

Port & Starboard: FINDING YOUR WAY ON BOARD

Student Introduction

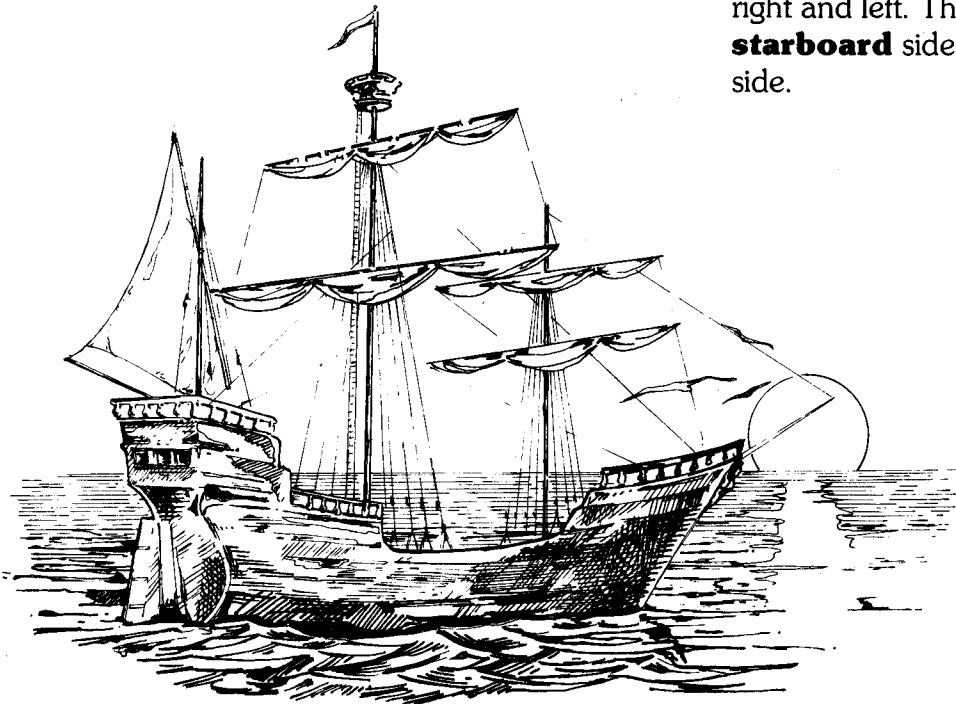
Much of the language of the sea and of boats is different from that on the land. Many words and terms used by people on ships and boats may be centuries old and have come from other languages. Words and terms used by boating people and sailors have very precise meanings. When a vessel is in danger, time can be saved if all on board know and use the correct terms for the tools and actions needed to save the vessel. Using the right term may avoid long explanations and can reduce confusion.

There are words that have to do with directions on board a ship or a large boat. Terms used for directions can usually be matched in pairs. Each pair has opposite terms. For example, the opposite of "up" is "down." What is the opposite of "left"?

Below is a list of terms that refer to directions on board a vessel. How many do you know? Place a check by the ones you know.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> aft | <input type="checkbox"/> forward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aloft | <input type="checkbox"/> port |
| <input type="checkbox"/> below | <input type="checkbox"/> starboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bow | <input type="checkbox"/> stern |

One pair of terms has to do with the front end of a vessel (the **bow**) and the back end of the vessel (the **stern**). A sailor moving toward the bow is moving **forward**. A sailor near the stern is **aft**. If a sailor is below the deck, he is **below**. A sailor above the deck in the rigging is **aloft**. Sailors have special words for right and left. The right side of a vessel is the **starboard** side and the left side is the **port** side.



Student Activity A

1. Opposite Pairs

Sailors use words and terms with special meanings. The list below includes eight terms that have to do with directions on board a large vessel. The terms can be grouped into pairs of opposite but related terms. Can you match the pairs? Place the correct opposite terms in the blanks below.

aft forward aloft port
below starboard bow stern

Aft is the opposite of _____.

Aloft is the opposite of _____.

Bow is the opposite of _____.

Port is the opposite of _____.

2. Match the Meaning With the Term

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| _____ port | (a) <i>the forward end of a vessel</i> |
| _____ bow | (b) <i>the rear of a vessel</i> |
| _____ aft | (c) <i>above the deck</i> |
| _____ below | (d) <i>below the deck</i> |
| _____ starboard | (e) <i>the left side</i> |
| _____ stern | (f) <i>at or moving toward the stern</i> |
| _____ forward | (g) <i>near or moving toward the bow</i> |
| _____ aloft | (h) <i>the right side</i> |

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the scrambled letters to form words.

