

J is for Jump Shot

A Basketball Alphabet



Written by Mike Ulmer and Illustrated by Mark Braught



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To Hannah, my all-time favorite basketball player.

MIKE



*To the staff, parents & volunteers of youth programs everywhere
and the sacrifices they make for the benefits we receive.
Thank you very much.*

MARK

You can't play basketball without air, in the ball and under your feet. National Basketball Association (NBA) players routinely jump between two and three feet high. Air is great but an air ball isn't. It means your shot missed the rim and the backboard and hit nothing but air.

A is also for assist. An assist is a statistic usually given to the player who passes the ball to a player who then scores. Sometimes, all five players: the center, two guards, and two forwards, will touch the ball before a basket is scored. Players who don't touch the ball contribute by making cuts and setting screens to distract defenders and gain the ballhandler more room to operate. The most successful teams are the ones whose individual members play most unselfishly.

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