

Vocabulary: Basketball

Basketball is played between two teams, with five players per team. Points are scored by getting the ball through the basket.



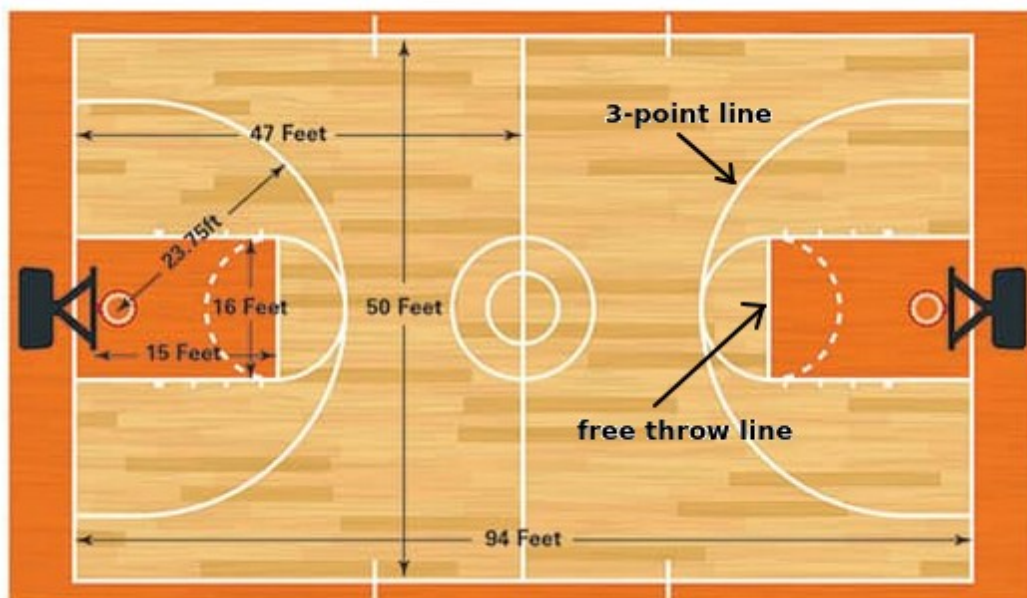
History

In 1891, Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education instructor from Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, decided to create an indoor game to keep his students fit during the cold winter. He created a game in which players throw a soccer ball to each other and score by throwing it into a peach basket fixed high on a wall. Later in that year he created rules for the game and called it *Basket Ball*. In 1906, the baskets were replaced by metal rings.

In 1946, the *Basketball Association of America* (BAA) was formed to organize the best professional teams in the USA and Canada. The BAA became the *National Basketball Association* (NBA) in 1949, and today the NBA is the world's top professional basketball league.

How the Game is Played

Basketball is played on a rectangular court, 94 feet by 50 feet (approximately 28m by 15m) with a basket at a height of 10 feet (approximately 3m) at each end. Most indoor courts have a floor made of wood. Points are scored by throwing the ball through the opponents' basket. A *goal* scored from inside the "three-point line" earns two points, and a goal scored from outside the three-point line earns three points, and a goal scored from "the free throw line" earns one point.



NBA games are played over four *quarters* of twelve minutes each. Teams include twelve players, but only five can be on court at one time. Players can be substituted as often as the coach likes. Each coach has a limited number of *time-outs* which they can call during a game, and the game clock is stopped whenever play stops. Several officials oversee each game, including three *on-court referees* who call *fouls*, and *table officials* who keep *score*, run the game and *shot clocks*, and keep track of *fouls* and *substitutions*.

Fouls

The ball can be thrown to another player (called *passing*) or by *bouncing* it with one hand while running or walking (called *dribbling*). If a player moves both feet without bouncing the ball, he commits a foul called *travelling*. If he uses two hands while dribbling, he commits a foul called *double-dribbling*. If a player's hand moves under the ball while dribbling, he commits a foul called *carrying the ball*. A *personal foul* is committed when a player blocks a run or hits another player's arms. A player or coach who argues with a referee commits a *technical foul*. Fouls can be punished with a *free inbound pass*, a *free throw*, or with *sending off*. A player who commits five fouls must leave the game and is called *fouled out*.

Shots

- *Set shot* - both feet are on the ground;
- *Jump shot* - the player is in mid-air;
- *Lay up* - hitting off the *backboard*, while moving towards the basket;
- *Slam dunk* - shooting directly from above the basket.

Passes

- *Chest pass*;
- *Bounce pass*;
- *Overhead pass*;
- *No-look pass*;
- *Behind-the-back pass*.

Famous Players

- Michael Jordan (1963-)
- Yao Ming (1980-)
- LeBron James (1984-)

Source: <https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/sports-basketball.htm>