Near the stern

F A T

		1	
--	--	---	--

Produced by vessel's boiler

M A T E S

				8	9
--	--	--	--	---	---

Body of a vessel

L U H L

		2	3	4
--	--	---	---	---

Up in the rigging

F O T A L

10				
----	--	--	--	--

Rear of vessel

S N E R T

5	6	7		
---	---	---	--	--

Room for a toilet

D E H A

11	12	13	14
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Place the numbered letters in the spaces below

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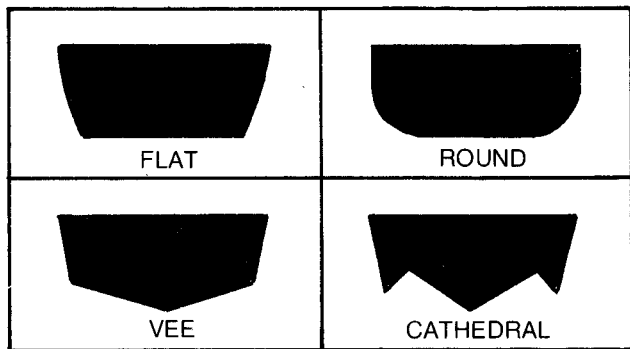
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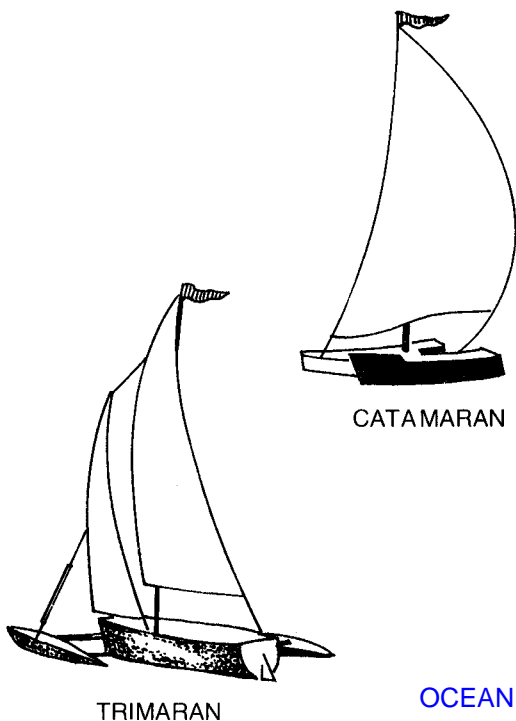
How Boats Are Shaped

The basic part of a boat is the **hull**. The **hull** gives shape to the vessel. It can be made of wood, metal, fiberglass, or concrete. The hull may be open at the top or covered with a **deck**.

The hulls of small pleasure boats can be any of three basic shapes: **flat**, **round**, or **vee**. Some modern boats have a **cathedral hull**, a version of a vee hull.



Some sailboats have two or three hulls. A sailboat with one hull is called a **monohull**. One with two hulls is a **catamaran** and one with three hulls is a **trimaran**.



Inside the Hull

The inside of most large boats is divided by walls called bulkheads. The bulkheads are used to make rooms, compartments, or cabins. Here are some names of rooms on a large boat:

Engine Room

Main cabin (a large room for crew or passengers)

Aft cabin (a room near the stern for crew or passengers)

Head (toilet)

Forepeak (small room in the bow for storage)

Galley (kitchen)

Hold (where cargo is stored)

Locker (a closet or cabinet)

There are openings in both the hull and deck. The hull may have small round windows called **portholes** to let in air and light. The deck has openings called **hatches** that allow crew and passengers to go below. Most hatches leading below also have steps called **ladders**.

On the Deck

Large motorboats have a room on deck called the **bridge**. The bridge is the location of the boat's steering and speed controls. Vessels are steered by a **tiller** or a **wheel**. The tiller or wheel controls the **rudder**. The rudder is below water near the stern. Both the rudder and the tiller or wheel are called the **helm**. The deck may have one or more cabins including the bridge. The structures on or above the deck are called the **superstructure**.

1. Match These Terms

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| _____ galley | (a) <i>the main body of a vessel</i> |
| _____ bulkhead | (b) <i>an opening for light or air</i> |
| _____ hull | (c) <i>a stairway on a boat</i> |
| _____ locker | (d) <i>kitchen</i> |
| _____ porthole | (e) <i>part of the helm</i> |
| _____ hatch | (f) <i>a doorway</i> |
| _____ ladder | (g) <i>a closet or cabinet</i> |
| _____ rudder | (h) <i>a wall or partition</i> |

2. Locate These Parts of A Boat

D on or above deck

B below deck

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| _____ bridge | _____ engine room |
| _____ head | _____ rudder |
| _____ wheel | _____ forepeak |
| _____ hold | _____ hull |

3. Complete These Statements

A sailboat with one hull is a _____.

A sailboat with two hulls is a _____.

A sailboat with three hulls is a _____.