

NAUTICAL DICTIONARY

EVERYDAY TERMS WITH NAUTICAL ORIGIN & BACKGROUND

By Peter W. Damisch, Managing Director - *BLUEWATER SAILING*

Many, otherwise normal people, utilize many or most of the following terms in their colorful, everyday speech without realizing that these phrases derive their origin from traditional sailor's language. Please contact *Bluewater Sailing* if your would like to learn more about the fabulous and fun world of sailing.

A1	Belay	Chit
Above Board, All	Bend on a Splice	Chock-a-block (Chock Full)
Adrift	Between Devil and Deep Blue Sea	Chow
Ahoy	Between or Betwixt Wind and Water	Clean Bill of Health
Albatross	Bigwig	Clean Slate
All at Sea	Bilge or Bilge Water	Clear the Deck
All Hands On Deck	Bitter End	Close Quarters
All in a Day's Work	Black Book	Cock Up
Allow a Little Leeway	Blazer	Cold Enough to Freeze the Balls Off a Brass Monkey
All Sewn Up, It's	Blood Is Thicker Than Water	Copper Bottomed Investment
All Washed Up	Blue Monday	Couple of Shakes
Aloof	Bonanza	Cranky
Anchor	Booby Hatch	Crew Cut
Antenna	Bootleg	Cross the Line
Any Port in a Storm	Born With Silver Spoon in His Mouth	Crow Flies, Straight As
Armed to the Teeth	Bottle Up	Cruiser
Avast	Braced Up	Cut and Run
Awash	Brought Up Short	Cut of His Jib
Back and Fill	Buccaneer	Cutting the Painter
Bad Name	Buoy	Davy Jones Locker
Bail Out	By and Large	Dead Marine or Dead Soldier
Ballast	By Guess and by God	Deadwood
Barge In	By the Board (s)	Deep Six
Batten Down the Hatches	Caboose	Deliver a Broadside
Beached	Careen	Derelict
Beam Ends	Casting Around	Devil to Pay, the
Bear (ing) Up	Catch My Drift	Dirty Dog
Bear Down (Off)	Chew the Fat	

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Dismantle	Galoot	Hotshot
Dog's Body	Gangway!	Hulk
Doldrums	Get Into a Flap	Hunky Dory
Don't Give Up the Ship	Gingerbread	Idler
Don't Let the Cat out of the Bag	Give a Wide Berth	I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight
Down the Hatch	Give Leeway	I'm Alright Jack
Dressing Down	Give Quarter	In the Doldrums
Drogue Chute	Go by the Board	In the Offing
Dutch Courage	Go Overboard	In the Same Boat
Dutchman's Breeches	Great Guns	In the Wake
Ebb and Flow	Grease the Ways or Skids	Jack
Fagged Out	Great Guns	Jaunty
Fairway	Grin and Bear It	Johnny Come Lately
Fathom	Gripe	Jonah
Faux Paus	Groggy	Junk (Chunk)
Fend Off	Gunboat Diplomacy	Jury Rig(ged)
Field Day	Halcyon Days	Keelhaul
Figurehead	Half Seas Over	Keep A Weather Eye Open
Filibuster	Hand Over Fist	Knock Off
First Rate	Hard and Fast	Know the Ropes
Fish or Cut Bait	Hard Up	Laid Up
Flogging A Dead Horse	Haul up Short	Landlubber
Flotsam and Jetsam	Haze	Landmark
Fluke	Head	Latitude
Fly By Night	Hell's Bell's!	Launch
Fogy	Helm	Lay of the Land
Forging Ahead	High and Dry	Learn the Ropes
Footloose	Hijack	Leeway
Foul Up	Hit the Deck	Let The Cat Out of the Bag
Founder	Hodgepodge	Lifeline
Freshen the Hawser	Hold Off	Limey
From Stem to Stern	Hooker	Loaded to the Gunn'ls
Fudge	Horse Latitudes	Loggerheads, at

