

**X** 'Xray' in phonetic alphabet. Designated in International code by yellow flag bearing six diagonal stripes running downward from Fly to Jack. Hoisted in isolation it means: 'Stop carrying out your intentions and watch my signals'.

**X CHASER** British naval slang for officer with high qualifications, especially scientific education where 'x' is of primary in mathematics.

**XEBEC** Small three masted Vessel often used by pirates of for commerce. AKA chebec or zebec. From Arabic, 'shabbak'.

**XEME** Fork tailed arctic gull.

**XYZ AFFAIR** Yielded U.S. phrase 'millions for defense, sir, but not non cent for tribute'. Stems from 1797 incident where U.S. sent three representatives to France to negotiate a maritime treaty. However, France demanded a \$1 Million 'loan' before they would be received by French government.

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**Y** 'Yankee' in phonetic alphabet. Designated in International Code by yellow flag bearing six diagonal stripes running downward from Fly to Jack. Hoisted in isolation it means: 'I am carrying mail'.

**YACHT** General term for privately owned pleasure boat., either Sail or power. Often conveying an idea of size and luxury, either sail or power. As opposed to a Vessel of state or for royalty, nobility or other dignitaries. From the dutch 'jacht or 'jagt' and 'jagten' meaning speed or speedy German pirate ship.

**YACHT DESIGNER** Naval architect specializing in the design of Yachts.

**YANKEE** 1) Large jib topsail carried by some racing yachts. 2) All U.S. Americans or New England Sailors. From Dutch, 'jan kee', little John or John Cheese, terms contemptuously applied by English first to Dutch seaman and thence to others. Or from early Dutch referring to American sea captains who were known but not revered for their ability to drive hard bargain. Dutchmen, who were also regarded as extremely frugal, jokingly referred to the hard to please Americans as "Yankers" or wranglers.

**YANKEE STRAWBERRIES** Ironic name for dried prunes, a delicacy when fresh fruit was in short supply.

**YARD** 1) Long, nearly cylindrical piece of timber, tapering toward ends or 'Thwartshp Spar usually hung crosswise or fixed horizontally to Mast or crossing Mast on which any Square Sail is Fitted or supported. Made of single Timber or number of pieces. Used for supporting and extending sail to Wind. Enabled to Traverse freely by means of Parrels. From Anglo Saxon, 'seglegerld, meaning sail yard or 'givid'. 2) Place where boats are stored, constructed or repaired.

**YARDARM** 1) Outer portions or tip of Yard used in sailing ships for hoisting flags or hanging condemned men. 2) A'Thwrtship spar on the mast of a naval or merchant ship or smaller powerboats, used for signals. See Braces. AKA Yard Arm.

**YARD TACKLE** Used for hoisting weights on Yards.

**YARE** An old and rare term for shipshape and nimble. Easily manageable fine ship that answers readily to Helm.

**YARN ( S )** 1) Spun from fibers or created by twisting Fibers together in rope manufacture. They are then twisted together, usually left handed to form Strands of Rope. When rope is too old for service, it may be unpicked and used to Caulk Seams, etc. when it is then known as Oakum. From Anglo Saxon, 'gearn'. 2) Sea stories or tall tales. See Spin A Yarn.

**YARN SPINNING** Storeytelling. From only time sailors were allowed to converse while working to create Spun Yarn.

**YARN, SPUN** Unproven rope which is twisted into loosely woven rope, used mostly for chafing gear.

**YAW** Sail wildly erratic Course, swing temporarily or Steer off or from course by action of following or quartering sea, Running with quartering sea, bad Steering or generally difficult sea conditions. Action takes place independently of a Vessel's steering system but may be counteracted by an alert Helmsperson who can anticipate the 'swing'. From the Icelandic, 'jaga', to go to and fro.

