

Nautical And Sailor/Sailing Vocabulary In English



Bow: The front pointy part of the boat or ship.

Stern: She is sitting at the back of the boat, in the stern.

Port: When facing the bow, the port is on your left.

Starboard: When facing the bow, the starboard is on your right.

Sails: They catch wind and help move the boat. There are many types.

Jib: The small sail at front is the jib.

Mast: Large wooden or steel poles that hold up the sails and rigging.

Rigging: The rigging are lines that support the mast and move the sails.

Hull: The hull is the main structure and body of a ship.

Rudder: The rudder is at the back of the boat and helps you steer the boat.

Keel: The keel sits at the bottom of the boat and adds stability.

Anchor: You set the anchor to stay in one place.

Batten Down the Hatches: Used to prepare for a storm or any difficult upcoming situation.

Aye Aye Captain: A respectful acknowledgment of an order from a superior.

Fair Winds and Following Seas: A way to wish someone luck on their journey.

Sheet Happens: A humorous phrase for when things go awry on a sailing trip.

Ship-shape: This means something is well-organized or in excellent condition.

All Hands on Deck: An order for everyone to help during a crisis.

Fathom: A nautical unit of measurement for depth or understanding (comprehension).

Gunwale: The upper edge of the side of a boat.

Landlubber: Someone who doesn't like sailing or being on a ship. "Lover of land".

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Taken Aback: To be astonished by an unwelcome occurrence.

Three Sheets to the Wind: A term used to describe someone who drank too much. Perhaps they got into the captain's rum!

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Describes a difficult situation with no good options.

Let the Cat Out of the Bag: To expose a hidden truth or secret.

Scuttlebutt: Gossip or rumors.

Anchors Aweigh: Denotes the beginning of a journey.

A Bone in Her Teeth: Describes a boat moving fast.

Tide Over: Refers to getting through a difficult period.

Sailing Close to the Wind: On the verge of doing something illegal or improper.

Cast Off: To release a mooring line or anchor so a vessel can set sail.

Dead Reckoning: A method of navigation based on estimated speed and direction of travel and using the points of a sail.

Helm's Alee: A command used when tacking.

Square-rigged and Squared Away: A ship that has things in order.

A Shot Across the Bow: A warning or threat.

Crow's Nest: A lookout point high on a mast.

Jibe Ho: A command spoken when jibing.

Lower the Boom: To put a stop to, chastise, or rebuke. In other words, to criticize someone when they did something personal to you.

Headwinds: Resistance or opposition to a plan.

Sea Legs: The ability to maintain balance or adjust to a new situation

Run Aground; or High and Dry: A boat hits the sea floor and stops. Or a person stuck in an unfavorable situation.

Dead in the Water: A situation with zero chance of success.

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In Irons: When a sailing vessel is trapped and unable to move.

Kedge: A smaller anchor that is used to move the ship slowly in the desired direction.

The Cut of One's Jib: The way one looks or conducts themselves.

Cup of Joe: A cup of coffee.

Groundswell: Describes a widespread surge of public opinion.

It's an Ill Wind That Blows No Good: A phrase meaning that bad for one can be good for another.

Know the Ropes: To be well versed and familiar with something.

Bail Out: To remove water from a boat, or to abandon a difficult situation.

Loose Canon: Refers to someone who is unpredictable or uncontrollable.

Rudderless: Describes a person or situation lacking direction or control.

Man Overboard: An urgent call indicating someone has fallen off the vessel. Also used metaphorically for unexpected crises.

Trim The Sails: To adjust the sails for optimal performance. Often used to mean adjusting plans to improve results.

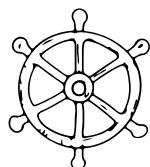
Chart A Course: To plan a route or direction, used metaphorically for setting a plan.

High Seas: Refers to international waters, often used to describe a risky or lawless situation.

Set Sail: To begin a journey or venture.

Broadside: Refers to the side of a ship. Also used metaphorically to mean a strong verbal attack.

Overhaul: To inspect and repair. Also used in a broader sense to mean making comprehensive changes or improvements.



Parts of a Boat

