

NAUTICAL DICTIONARY

Abaft	Behind. At or near the stern. Aft of amidships. On the after side of.
Abaft the beam	Bearing more than 90 degrees from dead ahead.
Abandon ship	Leave the boat with no intention to make further efforts to save or preserve her.
Abate	The wind is said to abate when its force lessens.
Abeam	Directly off the side of the boat. At right angles to the fore and aft line
Aboard	On or in any vessel or boat. On board
Abreast	Side by side
Adrift	Floating free without propulsion. Floating on the tide unsecured.
Aft	Towards, at, or near the stern.
Aground	The state of a vessel part which is touching the bottom. Held fast on the bottom.
Ahead	Forward of, Advance. In the direction of the bows.
Ahoy	The general nautical hailing term to attract attention. "Ahoy the dock", Ahoy the raft"
Alpha	A, the letter "A" in the phonetic alphabet
Amidships	A helm order to put the wheel or tiller so that the rudder is fore and aft. To steer dead ahead.
Anchor	Device that digs into the sea bottom to prevent the boat from drifting. To secure the vessel by way of anchoring.
Anchorage	The place where a boat, or boats, may anchor.
Anchor's aweigh	The report from the bow that the anchor has been hove out of the ground, is off the bottom with its weight taken by the chain and rode.
Annual variation	The inconsistency in the earth's magnetic force that causes a change in the variation of the magnetic compass; the difference may be found printed on charts as increasing or decreasing so much annually.
Anti-fouling	Paint on the bottom of a boat that reduces marine growth
Astern	Behind. Backwards. In the direction of the stern. Outside and abaft of the vessel.
At anchor	A vessel riding by its anchor.
ATON's	Aids TO Navigation
Avast	Stop. Cease. Hold fast. "Avast heaving" is stopping hauling on a rope.
Awash	Said of anything where the sea, or water, is just washing over it. Level with the surface of the water, or just under it.
Aweigh	Off the ground with weight taken by supporting ropes, cable, or chain. (See anchor's aweigh)
Aye-aye sir	The verbal acceptance of an order.
Back	The keep of a boat. The wind is said to "back" when it changes direction counter-clockwise.
Back splice	Used to prevent the ends of a rope from unlaying.
Bail	Remove water from a boat by hand, or with a bailer.
Ballast	Weight low in the hull to improve stability
Bank	An area of the seabed that raises above the surrounding ground.
Bar	The silting-up of deposit or shallowing formed near the entrance to a harbor or inlet.
Barometer	Instrument that measures atmospheric pressure which determines changes of weather.
Batten Down	Close openings and secure gear
Battery	Source of direct current (DC) for electronics
Beached	Said of any vessel that has run ashore or is placed there for any reason, or of a mariner who retires to live ashore.
Beacon	An artificial warning mark to aid navigation.
Beam	The breadth of a vessel at her widest part. Extreme width. Straight out from the side of the boat, at ninety degrees from either side of dead ahead.
Beam sea	A sea rolling in at right angles to the vessels course.
Beam wind	A wind blowing in at right angles to the vessels course.
Beamy	Anything of excessive, or unusual beam. An unusually wide boat.
Bearing	The direction of one object from another. It may be given as true, magnetic, or relative to the vessel's
Beaufort wind scale	A table used at sea to classify the various wind forces and their speeds, their descriptions being denoted by the use of numbers (force 7, force 9).
Belay	Make fast a rope around a belaying pin or cleat. An order to cease what one is doing, or to cancel an
Bell buoy	A buoy containing a bell that is rung by the motion of the sea.
Below	Between decks. Going below is descending from the upper deck.
Berth	Any place in a harbor allotted for the accommodation of a vessel. Place a vessel in any allotted position.
Bilge	A sleeping space or specified cabin in any vessel. To give a wide berth is to keep well clear of anything.
Bilge	Lowest area inside the boat. Absolute nonsense.
Bimini Top	Canvas canopy
Binnacle	The stand or case in which the ships compass is housed.

Blocks	Pulleys inside a frame, used to gain a mechanical advantage or to lead a rope in any required direction. It is measured by the length of its shell.
Blowers	Fans that remove dangerous vapors from the engine compartment.
Boathook	Pole with a blunt hook used for extending ones reach.
