

## Introducing the wicketkeeper

## Recap

**Why?** In cricket, the wicketkeeper is a player who stands behind the wicket and is responsible for several important roles during the game.

- 1. Catching:** The wicketkeeper's main job is to catch the ball if the batsman misses it or edges it. The wicketkeeper should have good hand-eye coordination and be able to react quickly to catch the ball.
- 2. Stumping:** If the batsman leaves their crease, the wicket-keeper can try to "stump" them by taking the ball and breaking the wicket with it while the batsman is out of their crease (the line they bat from).
- 3. Fielding:** The wicketkeeper is also responsible for fielding, which involves stopping the ball and returning it to the bowler or another fielder.
- 4. Communication:** The wicketkeeper is in a good position to see the entire field and can help direct the other fielders. They should communicate with the bowler and other fielders to coordinate their movements and ensure everyone is in the right position.
- 5. Support:** The wicketkeeper should be supportive and encouraging to their teammates, especially the bowler. They should provide feedback and advice on



## Teaching points

1. Stand behind and in line with the wickets but not too close
2. Have hands in a cupped shape with fingers pointing down
3. Watch the ball all the way from the bowler's hands into your hands
4. Be ready to run out or stump the batter
5. When you catch the ball, always move towards the stumps; this will stop batters from trying to make runs as they will be concerned, that they will be stumped

## Front view



## Side view



## Following the path of the ball

### Teaching points

1. Start in a balanced stance behind the stumps, with feet shoulder-width apart in a low crouched position.
2. The wicketkeeper should position themselves slightly in line with the **off stump** (see teaching points in the lesson) to have a clear line of sight of the bowler and the approaching ball.
3. Focus on the bowler's hand as they release the ball and try to anticipate where the ball will land once bowled
4. The wicketkeeper should be prepared to move swiftly in any direction based on the line and trajectory of the ball.
5. The wicketkeeper should keep their eyes on the ball, watching its flight.
6. Make small adjustments to the body position to align with the line and length of the ball. This may involve shuffling sideways or stepping towards the line of the ball (where it bounces).
7. Position the hands in line with where the ball is expected to arrive and catch with soft hands

**Why?** To successfully keep wicket, players need to be able to track the path of the ball once released from the bowler's hand. This includes following the height of the bounce and the direction left or right.

