



Listening Passage 6-1

George Herman Ruth was born in 1895. As a child George was often in trouble. Instead of going to school, George played with his friends. They threw apples and eggs at police officers and at trucks. He got into more serious trouble as he grew older. His parents could not control him. He was sent to a reform school for boys in Baltimore, Maryland.

- *(Why was George sent to a reform school?)*

Even though a reform school was not a fun place, George played many different sports there. He learned to play baseball. He was the best baseball player in the school. George hit a home run in almost every game he played.

Rumors of a fabulous, young baseball player reached the professional coaches. A baseball scout came to watch this young man. Two weeks later, at 20 years of age, George signed his first professional contract. Because of his age, his teammates nicknamed him "Babe." The nickname stuck throughout his career.

- *(How did George get the nickname "Babe?")*

Babe began to attract more and more fans who wanted to see this amazing home run hitter. There were four seasons in which he hit over 50 home runs. In 1927 he established a new record, hitting 60 homers in one season. The previous record was only 24 home runs in a season. By the end of his career in 1935, Babe had set a record of 714 home runs. He held this record for 40 years. Hank Aaron broke this record in 1974.

- *(Who broke Babe Ruth's home run record?)*

The most famous home run incident happened during the 1932 World Series. Babe was up to bat. The count was two strikes. Before the last pitch Babe dramatically raised his bat and pointed it toward the bleachers in right-center field. He hit a home run into that exact location.

Babe Ruth died from cancer in 1948. This home run hitter helped to establish baseball as one of American's favorite pastimes.