

BATTING STROKES

Short Version:

Do you know what's common between a see-saw and a batter?
They both function on the same principle, using the center of gravity.

A batter needs to maintain their balance to face the unpredictable line of bowling, shifting their weight on the front and back foot, maintaining the balance.

Now, Imagine you're the batter facing a delivery.

If you are bowled a full length delivery, you *lean forward* to balance your centre of gravity and play either a **straight drive** past the bowler or a **cover drive** towards the cover region.

Facing a short ball?

Just **lean backwards** and swing the bat hard. This can be a **cut shot** for short balls outside the off stump, or **the pull shot** for balls aimed at your chest, or even the **hook shot** behind square leg for a bouncer bowled at your head.

Sometimes you can use the speed of the ball to help you.

When bowled a full delivery on the pads, batters play the **leg glance**. A small wrist flick and the ball races to the fine leg region.

It's easier for a batter to direct a delivery to the side it's already moving towards.

But to change the direction of the ball, for instance, from the off side to leg side and vice versa, you need to use the body to generate power.

While facing a full length delivery pitched near the off stump, batters employ the **sweep shot**, in which power from the body's rotation alters the speed and direction of the ball to exploit gaps in the leg side field.

To conclude, in cricket, every delivery is a question and the batter is a silent physicist, answering with the bat.

Now, imagine there's no fielder on the leg side and you get a short length delivery slightly above your waist. Which shot would you play?

Pull Shot

Straight Drive
Hook Shot
Sweep Shot

Horizontal Version:

Cricket is a mix of skill, planning, and yes, some basic physics. Ever watched a batter at the crease and wondered how they decide which shot to play?

Playing powerful controlled shots involves some basic principles.

The first principle is maintaining balance. In cricket, staying balanced helps a batter play powerful shots. This balance comes from the center of gravity - a point where the weight of the batter feels centered. For the best balance, this point should stay between their feet. As the batter moves to play a shot, this point moves too.

Think of it like a seesaw. Remember how you'd bend forward or backward to keep yourself balanced? A batter does the same. If the ball is a full length delivery pitching close to their **front foot**, they lean forward, like bending forward on the seesaw.

Similarly if the ball is short, the batter leans backward like bending backward on the seesaw.

Picture yourself at the crease, watching the bowler run in.

Thus, If the bowler bowls a full length ball coming straight at you, you might ideally want to **lean forward. And most probably** play either a **straight drive** past the bowler or play a **cover drive** with the bat pointing towards the cover region.

Let's say the bowler tries something different, sending short balls. A rising ball outside off? The **cut shot** is your choice - lean back, slap the ball hard and send it anywhere between point to third man region.

A short ball coming at your chest? Time for a **pull shot. Lean back**, rise a bit, and swing the bat to send the ball anywhere between mid wicket to fine-leg region.

And for those balls aimed at the batter's head? Again **lean back**, but this time use the **hook shot**, swinging the bat over the shoulder, hooking the ball high and behind square leg.

The second principle is using the ball's speed to your advantage. As a batter, it's easier to direct the ball to the side it's already moving towards.

That's why if the ball is slightly towards your legs, batters use the **leg glance**. They make a small move, do a quick wrist turn, and voila! - the ball's speed is enough to send it behind towards the fine leg region.

But to change the direction of the ball, for instance, from the off side to leg side and vice versa , you need to use the body to generate power. For instance, against full length deliveries pitched near the off stump, batters employ the **sweep shot**.

Sweeping the bat horizontally across the pitch transfers power from the body to the ball, altering its speed and sending it towards gaps in the leg-side field.

To conclude, in cricket, every ball bowled is a question. The batter is like a silent physicist, answering not with words, but with the bat, using balance and the ball's own speed to play a variety of shots.

Now, imagine there's no fielder on the leg side and you get a short length delivery slightly above your waist. Which shot would you play?

Pull Shot

Straight Drive

Hook Shot

Sweep Shot