Boom	Horizontal post of the main sail
Bow	Front (of the boat)
Bow Eye	Towing loop secured at the bow
Bow Line	Rope that attaches the front of the boat to a dock
Bowline	A knot used to tie a loop in the end of a line.
Bowsprit	A spar projecting from the bow of a sailing vessel, to which the headsails are secured.
Bravo	B, the letter "B" in the phonetic alphabet
Breakwater	artificial harbor. A protective barrier erected across a deck to break the force of any seas that are shipped.
Bridge	Cockpit (control station)
Broach	Broadside to the waves
Broad On/Off	45 degree angle to front/back
Bulkhead	Vertical partition maintaining rigidity in construction and dividing a vessel into watertight compartments.
Buoy	Floating navigation aids
Buoyancy	Ability to float, expressed in positive or negative. A boat has positive buoyancy, a rock has negative buoyancy.
Burgee	Flag identifying ownership or membership
Can	Green cylindrical buoy
Capsize	Upside down in the water
Cardinal Points	North, South, East, West
Cast Off	Unfasten for departure
Catamaran	Boat with two hulls
Caulking	Any substance used for sealing between the seams of planking to make them watertight.
Cavitation	Turbulence caused by a propeller blade spinning too fast and creating low-pressure bubbles
CDMVT	Angle conversion process from Compass to True direction (+East)
Celestial Navigation	True direction as opposed to Magnetic or Compass
Chafe	Rub or wear away by constant use or friction.
Chafing gear	Protection applied to prevent chafing.
Chandlery	Shop where nautical gear is sold
Channel	The deepest part of a passage through which the main current flows.
Charlie	C, the letter "C" in the phonetic alphabet
Chart	relevant data, represented on and as a map, and used for navigational purposes. Charts are the sailors roadmaps.
Chine	Juncture of the side and the bottom of boat
Chop	Waves that are short and steep
Cleat	Fitting with arms used to fasten lines
CO Monitor	Carbon Monoxide warning device. Used in enclosed areas on boats with gasoline engines.
Cocked hat	The small triangle indicated on a chart when three lines of position are supposed to meet, but do not quite do so. The center of the triangle becomes the position fix.
Codline	Small line used for many handy purposes, such as lacings, ornamental knots, quick tie down of small items...etc.
COG	Course Over Ground, the course in the water adjusted for current and wind
Combined Seas	Wave height that is the sum of the swells plus the wind waves
Common whipping	Used to bind the end of a rope to prevent it from unlaying and fraying.
Companionway	Entrance between the deck and the cabin.
Compass	Direction finding instrument using the Earth's magnetic field
Compass bearing	The position of any object observed, as indicated by the compass.
Compass rose	A graduated circle printed on a chart for use as a reference for showing true and magnetic north.
Complain	A ship is said to do this when she is creaking.
Constant bearing	A bearing that remains the same, even though the ship is moving; If of another ship, it indicates a collision course.
Course	Direction laid from point to point. The boat maintains a heading to stay on course.
Cowl	Air scoop
Crest	Wave top
Cross bearings	A simultaneous observation of two separate objects, the bearings of which are then laid on a chart to fix the ships position.

Cuddy	A small cabin in the front of a boat
Current	Horizontal movement of water; set is its direction and drift is its speed.
Danforth	The brand name of a type of anchor.
Davit	The metal supports from which boats are hoisted or lowered, usually erected in pairs and swung into
Davy Jones	The evil spirit of the sea.
Davy Jones locker	The bottom of the sea, common graveyard of everything thrown overboard; the grave of men drowned at sea, and of ships that have foundered.
Dayboard	Navigation aid for day use
Dead ahead or astern	Dead in line with the ship.
Dead calm	A flat sea with no sign of moving currents. A movie with Sam Neil and Nicole Kidman.
Dead reckoning	A contraction of deduced reckoning, being the estimated position of a ship based on time, speed, and distance calculations as opposed to plotting an observed position.
Dead slow	The minimum speed possible to retain steerageway.
Deck	The floor of a boat.
Delta	D, the letter "D" in the phonetic alphabet
Deviation	Compass error caused by its proximity to magnetic disturbances.
Dinghy	A small, open rowboat used for all utility purposes, mainly for transport to and from the main vessel. May be able to accommodate a small outboard motor. See Tender
Direction	Relative position of two points using three-digit numbers (000 - 360)
Displacement	Weight of the water displaced by a boat.
Distress	A state of danger requiring assistance.
Dividers	An instrument with two movable points, used in chart work.
Dock	An artificial enclosure for the berthing and retention of ships for any purpose. It may be wet, dry, floating, or stationary.
Documented Vessel	Boat registered with the USCG instead of a state
Dodger	Canvas enclosure on a sailboat
Dog	A clip used for closing watertight doors or hatches.
Draft	Depth of boat below waterline
Dredge	Removal of accumulated runoff in waterways.
Drift	To float unsecured with the tide. The speed of the current.
Dumping	Legal or illegal release of garbage into the water
Ease off	Slacken a rope gradually. Loosing any tight fitting.
Easting	The distance gained to Eastward.
Echo	E, the letter "E" in the phonetic alphabet
Eddy	Circular water movement caused by current passing an obstruction or a counter current
Ensign	The distinguishing flag used to indicate nationality, usually flown at or near the stern.
Entrance	The shape of the forepart of a vessel.
EP, Estimated Position	The position on a chart at which a vessel may be estimated to be at any time after allowances have been made for tides, winds, and courses laid off.
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon
Equator	An imaginary circle around the middle of the earth. Zero degrees latitude.
Even keel	Upright. Without a list. Drawing a similar depth of water fore and aft.
Fall astern	Drop back. Reduce speed and get astern of another vessel.
Fathom	A measurement equivalent to six feet applied to ropes for their length, and to depths.
Fenders	Cushions that protect the sides of the boat.
Fetch	Area in which ocean waves are generated by the wind.
Fix	To take a fix is to ascertain the position of the boat by the intersection of any two or more bearings taken at the same time.
Flame Arrester	Backfire flame control devices required on gasoline engines
Flare	A pyrotechnic distress signal. The curve of the freeboard from the bows, upward and outward, providing additional rising surface to oncoming waves.
Fleur De Lys	The decorative North point as printed on compass cards and compass roses.
Flood Tide	Tidal current toward the land (rising level)
Flotsam	Goods lost by shipwreck, or anything that has gone overboard and is later found floating at sea.
Fluke	Anchor component that digs in
Flying bridge	A small helm station located on the uppermost deck.
Flying Dutchman	The phantom sailing ship that traditionally haunts the seas off the Cape of Good Hope.
Fog	The limited visibility state generated when the temperature and dewpoint are within 4 degrees F of each
Fog horn	The apparatus used for signaling during periods of reduced visibility.
Following Sea	Waves coming from behind the boat.

Fore	In, towards, or of the foremost part of any vessel. A prefix applied to that one of many that is nearest the
Foul	Describes anything that will not run clear, becomes entangled, forms an obstruction, collides, or prevents free passage.
Fouled anchor	The term used when the anchor rode is entangled around the flukes of an anchor.
Founder	Fill with water; Go to the bottom; Sink.
Fox-trot	F, the letter "F" in the phonetic alphabet
Freeboard	Height of boat above the waterline
Freshen	The wind is said to freshen when it increases in strength.
From stem to stern	From one extreme end to the other. The maritime equivalent of bumper to bumper.
Fronts	Weather boundaries.
Gale	A strong wind between a stiff breeze and a hurricane.
Galley	Kitchen
Gangway	Walkway between a boat and the dock
Gear	Personal baggage
Generator	Motor that produces alternating current (AC)
Ghosting	Under sail and making way, when there seems no wind.
Gibe	See jibe
Gimbals	Rings that enable a compass or stove to remain level
Give way vessel	A vessel, whose duty it is to keep clear of another by taking necessary action.
Golf	G, the letter "G" in the phonetic alphabet
GPS	Global Positioning System, U.S. military satellites that broadcast signals for receivers to determine exact position on earth.
Ground Tackle	Anchoring equipment
Gunwale	Juncture of the top and the side of boat (pronounced gun'l)
Hail	Call to another vessel. A vessel is said to hail from her port of registry.
Half-tide	The mean level of the sea during springs or neaps; it is therefore a constant factor.
Halon	Fire extinguishing material used in engine compartments.
Halyard	Ropes used for hoisting and lowering flags, sails, etc...
Harbor	An area of water partially enclosed.
