

# How to Play Pop Cricket



## Quick Rules

1. Runs are scored by the number of legs that can be attributed to the song title e.g. *The **Lion** Sleeps Tonight* would score 4 runs
2. An indeterminate number of legs scores 12. This would include plurals & pronouns, such as ***Brothers** in Arms* and ***Everybody** Wants to Rule the World*.
3. Solo singers score 2, duos 4 etc. and groups all score 12 (regardless of the number of people in the group)
4. If the singer or group sound like something with legs e.g. **Cat** Stevens or Curiosity Killed the **Cat**, then these legs would apply (4 in these examples)
5. Wickets are lost (taken, or fall) if there are no legs in the song title, so *Purple Rain* would count as a wicket

# Detailed Rules

## Counting Legs as Runs

The songs *A Horse with No Name* (America) and *Fox on the Run* (Sweet) would both score 4 runs as a Horse and a Fox both have four legs. *You Drive Me Crazy* (Shakin' Stevens) would also score 4 with You and Me both being a person referred to (with both having two legs).



*I Believe in Miracles* (Hot Chocolate) would score 2 runs, 'I' being a person with two legs). For an indeterminate number of legs, you count as 12 runs.

*Crazy Horses* (The Osmonds) would therefore be counted as 12 runs as you don't know how many horses there are and therefore how many legs.

The main reason for the maximum being 12 is that while it doesn't guarantee a realistic cricket score, it does stop ridiculous scoring e.g. *Swords of a Thousand Men* (Tenpole Tudor). Two thousand runs, now that just isn't cricket!

## Singers, Recording Artists & Groups– Score 2, 4, 6 or 1

Groups all score the maximum 12 runs as the rules presume that a group has an indeterminate number of legs, even if you know how many people there are in the group. E.g. even though both ABBA



and The Arctic Monkeys consist of four members, you still score 12 runs for them being a group and not 16.

Solo singers or musicians e.g. Elvis Presley, MC Hammer, D.J. Jungle, Shakira and Adele would all score 2 runs each, as they have 2 legs.

Duos such as Sonny & Cher, Simon & Garfunkel and MS MR would score 4 runs (2 runs for each person), however, if a duo perform under a name which sounds like a group i.e. you couldn't tell from the name that they're not a group e.g. The Communards, The Pet Shop Boys or Phantogram, then it is scored as a group (i.e.12 runs).

Trios Peter, Paul & Mary, Emerson, Lake & Palmer and Crosby, Stills & Nash all score 6 runs (2 for each person referenced) but again it's more likely that they're known by a group name as are Biffy Clyro, Destiny's Child, Motorhead, Nirvana or The London Souls and therefore would again score 12.

Exceptions to this are where any of the above go by a name which obviously has a specific number of legs (up to 12). Snoop *Dog*, Howling *Wolf* and John *Cougar* Mellencamp, for example, would all score 4 runs (as opposed to 2 for a being a solo artist) and Atomic *Kitten* would only score 4 runs (as opposed to 12 for a group). In a similar application of this, The *Four* Tops, The *Four* Seasons and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young would score 8 runs. S Club 7, despite looking like they should score 14, would be limited by the maximum runs applied rule and only score 12.

You can score more than 12 runs if the song title or recording artists consists of more than one group of legs. For example, Mike & The Mechanics would score 14 runs, 2 for Mike and 12 for an indeterminate number of mechanics legs, whereas *Lovers & Friends* (The Communards) would score 24, 12 each for Lovers and Friends, as again you don't know the specific number (but both being separate groups of people with an indeterminate number of legs).

## **Losing Wickets**

The song's singer, singers or group will always score runs, however if there are no legs apparent in the title then it counts as a wicket.

*Brown Sugar*, *Winds of Change*, *National Express* and *Supernatural* are all examples of song titles which have no (explicit) legs in them and would therefore count as a wicket.

