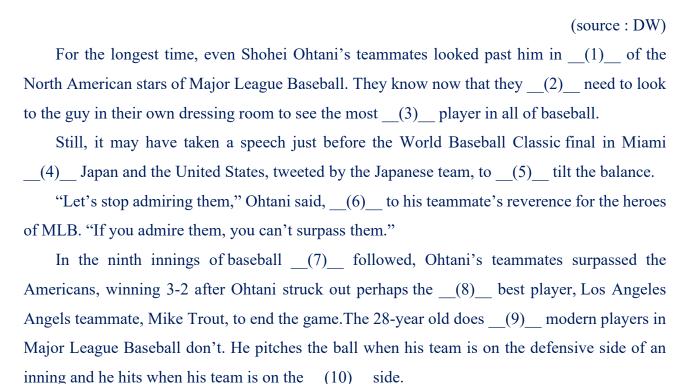
Shohei Ohtani: Japan's baseball phenomenon (1)



(F) second (G) what (H) help (I) between (J) merely

Shohei Ohtani: Japan's baseball phenomenon (2)

(source : DW)

In the top tier of baseball, pitching perhaps 100 times in a game if things go well, is left to specialists. They rest their precious arms when their teammates are up to bat. Ohtani isn't alone __(1)__ pitchers that do take to bat, but few in the history of the sport have ever boasted the prowess of the Japanese marksman.

Starting pitchers are usually limited to one appearance every five __(2)__ games in a 162-game regular season and take the time to rest their arms and bodies between appearances. There is no rest for Ohtani, who is a star pitcher and hitter for the Los Angeles Angels

Ohtani __(3)__ his way to stardom in Japan's top baseball leagues until December of 2017 __(4)__ he signed a contract with Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Angels at the age of 23. He batted successfully in his debut during the 2018 season and helped pitch his team to a win two days later. At the season's end, he was named the American League Rookie of the Year. Three years later, in 2021, he was named the American League's Most Valuable Player. He had become better than Americans—Latin Americans too—at (5) they consider their own game.

(A) within (C) amid 1. (B) amongst (D) between 2. (A) roughly (B) about (C) or so (D) some 3. (A) labored (B) went (C) worked (D) traveled (C) what (D) which (A) where 4. (B) when 5. (A) what (B) which (C) all (D) whom

Shohei Ohtani: Japan's baseball phenomenon (3)

(source : DW)

Back home, Japanese media follow Ohtani every game in the US, and media consumers back home eat up all things "Showtime."

"I suppose the idolization of Ohtani in Japan __(1)__ its own inferiority complex vis a vis the fatherland of baseball that is the U.S.," said Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics and culture in Tokyo at Sophia University.

"Baseball is so major here, but it has __(2)__ been said that Japanese baseball, called *yakyu*, is different from *real* baseball in America. Books have been written and published on the topic," Nakano said. "So each time where there is a Japanese *export* that was __(3)__ successful in MLB, the Japanese are enthralled."

Seconds after he struck out his Angels' teammate, Mike Trout, in the game __(4)__ put Japan back on top of the world of baseball, a shouting and smiling Ohtani threw his glove to the ground and (5) his hat to celebrate with his teammates.

"This is the best moment in my life," he said __(6)__ a translator. Ohtani had helped his Japanese teammates to win seven games and lose none in the tournament, __(7)__ considered the World Cup of baseball. His excellent hitting and pitching __(8)__ him to be named the MVP.

Ohtani's words to his teammates from before the game still __(9)__, "For one day, let's throw away our admiration for them and just think about winning."

In Japan, broadcaster WBC stuck to its live __(10)__ from Miami for almost two hours. It was must-see viewing, especially Ohtani's already iconic final strike out, a moment up there with baseball's best.

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- (F) echoed (G) reflects (H) led (I) tossed (J) that