Who’s On First  
By Abbott and Costello

ABBOTT: Well Costello, I’m going to New York with you. You know, Bucky Harris, the Yank’s manager gave me a job as coach for as long as you’re on the team.
COSTELLO: Look Abbott, if you’re the coach, you must know all the players.
ABBOTT: Right, certainly do.
COSTELLO: Well, I never met the guys, so you’ll have to tell me their names, and then I’ll know who’s playing on the team.
ABBOTT: Oh, I’ll tell you their names, but you know strange as it may seem, they give these ball players now a days, very peculiar names.
COSTELLO: You mean funny names?
ABBOTT: Strange names, pet names. Like, Dizzy Dean, and...
COSTELLO: His brother Daffy?
ABBOTT: Daffy Dean.
COSTELLO: And their French cousin.
ABBOTT: French?
COSTELLO: Goofe’.
ABBOTT: Goofe’ Dean, oh I see! Well let’s see, we have on the bags, we have Who’s on first, What’s on second, and I Don’t Know is on third.
COSTELLO: That’s what I want to find out.
ABBOTT: I say, Who’s on first, What’s on second, and I Don’t Know’s on third.
COSTELLO: Are you the manager?
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: You going to be the coach too?
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: And you don’t know the fellow’s names?
ABBOTT: Well I should.
COSTELLO: Well then who is on first?
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: I mean the fellow’s name.
ABBOTT: Who.
COSTELLO: The guy on first.
ABBOTT: Who.
COSTELLO: The first baseman.
ABBOTT: Who!
COSTELLO: The guy playing first base.
ABBOTT: Who is on first.
COSTELLO: I’m asking you who’s on first!
ABBOTT: That’s the man’s name.
COSTELLO: That’s whose name?
ABBOTT: Yeah.
COSTELLO: Well go ahead and tell me.
ABBOTT: That’s it.
COSTELLO: That’s who?
ABBOTT: Yeah. (Pause)
COSTELLO: Look, you got a first baseman?
ABBOTT: Certainly.
COSTELLO: Who’s playing first?
ABBOTT: That’s right.
COSTELLO: When you pay off the first baseman every month, who gets the money?
ABBOTT: Every dollar of it.
COSTELLO: All I’m trying to find out is the fellow’s name on first base.
ABBOTT: Who.
COSTELLO: The guy that gets the money.
ABBOTT: That’s it.
COSTELLO: Who gets the money on first base?
ABBOTT: He does, every dollar! Sometimes his wife comes down and collects it.
COSTELLO: Whose wife?
ABBOTT: Yes. (Pause) What’s wrong with that?
COSTELLO: Look, all I want to know is when you sign up the first baseman, how does he sign his name to the contract?
ABBOTT: Who.
COSTELLO: The guy.
ABBOTT: Who.
COSTELLO: How does he sign it?
ABBOTT: That’s how he signs it!
COSTELLO: Who?
ABBOTT: Yes. (Pause)
COSTELLO: All I’m trying to find out is what’s the guy’s name on first base?
ABBOTT: No, what’s on second base.
COSTELLO: I’m not asking who’s on second.
ABBOTT: Who is on first!
COSTELLO: One base at a time!
ABBOTT: Well don’t change the players around!
COSTELLO: I’m not changing nobody!
ABBOTT: Take it easy, buddy.
COSTELLO: All I’m asking you, who’s the guy on first base?!
ABBOTT: That’s right.
COSTELLO: Okay.
ABBOTT: Alright. (Pause)
COSTELLO: What’s the guy’s name on first base?!
ABBOTT: No, What is on second!
COSTELLO: I’m not asking you who’s on second!
ABBOTT: Who’s on first.
COSTELLO: I don’t know.
ABBOTT: Oh, he’s on third. We’re not talking about him. Now let’s get back to first.
COSTELLO: Now how did I get on third base?
ABBOTT: Well you mentioned his name.
COSTELLO: If I mentioned the third baseman’s name, who did I say’s playing third?
ABBOTT: No, Who’s playing first.
COSTELLO: What’s on first?
ABBOTT: What’s on second.
COSTELLO: I don’t know.
ABBOTT: He’s on third.
COSTELLO: There I go, back on third again! Will you stay on third base and don’t go off it?
ABBOTT: Alright, what do you want to know?
COSTELLO: Now who’s playing third base?!
ABBOTT: Why do you insist on putting Who on third base?
COSTELLO: What am I putting on third?!
ABBOTT: No, What is on second.
COSTELLO: You don’t want who on second?!
ABBOTT: No, Who is on first.
COSTELLO: I don’t know!
Both: Third base! (Pause)
COSTELLO: Look, you got outfield?
ABBOTT: Sure.
COSTELLO: The left fielder’s name?
ABBOTT: Why.
COSTELLO: I just thought I’d ask you.
ABBOTT: Well I just thought I’d tell you.
COSTELLO: Then tell me who is playing left field.
ABBOTT: Who is playing first.
COSTELLO: I’m not...Stay out of the infield! I want to know, what’s the guy’s name in left field?
ABBOTT: No, What is on second.
COSTELLO: I’m not asking who’s on second.
ABBOTT: No, Who is on first.
COSTELLO: I don’t know.
Both: Third base! (Pause)
COSTELLO: And left fielder’s name?
ABBOTT: Why!
COSTELLO: Because.
ABBOTT: No, he’s center field.
COSTELLO: (Fumbles words loudly)
ABBOTT: Well that’s the fellow’s name.
COSTELLO: Look, look, look, you got a pitcher?
ABBOTT: Sure.
COSTELLO: The pitcher’s name?
ABBOTT: Tomorrow.
COSTELLO: You don’t want to tell me today?
ABBOTT: I’m telling you then.
COSTELLO: Well go ahead.
ABBOTT: Tomorrow.
COSTELLO: What time?
ABBOTT: What time what?
COSTELLO: At what time tomorrow are you going to tell me who’s pitching?
ABBOTT: Now listen, Who is not pitching. Who is on...
COSTELLO: I’ll break your arm you say who’s on first! I want to know, what’s the pitcher’s name?
ABBOTT: What’s on second!
COSTELLO: I don’t know!
Both: Third base! (Pause)
COSTELLO: Got a catcher?
ABBOTT: Certainly.
COSTELLO: The catcher’s name.
ABBOTT: Today.
COSTELLO: Today? And tomorrow’s pitching?
ABBOTT: Now you’ve got it.
COSTELLO: All we got is a couple of days on the team. You know, I’m a catcher too.
ABBOTT: So they tell me.
COSTELLO: I get behind the plate, do some fancy catching. Tomorrow’s pitching on my team and a heavy hitter gets up.
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: Now, the heavy hitter bunts the ball. When he bunts the ball, me being a good catcher, I want to throw the guy out at first base. So I pick up the ball, and throw it to who?
ABBOTT: Now that’s the first thing that you’ve said right.
COSTELLO: I don’t even know what I’m talking about!
ABBOTT: Well that’s all you have to do!
COSTELLO: Is throw the ball to first base?
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: Now who’s got it?
ABBOTT: Naturally. (Pause)
COSTELLO: Look, if I throw the ball to first base, somebody’s got to get it. Now who has it?
ABBOTT: Naturally.
COSTELLO: Who?
ABBOTT: Naturally.
COSTELLO: Naturally?
ABBOTT: Naturally.
COSTELLO: So I pick up the ball and throw it to Naturally?
ABBOTT: No you don’t! You throw the ball to Who!
COSTELLO: Naturally.
ABBOTT: That’s different.
COSTELLO: That’s what I said.
ABBOTT: You’re not saying that.
COSTELLO: I throw the ball to Naturally?
ABBOTT: You throw it to Who.
COSTELLO: Naturally.
ABBOTT: That’s it.
COSTELLO: That’s what I said!
ABBOTT: Listen, you ask me.
COSTELLO: I throw the ball to who?
ABBOTT: Naturally.
COSTELLO: Now you ask me.
ABBOTT: You throw the ball to Who?
COSTELLO: Naturally.
ABBOTT: That’s it.
COSTELLO: Same as you!
ABBOTT: You just changed them around.
COSTELLO: Same as you! I throw the ball to who. Whoever it is drops the ball, the guy runs to second, who picks up the ball, throw’s it to what, what throw’s it to I don’t know, I don’t know throw’s it back to tomorrow, triple play!
ABBOTT: Yes.
COSTELLO: Another guy gets up, and it’s a long fly ball to because. Why? I don’t know, he’s on third, and I don’t give a darn!
ABBOTT: Oh...What?
COSTELLO: I said, I don’t give a darn!
ABBOTT: Oh, that’s our short stop.
COSTELLO: (Fumbles words loudly)