

## BOAT PARTS, TERMS, VOCABULARY

SAILING FOR BLONDES, THE SIMULATOR BOOK, LEARN TWICE AS FAST AND TWICE AS GOOD! ☺

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Dee Young, an attendee at the Points-of-Sail class, suggested that a list of terms as a reference sheet would be a good thing to have. Here is one that is set up in categories and in “plain” language and I hope makes it easier for you to learn as there are quite a few! We covered the most important ones in class, but yes, there are more! Thanks Dee for your suggestion.

### General Boating Terms:

Abeam - at 90 degrees

Aground - on the ground or the bottom

Ahead - forward

Astern - behind

Ballast - temporary or permanent weight to improve the boats stability

Boat Slip -Where the boat is berthed or stays when she’s at dock

Dock Lines - Lines that attach the boat to the dock

Dock/Pier - the main walkway where boats are berthed

Finger Pier - the small walkway running alongside the boat

Heading -The direction you are going

Leeward - the side of the boat away from the wind

Lines - ropes on boats are called lines

Port - the side of the boat on the left when facing forward

Sailboat - a boat propelled by sails

Sailing Yacht - a luxury boat propelled by sails

Starboard - the side of the boat on the right when facing forward

Windward - the side of the boat toward the wind

### Sails

Sail Edges - The front edge is the luff. The back edge is the leech. You can remember this by saying "the luff (love) always comes before the leech." The bottom edge of the sail is the foot (flat like your foot).

Sail Grommets (Holes) - The top hole of the sail is the head. The front bottom hole is the tack and you can remember that you “tack it down” or attach it to the boat. You can remember that the tack is similar to a tack hammer attaching the sail to the boat. The back hole is the clew and I have no clue why it is called the clew.

### Outside the Boat and/or Top Sides

**Aft** – the back part of the boat

**Aft lines** - the lines at the back of the boat that attach the boat to the dock

**Backstay** - the wire at the back of the boat that holds up the mast

**Boom** - the big horizontal bar that the mainsail sits on and is attached to

**Boom Vang** - a line attached at an angle from the mast to the bottom of the boom that helps to regulate sail shape - flatter or fuller

**Bow** - the pointed front of the boat

**Bow pulpit** - the front railing

**Cockpit** - The part of the boat from where it is steered

**Cockpit Lockers/lazarettes** - Storage underneath the seats in the cockpit

**Deck** - the top of the boat where you walk or stand

**Fenders** - a cushion device to put between a boat and a dock

**Forestay** - the wire at the front of the boat that holds up the mast and is also what the front sail (jib) attaches to

**Forward** - the front part of the boat

**Forward lines** - the bow lines at the front that attach the boat to the dock

**Freeboard** - the sides of the boat starting at the water and going up to meet the deck

**Halyards** - lines that raise (and lower) sails vertically up to the top of the mast and up to the top of the forestay. "Haul uppers" is a good way to remember halyards

**Hatches** - Openings in the deck or in the boat that are similar to windows or doors

**Hull** - the outside, the underneath and the structure of the boat

**Jib Sail** - the front sail on a boat sometimes called a jib or ginny

**Jib Sheet** - lines attached to the jib sail that move it from one side of the boat to the other

**Keel** - the long weighted and extended structure underneath the boat and part of the hull

**Lifelines** - the white lines that run around the boat through the stanchions - helpful in keeping you from falling off of the boat

**Main Sail** - the sail on top of the boom that stows under the sail cover

**Main Sheet** - the line that attaches the boom and mainsail to the boat and moves them from one side of the boat to the other

**Mast** - the tall pole on top of the boat that the front (luff) of the main sail is attached to

**Pivot Point** - about mid-way back on the side of the boat & over the keel - Before the boat is secured to the dock with lines, it would be possible to hold on to smaller boats at the pivot point to straighten them in the boat slip. This would stop the bow or the stern from swinging out of reach and causing damage to an adjacent boat.

**Rudder** - the outside steering apparatus at the back of the boat

**Running Rigging** - All those lines

**Sheets** - lines that pull the sail horizontally from one side of the boat to the other side of the boat

**Shrouds** - the wires on the side of the boat that hold up the mast

**Spreaders** - The cross bar on the mast (pole)

**Spring line** - the dock line alongside the boat that attaches the bow or stern to a cleat

halfway back down the finger pier - the spring line keeps the boat from moving forward or backward in the boat slip so the bow or stern won't hit the dock/pier

**Stanchions** - the vertical posts that are attached to the boat around the outside edge of the deck

**Standing Rigging - All those wires**

**Stern - the back of the boat**

**Stern pulpit - the back railing**

**Telltails - ribbon streamers that can aid in better performance trimming of the sails**

**Tiller - sailboats are sometimes steered using a tiller to turn the rudder. A tiller is pushed opposite of the direction you want the bow to go when going forward and the same direction you want the bow to go when in reverse. A tiller is what will be used in this book. (see, wheel)**

**Topping Lift - a line that holds the boom up when the sail is not raised. It runs from the top of the mast to the boom.**

**Topsides - being outside, usually on the deck but also being in the cockpit**

**Traveler - a mechanism to adjust the boom closer to the wind or further away from it**

**Wench - in pirate speak, a pretty woman**

**Wheel - Turn a wheel to steer a boat very much like you would steer a car**

**Winch - a round circular part for increasing leverage when lines are wrapped/secured around them. You can only wrap lines around a winch clockwise. Winches are used to help raise sails and also when moving sails from one side of the boat to the other side of the boat.**

**Wind Indicator - the arrow on top of the mast that points toward the wind**

### Inside the boat or Down Below

**Below or down below - being down in the living quarters area**

**Cabin - the inside of the boat - the main salon is the living area, the V-Berth is a sleeping berth forward, the aft berth is a sleeping berth in the back or aft end of the boat. Also, the head is the toilet, and the galley is the kitchen.**

**Companionway - the opening where the steps are to get to the cabin or living quarters area (you might meet companions going topsides or when going below)**

**Ice Box - Probably one down below and/or topsides in the cockpit**

### Other Terms

**Anchoring - holding a ship in place with a line and a heavy anchor placed underwater on the bottom**

**Flaking - folding a sail back and forth for stowing**

**Jibe - to jibe a boat means to take the stern of the boat across the eye of the wind to change the course/direction it is moving**

**Pinching - sailing too close to the wind that causes sails to luff and speed to decrease**

**Tack - this word has three meanings:**

**1) Tacking a boat means to take the bow of the boat across the eye of the wind to change the course/direction it is moving toward.**

**2) The tack you are sailing on is the side of the boat the wind is crossing first. A boat is said to be on a starboard tack or a port tack.**

**3) The tack is the front bottom hole/grommet in a sail that can be attached to the bow.**