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Look One Way and Row Another	Overwhelm	Shiver Me Timbers
Loophole	Peacoat	Shove Off
Loose Cannon	Pigeonhole	Show Your True Colors
Loose Ends	Pipe Down	Sing Out
Lopsided	Plain Sailing	Skipper
Lose Their Way	Pooped	Skylarking
Lower the Boom	Posh	Skyscraper
Maelstrom	Powder Monkeys	Slewed
Main Stay (As in "He Was the Mainstay of Our Team")	Quarantine	Sloppy
Make a Clean Sweep	Rats From a Sinking Ship	Slush Fund
Make Both Ends Meet	Real McCoy	Snub
Make (ing) Headway	Rig	Son of a Gun
Married To The Gunner's Daughter	Ringleader	Son of a Sea Cook
Mind Your P's and Q's	Rostrum	Sound (ing)Out
Miss The Boat	Round Robin	Splice The Main Brace
Monkey	Rub Salt in the Wound	Square Meal
Nausea	Rummage Sale	Standoff
Nautical	Run Afoul of	Stranded
Nippers and Half Pints	Run (ning) A Tight Ship	Staunch
No Man's Land	Running the Gauntlet	Stave Off
No Room to Swing a (Dead) Cat	Sailing Under False Colors	Stem to Stern
Nosey Parker	Scraping the Bottom of the Barrel	Stinkpot
Now You're Talking	Scuppered	Stranded
Offing	Scuttle	Suck The Monkey
On an Even Keel	Scuttlebutt	Sun Is Over the Yardarm
On Another Tack	Sea Change	Swab, Swab the Deck
On the Right or Wrong Tack	Sea Lawyer	Swallow the Anchor
On the Rocks	Sea Legs	Swamped
Over a Barrel	Shake (Or) Show a Leg	
Overbearing	Shanghai	
Overhaul	She Won't Wear It	
Overreach	Ship of Fools	
	Shipshape (and Bristol Fashion)	
	Ships That Pass in the Night	

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Tack	Walk the Chalk
Taken Aback	Wallop
Take Down a Pegor Two	Warning Shot Across The Bow
Take Someone Down a Peg	Waster
Take The Wind Out of Your Sails	Weather a Storm
Tar	Weather Eye
Teetotaler	Whole Nine Yards
Tell It to the Marines	Windfall
Three Sheets to The Wind (also One Sheet to the Wind)	Windfall Profit Wishy Washy
Tide Over	
Tidy	
Time and Tide Waiteth for No Man	
Toe The Line	
Touch and Go	
Touch It with a 10 Foot Pole	
Trick	
True Blue	
Turn a Blind Eye	
Turned Out	
Under The Weather	

All Terms from the Book: Everything I Wanted to Know About: NAUTICAL TERMS,
SAILING DICTIONARY, & BOATING GLOSSARY

By Captain Peter W. Damisch

FUN NAUTICAL DICTIONARY

By Peter W. Damisch, Managing Director - BLUEWATER SAILING

These tongue - in - cheek definitions are just for "fun".

For descriptions with just a little bit more accuracy, please refer to the book:

Everything I Wanted to Know About: NAUTICAL TERMS,
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By Captain Peter W. Damisch

ABAFT What you can take only in the most luxurious cabins

ABEAM A large length of metal, supporting something like a deck or a wall

ABOARD Same as abeam, but made of wood

AFT Anyplace behind the bow

AMIDSHIPS Condition of being surrounded by boats.

ANCHOR A device designed to bring up mud samples from the bottom at inopportune or unexpected times.

ANCHOR LIGHT Small light used to discharge the battery before daylight.

ATHWARTS Cross between foot fungus and growths on hands; caused by handling or walking on very active toads

AYE AYE Expression of surprise, usually followed by "cheewawa"

BATTERY Electrochemical storage device capable of lighting a lamp of a wattage approximately equal to that of a refrigerator lamp for a period of 15 minutes after having been charged for two hours.

BEAM SEA Situation in which waves strike a boat from the side, causing it to roll unpleasantly. This is one of the four directions from which wave action tends to produce extreme physical discomfort. The other three are `bow sea' (waves striking from the front), `following sea' (waves striking from the rear), and `quarter sea' (waves striking from any other direction).

BEARING What goes on around the pool

BEATING TO WINDWARD Method of flogging crew to increase upwind performance when racing.

BIFURCATION BUOY Buoy that you can't tell if its coming or going.

BERTH A little addition to the crew. Also a parking spot for the ship but you have to look very carefully to see the lines painted on the water.

BOOM Sometimes the result of a surprise jibe.

BOTTOM PAINT What you get when the cockpit seats are freshly painted.

BOW Bend over in honor; also pointy end of ship, usually passes through the water before the rest of the ship

BRIDGE Where the Captain rants and rails when he gets stern

BULKHEAD Very large restroom

CABIN Closet-like space costing \$300 per day, used for sleeping and not much else

CHART A type of map which tells you exactly where you are aground.

CLEW Indication from the skipper as to what he might do next.

COMPANIONWAY A double berth.

COURSE What the Navigator is studying in his spare time at night school, hoping to figure out what an astrolabe or a sextant is

DAVIT Killed Goliath, never went to sea

DEAD RECKONING Course leading directly to a reef.

DEADRISE Getting up to check the anchor at 0300.

DINGHY Sound of the ship's bell.

