



Sailing terms

Abaft :	To sail a little further on a 90 degree angel before tacking to allow for leeward drift.
Accidental jibe:	An uncontrolled/unintentional jibe.
Aft dock line:	A line from the back of the boat to a point on the quay behind the boat.
Aft spring line:	A line from the back of the boat to a point at midships on the quay
Aground:	To be stuck on a shallow.
Anchoring:	Stopping the boat on the water using an anchor.
Anti-fouling:	Paint for under the waterline to prevent fouling.
Apparent wind:	The wind as it is experienced on a moving boat. Is determined by the direction and magnitude of the actual wind and the sail wind. You can see the direction on the vane. It is the wind on which we sail.
Background bearing:	A method of determining whether there is a risk of collision by looking t see if the background is shifting relative to the point of a crossing boat.
Backing:	A backward movement of the boat.
Backed Jib :	The jib on the windward side so that the jib has a strong bearing-off effect. Different from jib to windward in a wing to wing position.
Bailing:	To scoop water out of the boat (for example with a bailer).
Batten:	Narrow, flexible plastic batten that is slid into a sail bag on the leech of a sail to improve the sail profile. Battened means that the batten continues all the way to the mast.
Beam Reach:	A sailing course perpendicular to the wind direction.
Bearing off:	Steering away from the wind. Turning to leeward.
Beating:	Sailing close hauled alternately on port and starboard to reach an upwind point.
Beaufort:	Unit to indicate the wind force. (from 0 to 12)
Belaying:	Attaching a line to a cleat.



Boom:	Part of the rigging attached under the mainsail to keep it out.
Boom cradle:	Standard on which the boom rests when moored.
Boom vang:	Line that pulls the boom down close to the mast to keep a boom down on downwind courses and to control the twist in the sail during upwind courses.
Bow:	The front of a boat.
BPR:	The Inland Navigation Police Regulations (BPR) contain the traffic rules for most Dutch inland waterways
Broad reach:	A sailing course at an angle away from the wind.
By the lee:	A sailing course slightly further from the wind than directly downwind. (risk of an accidental jibe).
Camcleat :	A cleat used to secure lines with a spring-loaded cam mechanism that locks the rope in place.
Cat rigged:	Boat that only has a mainsail. The mast is then placed relatively far forward. This type is mainly found on smaller, single-person vessels such as the Optimist and Laser.
Chicken jibe :	The manoeuvre from a broad reach to a broad reach on the other tack in which a jibe is avoided by making a tack.
Cleat:	A device with two horns for securing a dockline.
Clew:	A back an lower corner of a sail, close to the sheet.
Close hauled:	A limit course in which the sail is sailed as sharply as possible against the wind in order to reach a point that is not sailed.
Close reach:	A course between close hauled and beam reach.
Cockpit:	The seating area in the boat for the crew.
Coiling:	Technique of neatly tidying up a loose line by putting it in loops and tying them together.
Collision bearing:	To see if there is a risk of collision by looking at whether the angle to the other boat remains the same or not.
Come to irons:	Turning the boat from a beam reach towards the wind so that its bow is pointed directly into the wind to come to a stop.



Course:	The direction of travel of the boat
Crabbing:	An intended sideways movement to leeward.
Cunninghamhole:	Trim line with which the luff of the mainsail can be tensioned. Moves the curvature of the sail more forward or aft.
CWO:	Commission for Water Sports Training in the Netherlands.
Depowered sail:	Flapping of only the luff of a sail.
Downwind:	Sailing course opposite to the wind direction, on a run / On the leeward side.
Drifting:	Drifting is an intended sideways movement to leeward Departing: Leaving a fixed point.
Ease:	To loosen (sheets, halyards or other lines)
Far-lead:	Eye or block on the deck through which the jib sheet runs
Fender:	Cushion filled with air attached to the boat to protect the hull.
Figure -eight knot:	Stopper knot
Flaking:	Folding the sail in neat layers on the boom.
Foot:	The lower edge or hem of a sail.
Forecastle:	The space under the foredeck.
Foredeck:	The deck area in front of the mast.
Fore dock line :	Line from the front of the boat to a point on the quay in front of the boat
Forespring:	Line from the front of the boat to a point on the quay amidships
Forestay:	The stay that runs from the bow to the mast.
Freeboard:	The vertical height of the side of the boat. The distance between the gangway and the waterline.
Fulling:	Catching the wind in the sails so that speed can be built up.
Furling:	The rolling or folding away of the sail.
Furling line:	The line with which the jib is rolled in.



