESS

How many balls earn a batter a walk to first base?

- **A** Three
- **B** Five
- **C** Four

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Four

WHY A walk, or base on balls, comes after four pitches outside the strike zone that the batter does not swing at. The batter goes to first base. Scorers write it as BB.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter take the bus to first? He was told to walk.

SESK.INFO #10157

SPORTS & FITNESS

When an announcer says the count is 3 and 1, what does the 3 mean?

- **A** Three strikes
- **B** Three outs
- **C** Three balls

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Three balls

WHY The count lists balls first, then strikes. So 3 and 1 means three balls and one strike, a great spot for the batter. A full count is 3 and 2.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the count go to math class? It wanted to be full.

SESK.INFO #10158

SPORTS & FITNESS

A batter with two strikes swings and hits a regular foul ball. What happens?

- **A** The batter is out on strike three
- **B** The count stays the same
- **C** The batter gets a ball

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The count stays the same

WHY A foul ball counts as a strike only when the batter has fewer than two strikes. With two strikes, a normal foul cannot be strike three, so the batter keeps hitting.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the chicken get kicked off the team? Too many fowl balls.

SESK.INFO #10159

SPORTS & FITNESS

With two strikes, a batter bunts the ball foul. What is the call?

- **A** The batter is out
- **B** Just a foul, keep batting
- **C** A ball is added to the count

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The batter is out

WHY Unlike a swing, a bunt fouled off with two strikes counts as strike three. That is why most batters stop bunting once they have two strikes.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the baker get a hit? She knew how to bunt a cake.

SESK.INFO #10160

SPORTS & FITNESS

With two strikes, the batter tips a pitch straight into the catcher's glove and it is caught. What happens?

- **A** Foul ball, keep batting
- **B** The batter is out
- **C** The batter goes to first

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The batter is out

WHY A foul tip goes sharply and directly to the catcher's hand or glove and is caught. It counts as a strike, and with two strikes that means strike three. If the catcher does not catch it, it is just a foul.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the catcher leave a big tip? The service was a foul tip-top.

SESK.INFO #10161

SPORTS & FITNESS

A pitch is inside the strike zone when it hits the batter. What is the call?

- **A** First base for the batter
- **B** A ball
- **C** A strike

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A strike

WHY If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it is called a strike, even if the batter tried to get out of the way. Strikes beat hit-by-pitches.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the strike zone win the argument? It had all the right angles.

SPORTS & FITNESS

A pitch hits a batter who did not swing at it. What does the batter usually get?

- **A** First base
- **B** Second base
- **C** A free swing

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A First base

WHY A batter hit by a pitch he did not swing at is awarded first base. It does not count as a hit, but it counts as reaching base for on-base percentage.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter get first base? The pitch really touched him.

SPORTS & FITNESS

A batter pops the ball up into foul territory and a fielder catches it. Is the batter out?

- **A** Yes, the batter is out
- **B** No, it is just a strike
- **C** Only with two strikes

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Yes, the batter is out

WHY The rulebook says a batter is out when his fair or foul fly ball is legally caught. Fielders often chase pop ups near the dugout and stands for this reason.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the fielder dive into the stands? He was a big fan of catching fouls.

SPORTS & FITNESS

In baseball slang, what is a "can of corn"?

- **A** A ground ball through the legs
- **B** An easy fly ball to an outfielder
- **C** A home run to center field

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B An easy fly ball to an outfielder

WHY A can of corn is a routine fly ball to an outfielder. When it is caught in the air, the batter is out on a flyout.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the outfielder bring a can opener? Someone hit a can of corn.

SPORTS & FITNESS

On a ground ball, how does the defense usually get the batter out?

- **A** Tag home plate
- **B** Catch it on one bounce
- **C** Throw to or step on first base

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Throw to or step on first base

WHY On a groundout, a fielder records the out by throwing to first base or stepping on it before the batter arrives. Catching a ball after a bounce never makes an out by itself.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the ground ball apologize? It was feeling a little down.

SESK.INFO #10166

SPORTS & FITNESS

Normally, when can a fielder holding the ball tag a runner out?

- **A** Any time, even on a base they own
- **B** Only at home plate
- **C** When off a base they are entitled to

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C When off a base they are entitled to

WHY With the ball alive, a runner is normally out when tagged while not touching a base they are entitled to. The fielder must control the ball through the tag.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the runner love tag? He was it-ching to steal.

SESK.INFO #10167

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a force play, how can the defense get the forced runner out?

- **A** Touch the next base before the runner
- **B** Only by tagging the runner
- **C** Catch the ball on a bounce

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Touch the next base before the runner

WHY A runner is forced when he must move up because the batter becomes a runner. The defense only has to touch the base he is running to while holding the ball. First base has the most force plays.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the runner so calm? He knew the force was with him.