**YAWL** Sailing Vessel with 2 Masts Riggered Fore & Aft with a large Mainsail Forward and smaller Mizzen Aft. Mizzen or Aft Mast is shorter than Forward Mainmast and the Mizzenmast is Stepped Aft or Abaft of Rudderpost or Steering Gear. AKA Yawlboat.

**PETER'S NAUTICAL TERMS DICTIONARY & GLOSSARY for BLUEWATER SAILING**

**YEOMAN** A person on board ship who does clerical work.

**Y VALVE** Liquid flows into the valve and flows out through one of two tubes which are selected by changing the angle of a lever.

**YOKE** Oval ring made of metal or hard wood which secures Foot of Upper Mast to Hounding of Lower Mast. See Cap, Cross Trees, Futtock Plate, Trestel Trees.

**YOKED** Mugged. From 'Jumper Jacks' or muggers who preyed on seamen. They Yoked a Sailor by grabbing them from behind by yoke of his tight collar and twisting his neckerchief.

**YOU CAN'T COD ME** Meaning 'you can't get a rise out of me' or 'you won't make me rise to the bait like a codfish'. See Cod.

**YUCATAN** Native answer to question by Francisco Cordoba asking the name of the area. Yucatan meaning 'I don't understand you'. See Kangaroo.

**Z** 'Zulu' in phonetic alphabet. Designated in International Code by square flag bearing four triangles with black at Jack, yellow at Head, blue at Fly and red at Foot and their points meeting in center. It is reserved for communication with shore.

**Z** See Azimuth Angle. It is measured from Observer's Meridian to Great Circle Joining AP & GP (Celestial Body)

Azimuth Angle (0° - 180° East-West),

Zenith (Label Z according to same name of Lat and t)

Azimuth Angle: From Observer's Meridian to Great Circle Joining AP & GP (Celestial Body)

**ZARPE** Departure clearance usually given by Customs officials which gives your vessel permission to leave and is letter of introduction to next port of call.

**ZENITH** Point on the Celestial Sphere Vertically Overhead. Highest point in the sky of a celestial body during its Transit. From Middle English 'senyth' and Old French, 'cenith' and Old Saxon, 'szenith'.

**ZENITH DISTANCE** AKA Coaltitude.

**ZEPHYRUS** Soft, gentle breeze. From Zephyrus.

**ZEPHYRUS** Greek God of the West wind. AKA Favonius in Latin. Offspring of Aeolus, King of Aeolian Islands and Eos or Auroa, Dawn.

**ZIGZAG COUSE** 1) Alteration of Ship's course to right and left of base course. Used in avoiding enemy submarines. 2) Any devious action.

**ZIZZ** British Navy slang for sleep.

**ZIZZER** Bed.

**ZONDA** Strong west wind which lows over western region of Argentina.

**ZONE CENTER** Center of Time Zone. Each is 15° distant (East or West) from the center of its neighboring Time Zone and one hour different.

**ZONE DESCRIPTION (ZD)** ZD = ( Longitude / 15 ) rounded to closest whole number. Labeled starting at Greenwich, England or Prime Meridian with ZD = '0'. To the west, Time Zones are numbered with Zone Descriptions +1,+ 2, +3, +4, etc. and to the East -1, -2, -3, etc.

**ZONES** See Time Zones

**ZONE WIDTH** Standard width of a Time Zone is 15°.

**Zn** True Azimuth. AKA Azimuth.

<u>LAT</u>	<u>t</u>	<u>LHA</u>	<u>Zn</u>	True Azimuth ( 0° - 360° )
N	E	>180°	Z	True Azimuth: From North Pole

				Clockwise to Great Circle
N	W	<180°	360 - Z	Joining AP & GP

(Celestial Body)

S	E	>180°	180 - Z
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S	W	<180°	180 +Z
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**ZOB** Original name for game known as 'rock, paper scissors'. Started in British Navy to decide who will pay for drinks. Word is spoken three times while preparing to hold out closed fist, open palm or two fingers extended.

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**ZYGA**      Cross benches or thwarts for rowers on  
trienes and other Vessels.

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