Hard chine	A feature of a boat in which the topsides and bottom meet at an angle rather than curving to a round
Hatch	Opening in deck to the area below
Haul	Pull on a rope. "Haul away" is the order to pull.
Hawespipe	A pipe fitted to the deck that allows rope, cable, or chain to pass through.
Haven	An inlet from a coastline where ships may anchor and shelter.
Head	Toilet / Bathroom
Head sea	Waves approaching from the front of the boat.
Heading	Direction the boat is pointed
Headway	A vessel is said to make headway when she advances, bows first, and begins to make way through the
Heave	Vertical motion of the boat due to waves. A command to lift or pull together.
Heave To	Stop, trim sails, or work the engine so as to keep the vessel almost stationery. Used in the event of an emergency or impending danger, as opposed to "laying to" with intent to stop and wait.
Heel	Leaning to the side
Helm	The steering console or station.
High tide	The greatest elevation of a tide at a certain place.
Hitch	Knot used to attach to an object
Hold	A special compartment or space used for stowing cargo.
Holding Tank	Storage tank for sewage
Holidays	Bare patches missed when painting or patching.
Hook	The anchor, stated as "drop the hook".
Hotel	H, the letter "H" in the phonetic alphabet
Hove to	Underway, but not making way through the water.
Hull	Lower part of the boat in contact with the water that provides buoyancy
Hull down	Said of a vessel beyond the horizon, with only its masts in view.
Hypothermia	Inability to maintain sufficiently warm body temperature
India	I, the letter "I" in the phonetic alphabet
Inlet	Narrow waterway from the ocean to an inland bay
Isobar	A line drawn to link areas of equal barometric pressure.
Jetsam	Goods thrown overboard to lighten a vessel.
Jetty	Structure projecting out from the shore
Jib	The foremost sail in a sailing vessel, triangular in shape, and set between the foremast and the bowsprit.

Jibe	Sailing maneuver with the stern into the wind.
Jonah	Anyone reputed to bring misfortune or disaster.
Juliet	J, the letter "J" in the phonetic alphabet
Jury rig	A temporary setup used until permanent repairs can be made.
Keel	The solid beam running the length of the lowest part of the hull. In effect, the vessel's backbone. On a sailboat, it will be much larger, deeper, and weighted down to stabilize the boat against the wind pushing against the sails.
Killick	A small anchor. A large stone or weight used for anchoring.
Kilo	K, the letter "K" in the phonetic alphabet
Knot	Mechanism to secure a rope. The equivalent of one nautical mile per hour; 1.15 x statute miles.
Labor	Pitch and roll in heavy seas, show signs of working.
Lading	A vessels cargo.
Laid up	Refers to the way strands are wound together to make up a rope. A ship not in commission. In bed, sick, or injured.
Landfall	Approaching land, especially after a long voyage. To make good landfall is to approach land at the spot anticipated.
Landlubber	A man of the land who is uninitiated as to the ways of nautical matters.
Landmark	A conspicuous spot onshore used as a navigational aid.
Lanyard	Length of rope fastened to an object
Lateral Bouyage	System of red and green buoys that mark the edges of navigable channels
Latitude	Degrees :Minutes:Seconds (0-90) North/South of the Equator
Lay to	Stop by keeping into the wind.
Lee shore	The shore facing the lee side of a ship, being that on to which the wind would drive her if she were unable to make an offing.
Leeward	Downwind side, sheltered from the wind.
Let fly	Let the sheet go, suddenly spilling the wind from a sail.
Lima	L, the letter "L" in the phonetic alphabet
Line	Rope
List	Continuous lean to one side.
LOA	Length Over All, the primary dimension of a boat
Log	Device for measuring distance through water
Longitude	Degrees:Minutes:Seconds (0-180) East/West of the Greenwich Meridian
Lookout	A person specially posted to keep a diligent watch, to observe and report all that come into view or
Mackerel sky	A sky with long white streaks of cloud, often a portent of impending rain.
Magnetic bearing	The bearing of an object in relation to the magnetic compass.
Magnetic compass	A ships standard compass.
Magnetic course	A course as read from the magnetic compass rose on the chart. The true course with variation applied to
Magnetic North	The northern center of the earth's magnetic influence, as opposed to true North. It is approximately located at 70 degrees North and 97 degrees 30 minutes west in arctic Canada.
