Dear Wonderland,

There is no "official" definition of what the bases represent. However, the following is a general guide to what they mean:

- First base = kissing, including open-mouth (French) kissing
- Second base = petting above the waist, including touching, feeling, and fondling the chest, breasts, and nipples
- Third base = petting and/or orally stimulating below the waist, including touching, feeling, and fondling the vagina, clitoris, penis, and testicles
- Home run = sexual intercourse

These definitions are subject to change and can vary among different people, so don't be embarrassed to ask your friends exactly what they mean (and you probably aren't the only one who needs clarification). It's great that you want to be informed — asking is the best way to find out.

Speaking of asking others, one crucial piece to rounding any of the bases is making sure that you and your partner(s) have mutually consented. Some thoughts to consider include: Have I expressed what I want? Do I know what my partner wants? Am I certain that consent has been given?

And by the way, if any of you fans are going out to the ballpark, you may want to make sure you've got all your gear. For information about contraception and safer sex, search through the Go Ask Alice! Sexual and Reproductive Health archives.

Alice!

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