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## Sailing Terminology

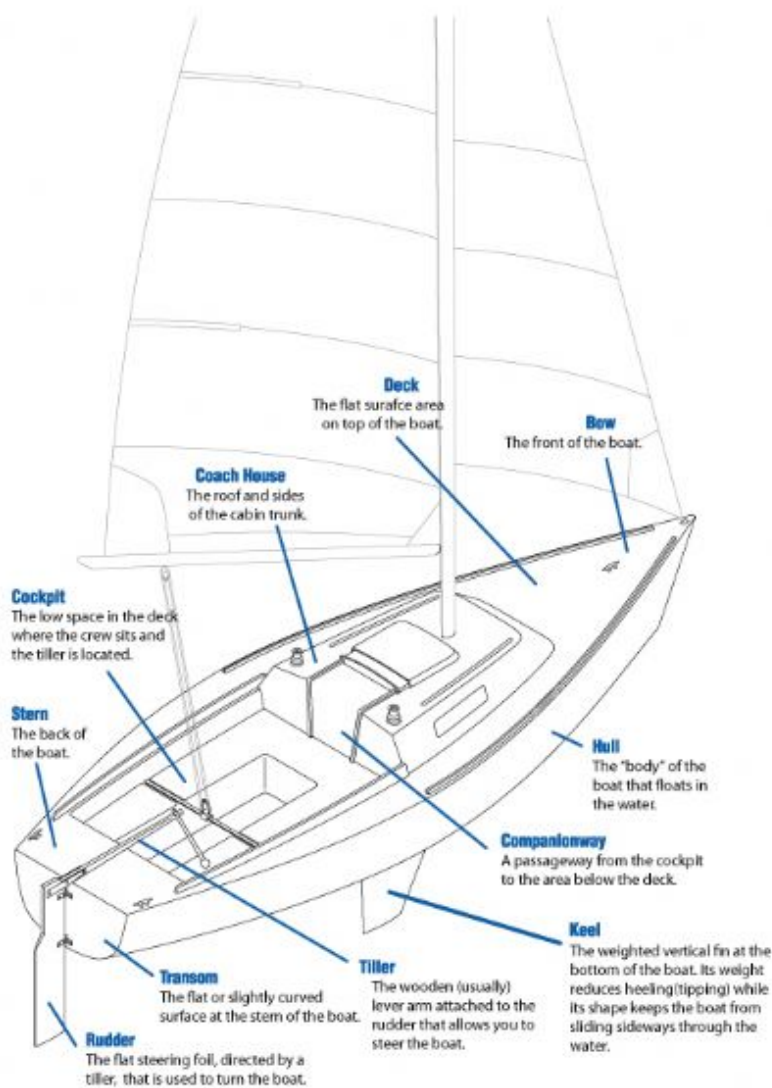
For a PDF version click on [Sailing's Terminology](#).

**Port Tack** = when you have the wind on your port side. The left side on the boat looking forward is the port side and red is the color for port. (...there's a little bit of port left in the bottle)

