

Sailing Basics

Parts of a Sailboat

Mainsail: The large sail towards the back of the boat

Jib: The smaller sail toward the front of the boat

Bow: Front of the boat.

Stern: Back of the boat.

Starboard: The right side of the boat.

Port: The left side of the boat.

Mast: The column in the center of the boat that supports the mainsail and the jib

Boom: The horizontal support for the boom

Standing Rigging: Cables that supports the mast:

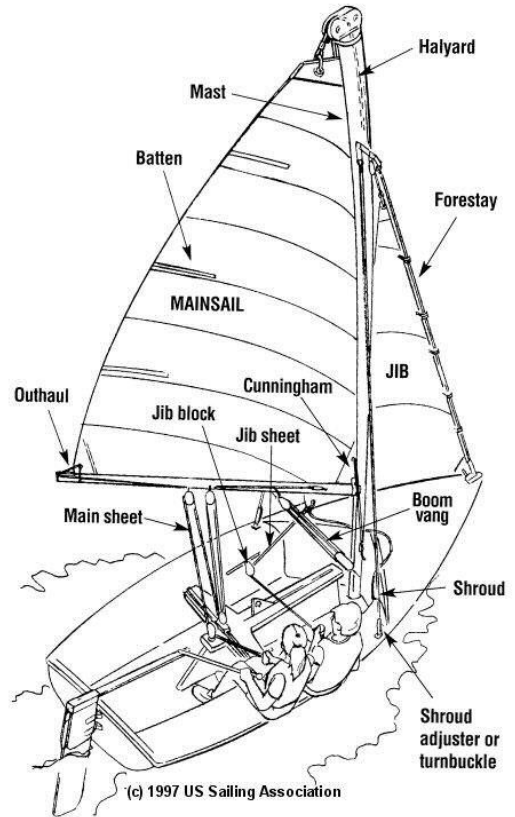
Backstay, Forestay, