

# Mastering the Field: Max and Leo's Striking and Fielding Challenge

*Learning objective: To understand the roles and tactics of fielders and strikers in a striking and fielding game.*

Max the monkey has been calculating the best spots to stand in the field, and Leo the lion is practising his batting technique. Look at the tactical scenarios below. Decide if the action described helps the 'Fielding Team' or the 'Striking Team' and explain why your choice helps that team score runs or get players out.

*Word bank: Backstop · Run · Fielder · Striker · Wicket · Intercept · Communication · Accuracy*

**1. Leo hits the ball into the deep grass and shouts to his teammate to start running. Is this a tactical move for the Striker or Fielder? Explain why. (2 marks)**

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**2. Max the monkey quickly throws the ball to the base before the runner arrives. Is this a tactical move for the Striker or Fielder? Explain why. (2 marks)**

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**3. A fielder stays low and keeps their eyes on the ball to catch it before it hits the ground. Does this help the Striker or Fielder? Explain why. (2 marks)**

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**4. The striker chooses to tap the ball gently instead of hitting it hard because the fielders are standing very far back. Is this a smart tactical choice? Why? (2 marks)**

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**5. Imagine a fielder costs their team £5 for every dropped catch. How much would it cost if they dropped 4 catches in one game? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a bird's-eye view of a playing field. Place 'S' on the field to show where the Strikers should stand to score runs, and 'F' to show where the Fielders should stand to stop them.



*Extension challenge: In your PE kit, try practising a 'long barrier' fielding technique. Write down three rules for how to keep your eyes on the ball while moving your feet into position.*