Gaining height:	Gaining an advantage by getting closer to a target that is in the wind.
Gunwale:	The horizontal deck surface between the fore and aft deck.
Good seamanship:	The obligation to do everything to prevent damage to the vessel and crew.
Ground block:	The pulley of the mainsheet that is attached in the cockpit.
Gust:	A temporary and local increase in wind force
Harden :	Tighten.
Halyard:	Line used to hoist and lower a sail.
Heaving to:	Manoeuvre in which the boat is stable independently with full rigging. The jib (if present) is backed, the mainsail is completely loose and the rudder is in the windward position.
Head:	Topcorner of a sail
Heel:	The angle of rotation perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the boat.
Height (wind):	To come more to windward. Often when beating, to arrive at an upwind point as quickly as possible.
Helms a lee:	Lee-ho. Command given to indicate the moment of tacking.
Helmsman:	The person who is steering the ship at that moment. Not the same as the skipper.
Higher:	To sail closer to the wind
High side:	The side from which the wind comes. The windward side, The side of the boat that rises when healing under sail
Hoist:	To pull sails up.
In irons:	Head to, The bow facing the wind.
Jib:	Headsail that is completely in front of the mast.
Jibe:	Manoeuvre in which the sail is transferred to the other side when on a downwind/ running course.
Jib halyard:	The line with which the jib is hoisted.



Jib mate:	Crew member responsible for operating the jib.
Jib sheet:	The line with which the jib is operated.
Joystick:	Extension rod on the cleat to be able to operate it from the gangway.
Keel:	A heavy, elongated part under the boat intended to prevent leeway, give the boat stability and to create lift.
Keep off:	To prevent the boat from hitting the quay.
Knots:	unit of speed, Nautical mile (1852 m) / hour
Leech:	The rear edge of a sail
Leeward side:	Low side of the boat, side where the wind leaves the boat.
Leeward shore:	The bank towards which the wind blows.
Leeway:	Unintentional lateral movement away from the wind.
Line:	A rope that has a function on board.
Long tack:	Stretch tack, The longest leg close to the wind when beating in narrow waters when the wind is at an angle to this waterway. Use this tack mainly to build up height.
Loose Sail Approach:	A manoeuvre to approach a windward shore on a close-hauled course and use loose sails to control your boat's speed.
Loosing the helm:	No longer being able to keep a sailing boat on course with the rudder because it is heeling too much, causing the boat to luff up and turn into the wind. Also called coming off the helm
Lower:	More away from the wind, bearing away.
Lowering:	Lowering or dropping sails.
Low side:	Leeward, the side of the boat that goes down when heeling
Luff:	The front of a sail
Luffing / heading up :	Changing course towards the wind.
Mainsail:	The sail behind the mast that is attached to the boom.
Mainsail halyard:	The line used to hoist the mainsail.
Mainsheet:	The line used to control the sail position of the mainsail.



MOB;	Man overboard manoeuvre
Moor:	To secure the boat to a fixed point for a longer period of time.
Mooring Line	Dock line, used to secure the boat to the quay.
Narrowness:	narrowing in the waterway where two boats cannot pass or overtake each other simultaneously.
Narrow waterway:	Waterway where you have only a few boat lengths from shore to shore.
Night-ready:	Derigged, All actions to be able to leave the boat unattended.
No sail zone:	The area (approx. 45 degrees) between the course into the wind and close-hauled where you cannot sail.
On a Run:	Course opposite to the wind direction, Course with the wind. Mainsail can be sailed on both sides.
Overtaking:	A boat passing another boat that is moving in the same direction.
Over Sailed:	Sailing too far after a 90 degree angle before tacking so that the destination is reached lower than close to the wind.
Pinching:	Sailing too close to the wind, causing the speed to be too low.
Port (BB):	Looking ahead, the left side of the boat.
Pointing lower:	More away from the wind, bearing off.
Push pole :	Long pole to to push a boat forward.
Pyling:	Pushing the boat forward with a long pole.
Ready to sail:	Rigged, all actions to prepare the boat for sailing
Reefing:	Reducing the sail area.
Rigging:	All actions on the ship to make it ready to sail.
Right angle bearing:	A direction perpendicular to the boat for example used on a close-hauled course, used to see where you will end up when sailing close-hauled on the other tack. Also beam reach bearing
Running rigging:	All lines used to hoist the sails
Sail cover:	Cover around the sail that is tied together on the boom to protect it from the elements.