Whilst consistency should be applied, the 'umpire' (nominated) makes the final decision and may need to intervene in areas of dispute e.g. when the word 'World' is used, as some people will argue that it implies 'legs' due to the people in the world.

These are the main rules, however there are some additional points to note in order to reduce the amount of disputes.

### **Take how the word sounds and not the spelling.**

*Pop Cricket* is intended to be played by listening to music as well as seeing the songs written down and therefore you have to go by what you hear (and accepted interpretation).



The group Wizzard for example, is spelt with an additional 'z' and could therefore be argued not to mean the spell-casting male equivalent to a witch, however you can't possibly tell this by hearing a D.J on the radio saying "...and that was *See My Baby Jive* by Wizzard" and so we accept Wizzard to mean a person (and therefore score 2 runs).

In this same way The Beatles (Beetles) would score 12 and perhaps even more contentiously, Def Leppard (Leopard) would only score 4 runs (deaf or otherwise). If however, a D.J actually pronounced it *Lep - Ard*, I fear that a fight may ensue with your fellow player, as you could then argue it as 12 runs for a group as opposed to 4 runs for Leopard.

### **You can ignore context (within reason).**

While *Velcro Fly* (ZZ Top) and *Come Fly with Me* (Frank Sinatra) clearly aren't referring to the insect, you can claim 6 runs in both these cases as Fly is clearly represented in the title, despite its context.

Common sense would have to be applied if you were claiming that *Dancing Barefoot* (Patti Smith) is about a dancing 'Bear', in the same way you can't interpret *Simon Smith and His Amazing Dancing Bear* (Alan Price Set) as Simon Smith and his amazing dancing...bare (although it's obviously fun to try)!

You can of course agree your own context rules, we sometimes play where context does apply and so *Velcro Fly* would be counted as a wicket...it doesn't really reduce the arguments though.

## Words should be viewed in their entirety

Lionel Richie does not count as 4 runs because the word Lion appears in his name. The same would apply to *Foxy Lady* (ZZ Top) which would only score 2 runs for being a lady (who is Foxy) and not 4 because it contains the word Fox. Again, if you want to include these, either to increase the number of runs, or simply for fun, then of course, go ahead.



Winning is determined by the highest number of runs, regardless of

Wickets, and so 98 runs for 8 wickets beats 90 runs for 2 wickets.

In the unlikely event of a draw, then the player with the least number

of wickets wins, so 98 for 2 beats 98 for 3.

Variations on even these rules have evolved, so for completeness and for your future enjoyment of the game of *Pop Cricket*, I have included them as well

### ***Pop Cricket – Audio***



*Listen to your favourite songs, playlists or radio station and play.*

Option to set a time limit, play a certain number of songs or play until you have lost 10 wickets (an innings in real cricket).

If playing alone you can always play for two teams; see which team scores the highest number of runs before losing their wickets in order to make it more exciting.

Play an innings for each team or alternate teams for each song (same applies if multiple people are playing)

You can apply the rule that if you don't know the song, it counts as a wicket.

### ***Pop Cricket – Visual***



*Use the current (or past) charts; from the internet, magazines etc. to play.*

### ***Pop Cricket – Catch (or Practice)***



*'Throw' random songs and recording artists around with your friends or family and see who gets them correct.*

You may require the umpire and (or) the internet for this one!

## ***Pop Cricket - Twenty20 (Twenty-20 or T20)***



*Play one or more players, but limit to 20 songs per team. Top score after 20 songs wins.*

## ***Pop Cricket – Test***



*Play two full innings for each team.*

*An innings being where each player (or team) plays until there have been 10 wickets. Combine the scores of each innings to see who's won.*

## ***Pop Cricket – Extra***



*Add pre-agreed amount of runs for knowing additional information.*

*We sometimes play this awarding extra runs for knowing the correct decade or year of the song. This is a good addition once you get used to the rules and are finding the games relatively easy*

*to score.*