SESK.INFO #10168

SPORTS & FITNESS

Runner on first. The batter is thrown out at first base first. Now how must they get the other runner at second?

- **A** Step on second base
- **B** Tag the runner
- **C** Throw to home plate

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Tag the runner

WHY When the defense first forces out a trailing runner, the force play is removed. The runner ahead is no longer forced, so the defense must tag him to get him out.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the shortstop get confused? The force was not with him anymore.

SESK.INFO #10169

SPORTS & FITNESS

When can the infield fly rule be called?

- **A** Any pop up with two outs
- **B** Runners on first and second, fewer than two outs
- **C** Only with the bases empty

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Runners on first and second, fewer than two outs

WHY The infield fly rule applies to a fair, easy pop up with runners on first and second, or the bases loaded, before two are out. It stops fielders from dropping the ball on purpose to get a double play.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the pop up so smug? It knew the rules were on its side.

SESK.INFO #10170

SPORTS & FITNESS

The umpire calls "infield fly," the ball lands fair, and the infielder drops it. What happens to the batter?

- **A** The batter is safe at first
- **B** The batter is still out
- **C** The pitch is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The batter is still out

WHY An infield fly is a fair fly ball. Once it is declared and remains fair, the batter is out even if the ball is not caught. Runners may advance at their own risk.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the infielder drop the pop up? He thought the rule would catch it for him.

SESK.INFO #10171

SPORTS & FITNESS

A fly ball is caught. What must a runner do before running to the next base?

- **A** Nothing, just run
- **B** Touch home plate
- **C** Retouch the base he started on

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Retouch the base he started on

WHY After a fly ball is caught, a runner must retouch his base before advancing. If he does not, the defense can appeal and get him out by tagging him or the base.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the runner wait on third? He was told to tag along.

SESK.INFO #10172

SPORTS & FITNESS

A pitcher balks with runners on base. What happens?

- **A** The batter gets first base
- **B** The pitcher is ejected
- **C** All runners advance one base

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C All runners advance one base

WHY A balk is an illegal act by the pitcher with runners on base. Every runner is awarded the next base. Balk rules stop pitchers from tricking runners.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher balk at dinner? He did not want to commit.

SESK.INFO #10173

SPORTS & FITNESS

Bases empty, the catcher drops strike three. What can the batter do?

- **A** Nothing; he is out
- **B** Try to run to first base
- **C** Take another swing

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Try to run to first base

WHY If the catcher does not catch the third strike cleanly, the batter can try to run to first when first base is open or there are two outs. The pitcher still gets credit for a strikeout.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter run after striking out? The catcher dropped the hint.

SESK.INFO #10175

SPORTS & FITNESS

In MLB since 2023, what happens if a pitcher's third pickoff try in one at bat fails?

- **A** It is a balk; runners advance
- **B** Nothing, he can keep throwing
- **C** The batter gets a strike

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A It is a balk; runners advance

WHY Since 2023, MLB pitchers get two disengagements (pickoff tries or step offs) per plate appearance. A third one is a balk unless it gets the runner out. The limit resets if a runner advances.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher stop throwing to first? He ran out of excuses.

SESK.INFO #10174

SPORTS & FITNESS

A fly ball hits the foul pole. What is it?

- **A** A foul ball
- **B** A ground rule double
- **C** A home run

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A home run

WHY Despite the name, the foul lines and foul poles count as fair territory. A batted ball that hits the foul pole on the fly is a home run.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is the foul pole so confusing? It has a name that plays fair.

SESK.INFO #10177

SPORTS & FITNESS

Runner on first, one out. The catcher drops strike three. What happens to the batter?

- **A** He can run to first
- **B** He gets to bat again
- **C** He is out

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C He is out

WHY The batter is out on an uncaught third strike when first base is occupied before two are out. The rule stops catchers from dropping the ball on purpose to start a double play.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter stay put? First base was already booked.

SESK.INFO #10176

SPORTS & FITNESS

How many innings is a regulation MLB game?

- **A** Seven
- **B** Nine
- **C** Ten

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Nine

WHY A regulation game is nine innings. It goes longer if the score is tied and can end early if the home team does not need its last turn at bat. Softball games are usually seven.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do baseball games have nine innings?
Because ten would be in-too-many.

SESK.INFO #10179

SPORTS & FITNESS

A ground ball bounces over first base, then rolls into foul territory. Fair or foul?

- **A** Fair
- **B** Foul
- **C** A do-over

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Fair

WHY A ball that lands between home and first or third is fair if it bounces over or touches the base. Where it rolls after that does not matter. If it rolls foul before the base, it is foul.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the ground ball feel good? It was treated fair and square.

SESK.INFO #10178

SPORTS & FITNESS

In MLB regular season games, how does each extra inning start?

