



LSA Basic Boat Terminology

A

- * ABOARD - On or within the boat.
- * ABOVE DECK - On the deck
- * ADRIFT - Loose, not on moorings or towline.
- * AFT - Toward the stern of the boat.
- * AGROUND - Touching or fast to the bottom.
- * ANCHORAGE - A place suitable for anchoring in relation to the wind, seas and bottom.
- * ASTERN - In back of the boat, opposite of ahead.

B

- * BATTEN DOWN - Secure hatches and loose objects both within the hull and on deck.
- * BEAM - The greatest width of the boat.
- * BELOW - Beneath the deck.
- * BITTER END - The last part of a rope or chain. The inboard end of the anchor rode.
- * BOAT HOOK - A short shaft with a fitting at one end shaped to facilitate use in putting a line over a piling, recovering an object dropped overboard, or in pushing or fending off.
- * BOW - The forward part of a boat.
- * BOW LINE - A docking line leading from the bow.
- * BOWLINE - A knot used to form a temporary loop in the end of a line.
- * BULKHEAD - A vertical partition separating compartments.
- * BUOY - An anchored float used for marking a position on the water or a hazard or a shoal and for mooring.

C

- * CABIN - A compartment for passengers or crew.
- * CAST OFF - To let go.
- * CATAMARAN - A twin-hulled boat, with hulls side by side.
- * CHART - A map for use by navigators.
- * CLEAT - A fitting to which lines are made fast. The classic cleat to which lines are belayed is approximately anvil-shaped.
- * COCKPIT - An opening in the deck from which the boat is handled.
- * CURRENT - The horizontal movement of water.

D

- * DEAD AHEAD - Directly ahead.
- * DEAD ASTERN - Directly aft.
- * DECK - A permanent covering over a compartment, hull or any part thereof.
- * DINGHY - A small open boat. A dinghy is often used as a tender for a larger craft.
- * DOCK - A protected water area in which vessels are moored. The term is often used to denote a pier or a wharf.

F



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- * FENDER - A cushion, placed between boats, or between a boat and a pier, to prevent damage.
- * FORE-AND-AFT - In a line parallel to the keel.
- * FOREPEAK - A compartment in the bow of a small boat.
- * FORWARD - Toward the bow of the boat.
- * FOULED - Any piece of equipment that is jammed or entangled, or dirtied.

G

- * GALLEY - The kitchen area of a boat.
- * GEAR - A general term for ropes, blocks, tackle and other equipment.

H

- * ~~HATCH~~ - An opening in a boat's deck fitted with a watertight cover.
- * HEAD - A marine toilet. Also the upper corner of a triangular sail.
- * HEADING - The direction in which a vessel's bow points at any given time.
- * HELM - The wheel or tiller controlling the rudder. HELMSPERSON - The person who steers the boat.
- * HULL - The main body of a vessel.

Deleted: * HARD CHINE - An abrupt intersection between the hull side and the hull bottom of a boat so constructed.¶

K

- * KEEL - The centerline of a boat running fore and aft; the backbone of a vessel.
- * KNOT - A measure of speed equal to one nautical mile (6076 feet) per hour.
- * KNOT - A fastening made by interweaving rope to form a stopper, to enclose or bind an object, to form a loop or a noose, to tie a small rope to an object, or to tie the ends of two small ropes together.

L

- * LAZARETTE - A storage space in a boat's stern area.
- * LEE - The side sheltered from the wind.
- * LEEWARD - The direction away from the wind. Opposite of windward.
- * LINE - Rope and cordage used aboard a vessel.

M

- * MIDSHIP - Approximately in the location equally distant from the bow and stern.
- * MOORING - An arrangement for securing a boat to a mooring buoy or a pier.

O

- * OUTBOARD - Toward or beyond the boat's sides. A detachable engine mounted on a boat's stern.
- * OVERBOARD - Over the side or out of the boat.

P

- * PIER - A loading platform extending at an angle from the shore.
- * PORT - The left side of a boat looking forward. **It is also the name for a harbor.**

Deleted: A

R

- * RODE - The anchor line and/or chain.
- * ROPE - In general, cordage as it is purchased at the store. When it comes aboard a vessel and is put to use it becomes line.



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- * RUDDER - A vertical plate or board for steering a boat.
- * RUNNING LIGHTS - Lights required to be shown on boats underway between sundown and sunup.

S

- * SCOPE - Technically, the ratio of length of anchor rode in use to the vertical distance from the bow of the vessel to the bottom of the water. Usually ~~6-7 to 1~~ for calm weather and ~~10 to 1~~ or more scope in storm conditions.
- * SEAMANSHIP - All the arts and skills of boat handling, ranging from maintenance and repairs to piloting, sail handling, marlinespike work, and rigging.
- * SEA ROOM - A safe distance from the shore or other hazards.
- * SECURE - To make fast.
- * SHIP - A larger vessel usually thought of as being used for ocean travel. ~~It is also~~ vessel able to carry a "boat" on board.
- * SLACK - Not fastened; loose. Also, to loosen.
- * SOLE - Cabin or saloon floor. Timber extensions on the bottom of the rudder. Also, the molded fiberglass deck of a cockpit.
- * SPRING LINE - A pivot line used in docking, undocking, or to prevent the boat from moving forward or astern while made fast to a dock.
- * SQUALL - A sudden, violent wind often accompanied by rain.
- * STANDING PART - That part of a line which is made fast. The main part of a line as distinguished from the bight and the end.
- * STARBOARD - The right side of a boat when looking forward.
- * STERN - The after part of the boat.
- * STERN LINE - A docking line leading from the stern.
- * STOW - To put an item in its proper place.

Deleted: six to seven

Deleted: to one

Deleted: A

T

- * TILLER - A bar or handle for turning a boat's rudder or an outboard motor.
- * TOPSIDES - The sides of a vessel between the waterline and the deck; sometimes referring to onto or above the deck.
- * TRANSOM - The stern cross-section of a boat.
- * TRIM - Fore and aft balance of a boat.

Deleted: square sterned

U

- * UNDERWAY - Vessel in motion, i.e., when not moored, at anchor, or aground.

W

- * WAKE - Moving waves, track or path that a boat leaves behind it, when moving across the waters.
- * WATERLINE - A line painted on a hull which shows the point to which a boat sinks when it is properly trimmed (see BOOT TOP).
- * WAY - Movement of a vessel through the water such as headway, sternway or leeway.
- * WINDWARD - Toward the direction from which the wind is coming.

Y



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- * YACHT - A pleasure boat; in American usage the idea of size and luxury is conveyed, either sail or power.