Maiden voyage	The first trip of a new vessel.
Make fast	To secure
Make headway	To advance through the water.
Making Way	Boat moving under its own power
Mal De Mer	Sea sickness
Man overboard	The alarm called by anyone who sees someone fall over the side into the water.
Mare's tails	White feather-shaped wisps of clouds; they often indicate an increase of wind if they gather into a regular formation.
Marina	Docking area usually with services
Marlinspike seamanship	The term embracing knotting, splicing, seizing, etc...; the art of shaping and working ropes.
Mast	Vertical post on sail boats
Mayday	Emergency distress call (help me)
Meridian	A line that will cut through the equator at right angles and run from pole to pole.
Metal Mike	The autopilot
Mike	M, the letter "M" in the phonetic alphabet
MLLW	Mean Lower Low Water, reference level used for depth measurements on nautical charts in the USA
Mooring	Buoy used by boats to tie up
Morse Code	Nearly obsolete means of nautical communication using "dots" and "dashes"
Nautical Mile	One minute of latitude roughly equal to 1.15 Statute Miles
Neap tides	those with a smaller range than spring tides; they are not as high, low, or rapid.
Negative buoyancy	See Buoyancy

NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US government agency that reports weather and tidal information
Notice to Mariners	A notification published periodically for the correction of charts.
November	N, the letter "N" in the phonetic alphabet
Nun	Red cylindrical buoy with a conical top.
Observed position	A vessels position plotted on a chart from the observation of objects, as opposed to dead reckoning.
Occulting light	Such a light that is on more than it is off.
On the beam	At right angles to the fore and aft centerline of a ship. Directly off the side of the ship.
On the bow	Within the angle from right ahead to 45 degrees on either side.
On the quarter	On a bearing midway between the beam and the stern.
Oscar	O, the letter "O" in the phonetic alphabet.
Out of trim	With a list, down at one end. Untidy.
Outboard	Outside a ship or boat. Farther towards a ships side. A portable, self-contained propelling unit, secured to the transom of small boats.
Overboard	Over the side and into the water
Overtaking vessel	Any vessel approaching another from within an arc prescribed from her stern light; it is her duty to keep clear while the other vessel stands her course and speed.
Painter	The rope at the bow of a small boat for making it fast.
Papa	P, the letter "P" in the phonetic alphabet
Passage	A long voyage from one place to another.
Pay Out	Slacken and ease a rope so that it runs freely.
Pennant	A long narrow banner, or triangular shaped flag. A short length of rope with a metal thimble in each end, one of which is often hooked to a tackle.
PFD	Personal Floatation Device (life preserver)
Phonetic Alphabet	System used to identify letters in verbal communications
Pier	Structure extending into the water for tying a vessel to.
Piling	Vertical post in the water.
Pilot	A person licensed to navigate ships through channels and fairways in or out of port. A ships navigator.
Pilot boat	Used by pilots for meeting ships.
Pilot house	The wheel house.
Piloting	Navigating a boat by determining position and directing movement
Pitch	The depression of the bows plunging into a trough in the seas.
Pitch pole	Be ended up, stern first, and be completely overthrown by the sea.
Planing	A boat is planing, or up on plane, when moving through the water with bows lifted well clear and more out of the water than in.
Planing Hull	Power boat that eliminates the bow wake
Plastic boat	Derogatory term for a fiberglass boat.
Points of a compass	There are 32 points of a compass consisting of 4 cardinals (N, S, E, W), 4 half cardinals (NE, SE, SW, NW), 8 intermediates (NNE, ENE, ESE, SSE, SSW, WSW, WNW, NNW) and 16 by points. Each point is 11.25 degrees from its neighbor, is also divided into half and quarter points.
Pontoon	Any large tank used as a platform.
Poop	The raised deck on the after part of a ship.
Pooped	A vessel is said to be pooped when a sea breaks over the stern when running before a wind or sea.
Port	Left (the side of the boat when facing forward), the opposite to starboard. A seaport, that part of any place that is made available for shipping. An opening in a ships side. Carry.
Port Tack	Sailing "give way" with wind from the left side
Porthole	An opening in the ships side to let in light and air.
Poseidon	The god of the sea in Greek mythology.
Positive buoyancy	The quality possessed by any craft that would remain afloat when waterlogged.