Sail wind:	The wind that is created by the boat's own speed is always opposite to the sailing direction.
Sheets:	Lines used to control the sail position.
Shelter:	Sheltered area with less wind. (wind shadow)
Slip landing:	Manoeuvre in which the speed is controlled at walking pace on a close reach so that the boat can arrive safely at a windward or side shore
Spreader:	Horizontal rod halfway up the mast that pushes the top shroud outwards, thus changing the angle and giving the mast more strength and stiffness.
Starboard (SB):	Right side of the boat facing the bow.
Stays:	Steel wires that keep the mast upright.
Side shore:	a shore parallel to the wind direction.
Stand rigging:	The stays that provide sideways support to the mast.
Stern line	aft line , A line from the back of the boat to a point on the quay behind the boat
Stern spring:	aft spring line, A line from the back of the boat to a point at midships / beam on the quay
Saildrop:	Lowering sails.
Sailed:	To reach a goal directly without having to tack.
Sheet led:	Eye or block on the deck through which the jib sheet runs.
Sheets:	Lines that control the sail position.
Shelter:	area with less wind. (wind shadow)
Short tack:	Tack, the shortest leg close to the wind when beating in narrow waters when the wind is at an angle to this waterway. Use this mainly to build up speed.
Shifting berth:	Changing mooring, moving the boat without using the sails
Side shore	The shore parallel to the wind direction.



S-jibe:	A jibe manoeuvre in which the sail is first pulled in downwind, then weighed down to a course within the wind
Skipper:	The person ultimately responsible on a ship. This does not always have to be the helmsman.
Sloop-rigged	boat with a mainsail and one headsail. Sloop-rigged is the most common type on modern yachts, it can be either top-rigged or gaff-rigged.
Spray:	Water splashing against the bow of the boat.
Standing rigging:	All lines that support the mast. Forestay and sidestays.
Starboard (SB):	Right side of the boat.
Stays:	Steel wires that keep the mast upright.
Stern :	Aft, The back of a boat, also called transom or tail.
Straight Jibe:	A jibe manoeuvre in which the sail is first weighed down to a course within the wind and then the sail is pulled in and immediately eased when the wind falls to the other side of the sail.
Tack:	The front and lower corner of a sail.
Tacking:	Manoeuvre in which the boat turns from close hauled to close hauled with the bow going through the wind
Tell tales:	Tapes to make the air space along the sail visible. Mounted on the jib both to windward and leeward. Mounted on the mainsail to the leech.
Tiller:	Helm, The part used to operate the rudder
Topping lift:	Line on which the boom hangs when the sail is not hoisted.
Trimming:	Changing the position / shape / profile of the sail to get the best possible result.
Turning jibe:	A jibing manoeuvre in which a gradual turn is made from a broad reach, the mainsail is brought over to the other side and immediately luffed up again to a broad reach.



True wind:	The actual wind as you experience it when you are standing still. You can see the direction from a flag on the shore or the direction of the waves.
Tacking:	Beating, Sailing alternately on port and starboard 'close to the wind' to reach an upwind point.
Upwind:	Above: on the windward side.
Vane:	The wind indicator at the top of the mast.
Waterway:	The area where a boat can actually sail. So it varies per boat, a deep-lying boat has less waterway than a shallow-lying boat
Water width:	The area from bank to bank.
Wheater helm:	Tendency of a sailboat to turn into the wind.
Windward Shore	The shore from which the wind comes.
Windward Side:	Side of the boat where the wind hits the boat.
Wing and wing:	Also goosewinging. Filling the jib on the side opposite the mainsail when sailing downwind to increase the effective sail area.