

- Bail.** To throw water out of a boat.
- Ballast.** Heavy weight packed or built into the bottom of a boat to give it stability.
- Battens.** Thin strips of wood or plastic fitted into pockets to support a sail's **leech**.
- Beam.** The maximum width of the boat.
- Beam reach.** Sailing with the wind coming across the boat's **beam**.
- Beam sea.** A sea running at right angles to the boat's course.
- Beam wind.** Wind at right angles to the boat's course.
- Bear away** (or **off**, also **head off**, **fall off**). Sail away from the wind rather than holding up to it.
- Bearing.** The direction of an object relative to the **bow**.
- Beating.** Sailing into the wind by alternate **tacks**.
- Beating to windward.** Making progress against the direction of the wind when sailing on the wind or **close-hauled**. Sailing to **windward** by zigzag **tacks**.
- Belay.** To stop. A line is **belayed** when it is secured, or **made fast**.
- Belaying pin.** A wooden or metal pin fitted into a rail; used to secure sheets and **halyards**.
- Below.** In the cabin or under the deck.
- Below.** To **make fast**. **Bending** sails is fitting them onto their **spars** or stays; **bending** lines is joining them together.
- Bight.** Any part of a rope except the ends; usually refers to a curl or loop in a rope.
- Bilge.** The curved or angular part of the **hull** where the bottom and sides meet; also, the space under the cabin floor or **cockpit** floorboards.
- Bilge board.** A kind of **centerboard** located in the **bilge** or opposite sides of the hull.
- Binnacle.** A protective casing for the compass.
- Bitter end.** The last part of a rope or the last link in an anchor chain; also called the **running end** or **free end**.
- Block.** A device consisting of an outside shell and a **sheave** (a roller or pulley) through which a rope or line may be passed.
- Bollard.** On a pier, wharf, or boat, a short, heavy post to which docking lines are passed.
- Bolt rope.** A rope sewn around the edge of a sail to strengthen it.
- Boom.** A pole or **spar** to which the **foot** (lower edge) of a sail is **bent** (attached).
- Boom crutch.** A notched upright board or metal structure into which the **boom** fits when sails are **furled** or off the **spars**.
- Bow.** The forward, or front, end of the boat.
- Bow chocks.** Metal fittings on deck at the **bow** through which anchor and dock lines are led.
- Break out.** To unfurl (as a flag or sail); to remove from its storage space.
- Broad reach.** Sailing with the wind coming between the **beam** and **astern**.
- Brightwork.** Polished metal parts, or woodwork that is polished to show its grain.
- Broach.** To swing broadside to the wind and lose **headway**.
- Bulkhead.** A partition or wall between compartments.
- Buoy.** A floating marker usually anchored to the bottom; government buoys are aids to navigation.
- Caulk.** To make seams watertight by filling them with cotton, oakum, or caulking compound.
- Ceiling.** A lining of thin planking on the inside ribs or frames of a boat.
- Center of effort.** The point on the sail where the maximum force of the wind will produce the maximum propulsion.
- Centerboard.** A shaped plate of wood, metal, or fiberglass that hinges down below the **hull** and can be raised or lowered through the **keel** of the boat. In the down position, it increases the boat's draft, stability, and lateral resistance. A **trunk** is the centerboard's housing.
- Chafing gear.** A wrapping of canvas or rope around **spars**, **rigging**, or lines to prevent chafe or wear.
- Chain plates.** Metal strips bolted to side of the boat for securing lower ends of stays and **strouds**.
- Chart.** The marine version of a road map showing aids to navigation, shoals, water depth, dangers, etc.
- Chine.** The angle between two flat **hull** surfaces.
- Chock.** A fitting with jaws through which dock lines or anchor lines are fed. Can be located at either end of a craft.
- Cleat.** A fastening to which lines can be **made fast** without knotting.
- Clew.** The lower corner of a sail nearest to the back of the boat.
- Close-hauled.** Sailing as close as possible to the wind.
- Close reach.** A point of sailing with the wind just forward of **abeam** and the **bow** of the boat, approximately seventy degrees to the wind.
- Coamings.** The sides of the cockpit above the deck line.
- Cockpit.** The open part, or well, of boat where passengers sit and the **helmsman** steers.
- Come about.** To change course so as to be sailing at the same angle but with the wind on the other side.
- Cringle.** A ring sewn into the sail so that a line can be passed through it; like a grommet in the edge of a tent.