Pram	A small dinghy with a cut off bow, or forward transom, used as a tender to larger boats.
Prevailing Wind	Typical direction of the wind at a locale
Prime meridian	The meridian which passes through Greenwich, and from which longitude east or west is reckoned.
Prohibited area	An area marked on a chart, where anchoring, trawling, or fishing, etc... may be forbidden by authority.
Prolonged blast	A blast of the horn of 4-6 seconds duration.
Prop walk	Sideways force created by a spinning propeller
Propulsion - Diesel	Engine that runs by compressed combustion
Propulsion - Gasoline	Engine that runs by sparked combustion
Pulpit	An elevated tubular metal guardrail set up at the bow or stern; typically extending from the bow.
Purse Seine	A seining net which can be closed like a purse.
Quarter	The side of the ships between the beam and the stern.

Quartering	Sailing with the wind coming over the quarter.
Quartering wind	Wind that comes from the ships quarter.
Quay	Docks used to load/unload cargo
Quebec	Q, the letter "Q" in the phonetic alphabet
Race	A strong current that disturbs water over a large area.
Radar	System that uses the transmission / reflection / reception of radio waves to determine distance, direction, and size of an object; derived from Radio Direction And Range finding.
Rake	The angle of backward inclination of a ships masts or funnels. The slope of a bow or stern beyond the keel ends.
Range	Distance away of an object. The difference between the depth of water at high and low tides.
Reach	A long straight part of a waterway, or distance between two bends in a river. There may be an upper or lower reach, while that part leading into a harbor is a harbor reach.
Red-Right-Returning	ATON reminder: RED buoys on the RIGHT when RETURNING from the sea
Reef	To reduce sail area by folding, rolling, or tying up part of the sails. A chain of rocks lying submerged near the surface.
Refitting	A period during which repairs, reconstruction, and replacements are effected.
Regatta	A program of sailing and rowing races arranged by an authority or club.
Reserve buoyancy	those compartments above water level that may effectively be made watertight.
Rigging	Sailing ropes and hardware
Rip, rip tide	A running tide, rising as it flows, and breaking in ripples.
Rode	Anchor rope and/or chain
Roll	Vertical motion from side-to-side
Romeo	R, the letter "R" in the phonetic alphabet
Rudder	Movable fixture in the water that provides steering
Rules of the Road	Navigation guidelines
Running Lights	Red, Green, and White lights used by boats at night
Scope	Anchoring length to depth ratio
Screw	Propeller
Scuppers	Holes cut in bulwarks for water to escape overboard from decks.
Scuttle	To sink a ship by cutting holes in her.
Sea anchor	Any kind of drogue, used as a floating anchor for a vessel to ride to, head to wind, if hove to in bad
Sea legs	Possessed by those who have the ability to walk about on a vessel pitching and tossing about in heavy
Sea room	The area around a ship clear of obstructions and of land.
Sea State	Open water conditions resulting from wind and water activity
Seacock	Hole in hull with a valve to regulate the water flow
Set	The direction of the current. The current is said to be "setting" at a certain direction.
Sextant	Navigation instrument for measuring angles.
Shackle	Metal linkage typically used to connect rope to an anchor
Sheer	Curve of the deck as viewed from the side
Sheet	Rope that controls a sail's horizontal movement
Ship	Boat longer than 20 meters (65.6 feet). To receive anything onboard.
Ship oars	Place oars in crutches or oarlocks ready for use.
Shoal	A place where water is not deep and endangers navigation.
Shore Power	Electrical power (AC) via cables provided at the marina as opposed to the engines or a generator
Shrouds	Wires that run to the side of the boat to support the sail mast
Side lights	The red and green navigation lights required by the Rules of the Road, fixed to show from right ahead to two points abaft the beam, red to port, green to starboard, with visibility at least two miles.
Sierra	S, the letter "S" in the phonetic alphabet
Slack Water	Tidal period between flood and ebb tides
Sling	Hoist that lifts a boat out of the water.
Slip	Berth with docks on three sides
Small Craft Advisory	Winds to 33 knots (38 mph) and/or dangerous sea conditions for smaller boats
Snub	Suddenly check anything that is running out.
SOG	Speed over ground, the speed in the water adjusted for current and wind.
