



Written by [WebAdmin](#) on August 25, 2015. Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

## Your Ultimate Guide to Sailing...

The exhilarating experience of sailing carries with it its own collection of terminology. Whether a person is a beginner, or a seasoned sailor, it is important to acquire a vocabulary of sailing terms. Learning sailing maneuvers and the different parts of a boat are just two of the ways that a person prepares for sailing. An individual who is comfortable with sailing terminology is likely to have more confidence when it comes to safely guiding a boat and can easily convey correct information to others in the event of an emergency. This collection of sailing terminology is provided by [Action Boat and Yacht Donation](#) services.

**Abeam**– The area at a right angle beside a boat aligned with the center of the boat.

**Aboard**– When something or someone is on or in a boat.

**Above Deck**– When someone is on deck and not in a cabin underneath.

**Aft**– Refers to the back area of a boat.

**Aloft**– A position high above a boat's deck.

**Astern**– The area behind a boat.

**Bank**– An area of shallow water created by a raised portion of the ground.

**Barge**– An enormous cargo-carrying boat with a flat bottom that transports large pieces of freight, typically accompanied by a tug boat.

**Beam**– The widest dimension of the hull of a boat.

**Bear Away**– The act of steering a boat away from the wind.

**Below**– The area beneath the main deck.

**Bend**– The act of fastening or securing ropes on a boat.

**Bow**– The front portion of a boat.

**Breaker**– A wave that turns to foam as it hits land.

**Bridle**– A strong connection of cables used for towing ships and boats.

**Buoy**– A floating marker in the water.

**Cable**– A heavy length of rope.

**Capsize**– When a boat turns over in the water.

**Careen**– When a boat tilts or leans to the side.

**Centerline**– The center of the boat that spans its full length.

**Cleat**– A fitting made of metal or other strong material, attached to a boat where a line can be fastened.

**Coil**– Making loops in a stretch of rope or line in order to properly store it.

**Compass**– An instrument with a needle that determines direction.

**Deck**– A floor of a boat.

**Dinghy**– A small boat carried on board a ship that's used to transport people to and from the craft.

**Ebb tide**– When the sea's tide is going out.

**Elbow**– A type of knot that connects two ropes.

**Even keel**– When a boat is sailing in an upright, balanced position.

**Fair wind**– A wind that is favorable for a particular sailing direction.

**Fid**– A tool used for splicing a rope.

**Foot**– The lower edge of a sail.

**Fore**– Refers to the front area of a boat.

**Frap** – The technique of wrapping rope around equipment on a boat to keep it steady and secure.

**Furl**– The act of securely rolling up a sail.

**Galley**– The area designated for food preparation on a boat.

**Girtline**– A rope with a block attached to it that is used to transport supplies to high areas on a boat or ship.

**Halyard**– A type of line used to help hoist a sail.

**Helm**- The wheel or tiller of a boat.

**Hull**- The body of a boat.

**Inshore**- In the direction of a shoreline.

**Jib**- The sail at the front of a boat.

**Keel**- A steel piece at the bottom of a boat that supports its frame.

**Knot**- A measurement of one nautical mile.

**Latitude**- Location north or south of the equator that is measured in degrees.

**Leeward**- Sailing in a downwind direction.

**Longitude**- Location east or west of the prime meridian that is measured in degrees.

**Moor**- To secure a boat in place with the help of an anchor or heavy cables.

**Mooring Line**- A heavy cable that secures a boat to a pier.

**Nautical**- A term relating to sailors and watercraft.

**Offshore wind**- Air that is moving away from a shoreline.

**Pitch**- The rising and falling motion of a boat on rough seas.

**Port**- The left side of a boat.

**Put about**- The act of changing the course of a boat.

**Put in**– To sail into a harbor or other stopping place.

**Rigging**– The collection of ropes, chains, and other equipment that helps to sail a boat.

**Rudder**– A steering instrument located at the stern of a boat.

**Shoal**– A shallow area in a body of water.

**Starboard**– The right side of a boat.

**Stay**– Heavy cable that gives support to a ship's mast.

**Stern**– The back of a boat.

**Sternway**– The motion of a ship moving backwards.

**Stow**– To pack or secure equipment on a boat.

**Take in**– To furl a sail.

**Tiller**– A metal or wood handle that moves a boat's rudder.

**Trim**– The act of adjusting the angle of a boat's sails.

**Undertow**– A current deep in the sea that moves in opposition to the levels of water above it.

**Unfurl**– To open a rolled up sail.

**Veer**– When a boat moves its stern to the wind and changes its original direction.

**Wake**– The trail left behind a boat that is moving through the water.

**Waterline**– The point where the surface of the water meets the hull of a boat.

**Weigh Anchor**– To lift a ship’s anchor from the bottom of the sea in preparation to sail.

**Whitecap**– A type of wave that has a foamy, white top.

**Windward**– Sailing in an upwind direction.

**Yard**– A pole or rod that gives support to a sail.

**Zephyr**– A gentle, calm breeze.

- [Essential Sailing Terms](#): Find some examples of sailing terminology in this detailed list.
- [Boating and Sailing Terminology](#): Learn the terms for particular parts of a sailing craft along with a collection of other important words to know.
- [The Elements of Sailing](#): Discover a gathering of information on sailing that includes facts on steering a boat, various sailing maneuvers, and tying knots.
- [Glossary of Nautical Terms](#): Find a list of terms related to boating accompanied by their definitions.
- [How to donate a boat or yacht and receive the maximum legal tax deduction possible](#).

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