**Starboard Tack** = when you have the wind on your starboard side (right). Green is the color for starboard

**Aft** = At or near the stern or back of the boat

**Astern** = Behind or near the back of the boat



**Batten** = Strips of wood or plastic supporting the sail's shape

**Beam** = Maximum width of boat

**Bear away** = Turn the boat away from the wind

**Block** = Pulley

**Boom** = Support for the foot or bottom of the main sail

**Boom Vang** = Pulley for pulling down the foot of the sail

**Bow** = Front of the boat

**Centreboard** = plate below the boat that stops you sliding sideways

**Cleat** = Grip type fitting to secure ropes. There's different types

**Clew** = Lower corner of the sail, nearest the back of the boat

**Current** = Water Flow produced by the movement of water

**Down Wind** = Away from the wind

**Drag** = Resistance of the boat moving through the water or air

**Foils** = Collective term for centreboard and rudder

**Foot** = Lower edge of a sail

**Forestay** = Wire leading from the near the top of the mast to the Bow that holds the mast up

**Gooseneck** = Swivel fitting on the mast to which the boom is attached

**Goose-wing** = when the jib is set on the opposite side of the boat to the mainsail when sailing down wind

**Gunwhale** = the edge of the boat, on which you may sit

**Gybe** = To turn the stern through the direction of the wind

**Halyard** = Rope or wire used to hoist and lower a sail

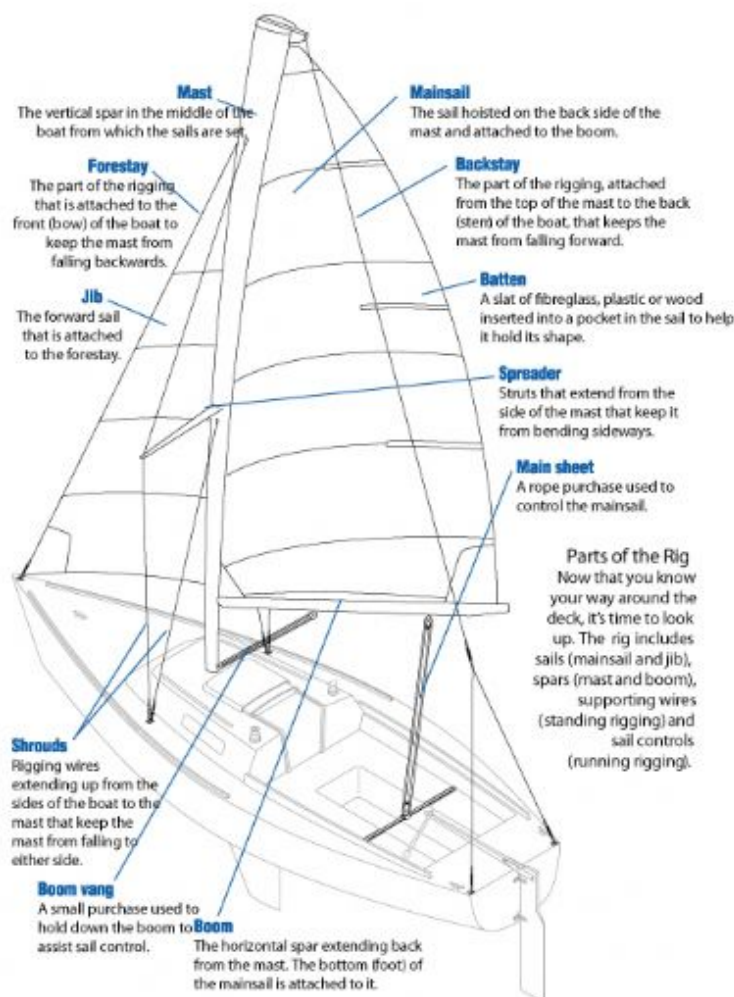
**Head-to-wind** = Pointing directly into the wind

**Heel** = Angle at which the boat tips or leans when sailing

**Jib** = Smaller forward sail

**Leech** = Aft (back) edge of sail

**Leeward** = The side away from the wind



**Leeway** = Sideways drift produced by wind and current

**Luff** = Forward edge of a sail

**Luff up** = To turn the boat towards the wind

**Mainsail** = Larger sail set on the mast

**Mainsheet** = Rope used for trimming mainsail

**Mast** = Vertical spar supporting the sails

**No go zone** = Area into which a boat cannot sail directly into the wind

**Outhaul** = Rope used to tension the foot of the sail by pulling it out

**PFD** = Personal Flotation Device (Life jacket)

**Pinching** = Sailing too close to the wind and slowing the boat

**Reaching** = Sailing across the direction of the wind

**Reef** = To reduce the size of the sails in strong winds

**Running** = Sailing with the wind

**Sheet** = Rope used to trim (adjust) a sail

**Sheet in** = To pull on the sheet adjusting the position of the sails

**Sheet off** = To ease out the sheet

**Shrouds** = Wires at the side of the boat to attach the mast

**Spinnaker** = Large lightweight triangular sail, often coloured for off wind sailing

**Tack** = Turning the bow of the boat through the wind

**Tide** = A rise or fall in water level produced by gravitational pull on the earth's surface

**Tiller** = Lever attached to the tiller to allow the skipper to sit on the gunwale and still steer the boat

**Trim the sails** = Adjusting the sails in and out as the wind changes direction and strengths

**Upwind** = Towards the wind

**Windward** = Side close to the wide

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