- **A** With a runner on second base
- **B** With a runner on first base
- **C** With the bases loaded

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A With a runner on second base

WHY Every half inning after the ninth starts with an automatic runner on second base in MLB regular season games. It began in 2020 and became permanent in 2023. The postseason does not use it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the runner on second so relaxed? He got a head start.

SESK.INFO #10181

SPORTS & FITNESS

The home team leads after the top of the ninth inning. What happens?

- **A** The home team bats anyway
- **B** The game is over
- **C** They play a tenth inning

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The game is over

WHY If the home team is ahead after the visitors make their last three outs in the ninth, the home team wins and skips its turn at bat. That is why an X sometimes appears on the scoreboard.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the home team skip the ninth? They did not need the extra batter-y.

SESK.INFO #10180

SPORTS & FITNESS

In MLB since 2023, how long does a pitcher have to pitch with the bases empty?

- **A** 10 seconds
- **B** 20 seconds
- **C** 15 seconds

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C 15 seconds

WHY MLB added a pitch timer in 2023: 15 seconds with the bases empty. With runners on base it was 20 seconds, cut to 18 seconds in 2024. There are 30 seconds between batters.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher buy a watch? He kept running out of time.

SESK.INFO #10182

SPORTS & FITNESS

In MLB, what happens when a pitcher does not start his pitch before the pitch clock runs out?

- **A** An automatic ball
- **B** An automatic strike
- **C** The pitcher is removed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A An automatic ball

WHY Pitchers who violate the timer are charged an automatic ball. Batters who are not in the box and ready by the 8 second mark are charged an automatic strike.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher stare at the clock? He was trying to kill time.

SESK.INFO #10183

SPORTS & FITNESS

In 2023, MLB made its bases bigger. How big are they now?

- **A** 15 inches square
- **B** 18 inches square
- **C** 24 inches square

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 18 inches square

WHY MLB grew first, second and third base from 15 to 18 inch squares in 2023. Home plate did not change. The bigger bags give players room to avoid collisions.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the bases go to the gym? They wanted to bulk up for 2023.

SESK.INFO #10184

SPORTS & FITNESS

Who does the designated hitter bat in place of?

- **A** The catcher
- **B** The worst hitter
- **C** The pitcher

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The pitcher

WHY The designated hitter, or DH, bats in place of the pitcher. The DH does not play defense, and the pitcher stays in the field without batting.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher love the DH? Someone else could take a swing at it.

SESK.INFO #10185

SPORTS & FITNESS

When did MLB's National League adopt the designated hitter for good?

A 2022
B 1973
C 1996

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 2022

WHY The American League adopted the DH in 1973, while National League pitchers kept batting. The National League adopted it in 2022, so now every MLB game uses it. It was also used in both leagues in 2020 only.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the National League finally pick a DH?
Pitchers were tired of striking a pose.

SESK.INFO #10186

SPORTS & FITNESS

How far is the pitcher's rubber from home plate in MLB?

A 60 feet, 6 inches
B 90 feet
C 46 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 60 feet, 6 inches

WHY The pitcher's plate is 60 feet 6 inches from the rear point of home plate. The rubber is a 24 by 6 inch slab, 10 inches higher than home plate.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher measure the mound? He wanted to go the extra six inches.

SESK.INFO #10187

SPORTS & FITNESS

How far apart are the bases on an MLB field?

A 60 feet
B 100 feet
C 90 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C 90 feet

WHY The infield must be a square with 90 foot sides, so it is 90 feet from home to first, first to second, second to third and third to home.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the runner love geometry? Every lap was a perfect square.

SESK.INFO #10188

SPORTS & FITNESS

Which scorekeeping number is used for the shortstop?

A 4
B 5
C 6

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C 6

WHY Scorekeepers number the nine fielders 1 through 9. The pitcher is 1, the catcher is 2, and the shortstop is 6.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is the shortstop never late for scorekeeping? He always shows up at six.

SESK.INFO #10189

SPORTS & FITNESS

What does a 6-4-3 double play mean?

- **A** Third base to second base to first base
- **B** Shortstop to second base to first base
- **C** Second base to shortstop to first base

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Shortstop to second base to first base

WHY The numbers are fielding positions: 6 is shortstop, 4 is second base, and 3 is first base. The ball goes from shortstop to second base to first base for two outs.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do infielders love double plays? Because two outs are better than one.

SESK.INFO #10190

SPORTS & FITNESS

How is batting average calculated?

- **A** Hits divided by plate appearances
- **B** Runs divided by at-bats
- **C** Hits divided by at-bats

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Hits divided by at-bats

WHY Batting average is hits divided by official at-bats. Walks and sacrifice flies are not at-bats, so they do not count.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter read a math book? To improve his batting average.

SESK.INFO #10191

SPORTS & FITNESS

What does ERA measure for a pitcher?

