

Loose-footed. A sail that is without a **boom** or is attached to the **boom** only at the **tack** and **clew** is called **loose-footed**.

Luff. The **forward**, or entering, edge of a sail; to **luff up** is to head in to the wind. **Luffing** is changing course to bring the **bow** into the wind so that the sails are flapping loosely.

Mainmast. The principal **mast**.

Mainsail. The sail set on and **abaft** of the **mainmast**; the boat's main or principal sail.

Mainsheet. The line by which the **trim** (angle) of the **mainsail** is controlled.

Mast. A vertical **spar** that supports the sails.

Mizzenmast. The **after** and shorter of two **masts** on yawls and ketches; the aftermost of three **masts** on three-masted schooners or barks.

Mooring. The anchor, chain, buoy, etc., that anchors a boat.

Mooring pendant or pennant. A line that is part of a boat's **mooring**.

Outboard. Toward the sides of a vessel or outside of it.

Outhaul. A device or line used to control the tension on the **foot** of a sail.

Overhang. The projection of the **bow** and **stern** beyond the waterline.

Painter. A line secured in the **bow** for towing or securing a boat.

Pay out. To let out a line **made fast** on board.

Pintle. A metal rod or bolt secured to the **rudder** and fitting into the **gudgeons** in a hinge-like fashion, allowing the **rudder** to swing.

Point. One of the thirty-two divisions of a compass card; 11.25 degrees; to sail or **head close** to the wind.

Port. The left-hand side of a boat when looking toward the bow.

Privileged vessel. A vessel having the right of way.

Rail. A boat's side above the deck line.

Reach. To sail across the wind.

Reef. To reduce the area of a sail.

Rigging. The wires and ropes that support the **spars** and allow control of the sails.

Rudder. A blade at the boat's **stern** used to steer the boat.

Running. Sailing directly away from the wind, or downwind.

Sheave. A grooved wheel in a **block**, **mast**, or **yard** over which a rope passes.

Sheet. A line used to pull or **trim** sails in toward the side of the boat.

Shrouds. Wire supports leading from the upper part of the **mast** to the deck on either side.

Spars, Masts and booms.

Staff. An upright pole to which a flag or light is affixed.

Starboard. The right-hand side of a boat when looking toward the **bow**.

Stem. More-or-less vertical timber where **bows** join; the boat's entering edge.

Stemhead fitting. The top of the stem where the **jib stay** is fastened. The **jib** also is tacked to this fitting.

Step. The point into which the **heel**, or lower end, of the **mast** fits or stops.

Stern. The **after**, or back, end of boat.

Stow. To put gear, equipment, or personal items away in a safe place.

Swab. A scagging name for a mop, also, to clean, as in "swab the deck."

Tack. The lower forward corner of a **fore-and-aft** sail. To sail **close-hauled** on the wind. To turn the **bow** through the wind. The change from one **tack** to another by **coming about**.

Telltale. A thread or ribbon fastened to the **masthead** or **shrouds**, and sometimes sewn onto the sails, to indicate apparent wind.

Thwart. A seat extending across the boat.

Thwartships. At right angles to the **fore-and-aft** line.

Tiller. A length of wood or metal attached to the rudder head by which the boat is steered.

Topsides. The sides of the hull above the waterline.

Transom. A flat surface at the back of the **hull** to which the **rudder** is attached.

Trick. A period of duty at the **helm**.

Trim. The **fore-and-aft** and side-to-side angle of a boat in the water. Also, to adjust sails as the wind changes.

Under way. Moving through the water. (Technically, a boat is **under way** when its dock lines are cast off, its anchor is **aweight**, and it is not aground.) A boat makes **headway** going forward, **sternway** going backward, and **leeway** when being pushed sideways by the wind.

Unship. To take apart or remove from its place; the opposite of **stow**.

Veer. To slack off and allow to run out (as in "veering more anchor line"). To turn away from an obstacle or course.

Way on. Movement of a boat through the water.

Weather. Windward; the opposite of **leeward**.

Weather helm. A boat with a tendency to swing into the wind unless held on course.

Windward. Toward the wind.

Yaw. A vessel **yaws** or **is yawing** when it swings widely from one side of the course to the other—usually when running before heavy quartering seas.