



# Terminology

## The Ship's Rigging

**Masts and spars:** spars or structures rising above the hull to hold sails

➤ ***Types of Mast***

- Fore and main mast
- Fore and main topmast

**Booms:** spars used to stretch out the foot of a sail

➤ ***Types of Boom's***

- Foremast boom
- Mainmast boom

**Gaffs:** spars rising aft from a mast to support the head of a quadrilateral sail

➤ ***Types of Gaff's***

- Foremast gaff
- Mainmast gaff

**Standing rigging:** standing rigging supports the masts

**Shrouds:** give athwart ship support. Five sets on each mast

➤ ***Location of Shrouds and Masts***

- Main & fore lowers: from the deck to the doubling.
- Main & fore topmast: from the doubling to the topmast head

**Stays:** Fore and aft support. named for the part of the mast they lead to and provide diagonal and aft support

➤ ***Location of Stays***

- Fore: from the bow to the foremast
- Back: from the stern to the mainmast
- Topmast: from the deck to the topmast

**Running Rigging:** running rigging is used to set, trim, and douse sails

➤ ***Types of Running Rigging***

- Lifts - fixed and movable. Move booms in the vertical plane
- Halyard - for hoisting sails and gaffs
- Downhaul - to haul down sails
- Sheets - attached to clew of sails to extend or hold them in place
- Boom Preventer - a line that restrains a boom from jibing accidentally

**Gaff Vang:** line leading from the end of a gaff down and out to the ships sides for steadying the gaff when under sail and keeping it amidships when no sails are set.

### ***General Terms***

- a. *Abaft* – In back of, opposite of forward
- b. *Aft* – behind or after the beam
- c. *Athwart ship* – on opposite sides of the ship – usually 90 degrees to the centerline
- d. *Amidships* – generally between the mainmast and foremast
- e. *Aloft* – above the deck – generally in the rigging or doublings
- f. *Beam* – the widest part of the ship
- g. *Below* – below the main deck
- h. *Bow* – foremost part of the ship (front)
- i. *Fore* – ahead of the beam
- j. *Port* – left side of ship
- k. *Starboard* – right side of the ship
- l. *Stern* – the rearmost area of the ship (back)

### ***Deck Seamanship***

- a. *Belaying pins* – secure free ends of running rigging
- b. *Pin rail* – hold outboard belaying pins
- c. *Fife rail* – hold inboard belaying pins (near masts)
- d. *Coil down* – all ropes are coiled clockwise when not in use
- e. *Hanging coil* – useful method of storing line on belaying pins
- f. *Faking* – laying a line in a parallel fashion with one turn of each turn of rope twisted when stowed or coiled to enable the line to pay out rapidly
- g. *Flemishing* – flat coil of line
- h. *Left hand lay, right hand lay* – the direction of twist in 3-strand rope (usually right hand lay).

### ***Commands***

- a. *Belay* - make a line fast or stop
- b. *Avast* - stop
- c. *Heave* - pull on a line
- d. *Slack* - take off strain and let out the line
- e. *Take a turn* - put another pass of the line around the cleat or bollard
- f. *Make fast* - belay or secure a line
- g. *Cast off* - take line off of cleat or bollard
- h. *Hold* – do not let out or take up any more line