- **A** Earned runs per nine innings
- **B** Total runs per game
- **C** Strikeouts per nine innings

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Earned runs per nine innings

WHY ERA is nine times earned runs, divided by innings pitched. Runs that scored because of an error or passed ball are left out.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher love math class? He wanted a lower ERA.

SESK.INFO #10192

SPORTS & FITNESS

When does a batter usually earn an RBI?

- **A** When the batter reaches base safely
- **B** When the batter's plate appearance makes a run score
- **C** When a runner steals home

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B When the batter's plate appearance makes a run score

WHY RBI means run batted in. A batter usually gets one when his turn at bat makes a run score, like a hit or a sacrifice fly. Runs that score on an error or a double play do not count.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the hitter bring a car to the ballpark? To drive in runs.

SESK.INFO #10193

SPORTS & FITNESS

What is the most common way a batter hits a home run?

- **A** A fair ball hit over the outfield fence
- **B** A ball that bounces over the fence
- **C** A walk with the bases loaded

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **A fair ball hit over the outfield fence**

WHY Almost every home run is a fair ball hit in the air over the outfield fence. The batter and every runner on base score.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the baseball player bring a ladder? To hit a home run over the fence.

SESK.INFO #10194

SPORTS & FITNESS

How many runs score on a grand slam?

- **A** Four
- **B** Two
- **C** Three

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Four**

WHY A grand slam is a home run with runners on first, second and third. The batter and three runners score, the most runs possible on one play.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the grand slam bring four friends? It was loaded with runs.

SESK.INFO #10195

SPORTS & FITNESS

What four hits make up hitting for the cycle?

- **A** Two singles, a double and a triple
- **B** Single, double, triple and home run
- **C** Four home runs

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Single, double, triple and home run**

WHY A batter hits for the cycle by getting one hit of each kind in the same game: a single, a double, a triple and a home run.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the batter bring a bicycle? He was trying to hit for the cycle.

SESK.INFO #10196

SPORTS & FITNESS

What is a no-hitter in baseball?

- **A** No batter reaches base
- **B** No hits by the other team
- **C** No runs by the other team

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **No hits by the other team**

WHY In a no-hitter, the other team gets no hits. Batters can still reach base on a walk, a hit by pitch, an error or a dropped third strike.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher celebrate quietly? He did not want to jinx the no-hitter.

SESK.INFO #10197

SPORTS & FITNESS

What happens on a sacrifice fly?

- **A** The batter reaches first base
- **B** A runner is doubled off base
- **C** The batter is out and a runner scores

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The batter is out and a runner scores

WHY A sacrifice fly is a fly-ball out that lets a runner score. The batter gets an RBI, and it does not count as an at-bat.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the batter happy about his out? He sacrificed for the team and still got an RBI.

SESK.INFO #10201

SPORTS & FITNESS

Which of these does NOT count as an official at-bat?

- **A** A walk
- **B** A single
- **C** A strikeout

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A A walk

WHY Walks, sacrifices and hit by pitches are plate appearances but not official at-bats. Hits and outs that are not sacrifices do count.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the walk feel left out? It never got counted as an at-bat.

SESK.INFO #10199

SPORTS & FITNESS

In scorekeeping, when is a fielder charged with an error?

- **A** When a pitch gets past the catcher
- **B** When he misplays a ball an average fielder should handle
- **C** When a hit bounces off the outfield wall

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B When he misplays a ball an average fielder should handle

WHY The official scorer charges an error when a fielder fails to make an out an average fielder would make, or lets runners move up with a poor play.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the fielder carry an eraser? To fix his error.

SESK.INFO #10200

SPORTS & FITNESS

What turns a no-hitter into a perfect game?

- **A** The pitcher strikes out every batter
- **B** The pitcher throws under 100 pitches
- **C** No opposing batter reaches base

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C No opposing batter reaches base

WHY In a perfect game, all 27 opposing batters fail to reach first base. No hits, no walks, no hit batters and no errors.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the perfect game so calm? Nobody got on base to cause drama.

SESK.INFO #10198

SPORTS & FITNESS

In Little League, how much rest must a pitcher age 14 or under take after 66 pitches in a day?

- **A** Four calendar days
- **B** Three calendar days
- **C** One calendar day

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Four calendar days

WHY Little League rest rules say a pitcher league age 14 and under who throws 66 or more pitches in a day must rest four calendar days.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pitcher sit in the shade for four days?
He was following the rest rule.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Under MLB's Pitch Smart guidelines, what is the daily pitch limit for ages 11 to 12?

- **A** 75 pitches
- **B** 85 pitches
- **C** 95 pitches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 85 pitches

WHY Pitch Smart sets daily pitch limits by age to protect young arms from fatigue. Ages 11 to 12 may throw up to 85 pitches in a day.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the young pitcher stop at 85? He did not want to go over his count.

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AhaBulb POINT

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AhaBulb POINT