Sounding	A depth reading
Spars	Poles used in sail rigging
Spindrift	Spray whipped off and blown from the crests of waves.
Splice	Join two ropes together by interweaving the braids
Spring Line	Rope between the boat and the dock to limit forward/reverse motion

Spring Tide	Tide at which the range between high and low is greatest, and which occur just after a full or new moon, when sun, earth, and moon are in line or nearly so.
Squall	Sudden violent windstorm
Stanchion	A fixed upright pillar support between decks or for guardrails, awnings...etc.
Stand on vessel	That vessel which maintains course and speed.
Starboard	the right hand side of the boat when facing forward. Opposite to port.
Starboard Tack	Sailing "right of way" with wind from the right side
Stateroom	A large cabin formerly described as being set aside for the owner, but now referenced to an increased level of luxury and comfort. .
Stays	Wires that run to the front and rear of the boat to support the sail mast
Steerageway	Sufficient motion to support steering
Stem	The timber at the bow of a ship into which the planks are butted. The point at which both sides of the bow meet.
Stern	Back of the boat
Stern Line	Rope that attaches the back of the boat to a dock
Stores	Food and supplies
Storm Surge	Rising sea preceding a storm
Stove in	Damaged by anything breaking through into a ship.
Stow	To put in its proper place. To find a place for a thing and put it there.
Superstructure	Structures above the deck
Swamp	Waves coming into the boat
Sway	Horizontal motion of the boat due to waves
Swells	Long waves from a distance that do not crest
Swing	A vessel is said to swing as she is tied to a mooring or at anchor and moves to changing winds or tides.
Swing a compass	Ascertaining deviations for calibrations of a magnetic compass.
Tack	To maneuver toward the wind by continually altering course back and forth so as to take the wind at an angle rather than dead on.
Tackle	Assemblage of ropes and blocks
Taff rail	The rail at the stern of a ship.
Tango	T, the letter "T" in the phonetic alphabet
Tender	accommodate larger outboards. While difficult to row, they provide a more comfortable and drier ride than dinghies.
Tide	Water depth (and resultant current) variations created by the gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun
Topsides	The upper part of the hull above the waterline, literally the top of the sides.
Trade winds	Persistent tropical winds that blow from the subtropical high pressure towards the equatorial low pressure
Transom	Vertical partition at the back of the boat
Trim	The difference in draft between forward and aft. The set of a vessel on the water. The set of a sail used for best advantage. Neat.
Trim Tabs	Adjustable planes at the stern that allow the pilot to adjust the trim of the boat.
Trip Line	Rope to the anchor crown used to mark its place and assist in pulling when stuck
Trough	Low point between waves
Turn turtle	To turn over completely
TVMDC	Angle conversion process from True to Compass direction (+West)
Twin screw	A vessel with two propellers on separate shafts.
Underway	Not tied to the dock, at anchor, or aground.
Uniform	U, the letter "U" in the phonetic alphabet
USCG	United States Coast Guard
Variation	The angle between True North and magnetic North; it varies in different parts of the world, and may be either easterly or westerly.
Veer	Change direction as does the wind.
Ventilation	Turbulence caused by a propeller blade spinning too close to the surface and creating air bubbles
VHF	Very High Frequency, the FM radio telephone transmission/receive channels (01-88) in the 156-157 MHz range (USA)
Victor	V, the letter "V" in the phonetic alphabet
Voyage	Complete trip with multiple passages
Wake	Waves formed by the passing of a vessel through the water.
Wash	The turbulent water left behind any vessel passing through the water.
Waterline	The top edge of the bottom color paint where it meets the topside color. The line to which water rises.
Wave Height	The significant wave height is the average of the highest third of all waves in an area
Waypoint	Position saved in a GPS receiver

Weigh	To raise anchor or depart
Wharf	Structure parallel to the shore
Whiskey	W, the letter "W" in the phonetic alphabet
Wind waves	Waves created locally by the wind
Windlass	Anchor winch
Windward	Upwind side
X-ray	X, the letter "X" in the phonetic alphabet
Yacht	Boat used for recreation with luxury features
Yankee	Y, the letter "Y" in the phonetic alphabet
Yaw	Horizontal motion from side-to-side
Zinc Anodes	Plates that protect a boat's underwater metals from galvanic deterioration
Zulu	Z, the letter "Z" in the phonetic alphabet