

Cricket in 2 minutes

A quick guide to how the game is played



Cricket Caddy

1 The big idea

Two teams. One **bats** and scores runs; the other **bowls and fields** and tries to get batters out. Then they swap. More runs wins.

2 Two teams of 11

- 11 players each, led by a captain.
- Batting: only 2 batters on the field at once.
- Fielding: bowler, wicketkeeper + 9 fielders.
- 2 umpires make the decisions.

3 The pitch

A 22-yard (20 m) strip in the middle of the ground. At each end is a **wicket**: 3 stumps topped by 2 bails. The boundary rope marks the edge.

4 Balls & overs

- **6 balls = 1 over.**
- A different bowler bowls each over, from alternate ends.
- Limited-overs games cap how many overs each bowler can bowl.

5 Scoring runs

- **Run**: batters swap ends = 1 run.
- **Four**: ball reaches the rope along the ground.
- **Six**: ball clears the rope on the full.
- **Extras**: wides and no-balls give runs away.

6 Getting out

- **Bowled** — ball hits the stumps.
- **Caught** — caught before it bounces.
- **LBW** — leg in the way of a ball hitting the stumps.
- **Run out / Stumped** — wicket broken while out of the crease.

"145 for 6" = 145 runs, 6 wickets lost.

7 An innings

One team's turn to bat. Ends when **10 batters are out**, the **overs run out**, or (in Tests) the captain **declares**. The second team **chases** a target of one more run than the first team scored.

8 Who wins?

- **Won by runs** — first team defends its total.
- **Won by wickets** — chasing team gets there.
- **Tie** — equal scores (T20s may use a Super Over).
- **Draw** — Test runs out of time.
- **Rain?** The DLS method sets a fair new target.

9 The formats

FORMAT	OVERS PER TEAM	INNINGS	LENGTH
T20	20	1 each	About 3 hours
40-over	40	1 each	Common in club, school and junior cricket
ODI / One-Day	50	1 each	A full day
Test	No limit	2 each	Up to 5 days · at least 90 overs scheduled per day

10 Words you'll hear

Duck out for 0 · **Century** 100 runs · **Maiden** an over with no runs · **Hat-trick** 3 wickets in 3 balls · **Run rate** runs per over · **Partnership** runs added by two batters · **Powerplay** opening overs with fielding limits

Watch the animated version & take the quiz:
cricketcaddy.com/learn/new-to-cricket

Knowledge base & DLS calculator:
cricketcaddy.com/learn

Explore a 3D ground:
cricketcaddy.com/simulator