DECK 52 cards, used in casinos

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- DEVIATION** Any departure from the Captain's orders.
- DISEMBARK** Get off the Ark; a good example of just how old most nautical lingo is
- DISPLACEMENT** When you dock your boat and can't find it later.
- DOCK** Member of ship's crew caring for passenger's health
- DRAFT** Type of beer served in ship's bar
- EMBARK** Get on the Ark
- ESTIMATED POSITION** Place you have marked on the chart where you are sure you are not.
- FATHOM** Measure of water depth, somewhere between 6 inches and 20 feet
- FIRST MATE** Crew member necessary for skippers to practice shouting instructions to.
- FOR'ARD** Not a Mercury or Lincoln
- FOUL WIND** Breeze produced by flying turkey.
- FREEBOARD** 1) See abeam and aboard; this one costs nothing. 2) Food and liquor supplied by the owner.
- FUNNEL** The only place on the ship where you should see smoke, other than the bar; see stack
- GALLEY** Where the slaves sit and row, or, in the case of modern ships, turn the screws
- GANGWAY** Ramp where groups (gangs) of salespeople await the ship's passengers
- HAWSER** Passenger from Indiana
- HEAD** Something like a scuttlebutt or scupper, but with running water
- HEADWAY** What you are making if you can't get the toilet to work.
- HEAVE-HO** What you do when you've eaten too much Ho.
- HELM** Southern senator; also steering wheel
- HULL** Outside portion of a nut
- JACOBS LADDER** Song popular at camp
- JIBE** Either you like it or you don't and it gets you.
- KEEL** 1) Barnacle collector; don't worry, you can't see it, so don't expect to be invited to admire the ship's collection. 2) Term used by 1st mate after too much heel by skipper.
- KNOT** Not a mile-per-hour, but a little more
- LANDLUBBER** Anyone on board who wishes he were not.
- LATITUDE** 1) What the Captain will NOT give his crew, when he is stern, or ranting and railing. The number of degrees off course allowed a guest.
- LEEWARD** In the direction of Atwater, Petty, or Greenwood
- LINE** What can get you in good with that blonde in the bar
- LOG** Tree, lying down; could become aboard
- LONGITUDE** Like latitude, but longer
- MAST** Religious ritual used before setting sail.
- MASTER** Another term for the Captain; pronounce it properly, or they may get stern
- MIZZEN** An object you can't find.
- NAUTICAL MILE** Not a real mile; too far to swim to shore
- PITCH** What the ship's bow does in rough weather; what the passengers do, on the other hand, includes the word "throw"
- PORT** Favorite nautical wine; also means "left" (both words have four letters, a mnemonic device useful to many); also city with ship berths, designed to create a giant sucking sound in the vicinity of your wallet
- PORTHOLE** Entry to a harbor; OK, it really means a small window that costs an extra \$100 per day, but how funny is that?

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- QUAY** Another word for dock ; arguing about the proper pronunciation can pass hours (kway? kay? key? kwie? who knows?)
- RAILING** What the Captain does when he gets stern ; same as ranting
- RAM** An intricate docking maneuver sometimes used by experienced skippers.
- RHUMB LINE** Two or more crew members waiting for a drink.
- ROLL** Small bread served in dining room; also another motion of the ship in rough weather, but greatly reduced by stabilizers
- SCREWS** Propellers; apparently turned by slaves in galley
- SCUPPER** Drain at the edge of a deck, to allow water to run off; if water is running in, see "sink"
- SKIPPER** Slang term for a flying fish, or a flat stone
- SHEET** Cool, damp, salty night covering.
- SHROUD** Equipment used in connection with a wake.
- SINK** Unless there is a huge amount of frantic activity on deck, large stainless steel unit in the kitchen
- SQUARE RIGGER** A rigger over 30.
- STABILIZER** Device to counteract ship's roll; several umbrella drinks will have the opposite effect, in case you want to experiment with what cruises were like before the invention of stabilizers
- STACK** Refers to pancakes, funnels, or possibly girls around the pool
- STARBOARD** 1) Like aboard , but pointing at the night sky; also means "right", which has absolutely no mnemonic relationship, so no one remembers it without thinking about "port" first. 2) Special board used by skippers for navigation (usually with "Port" on the opposite side.)
- STATEROOM** Cabin where you can lie in state
- STERN** The Captain, when the crew acts like the crew of the Love Boat; also the roundy (or, on modern cruise ships, squarish) end of the ship. Usually passes through the water after the rest of ship.
- SWELL** A wave that's just great.
- TENDER** How your skin will feel after the first day on a Caribbean cruise; also small boat to take passengers ashore, making them wonder why their port taxes are not being used to construct a dock with cruise ship berths
- WAKE** What you won't want to do at 6 a.m., if you attended the midnight buffet
- WEIGH ANCHOR** Complicated operation involving very large scales, necessary before every ship's departure
- WINDLASS** Completely still; no wind
- YARDARM** Important ship feature, determining if it's time for a rum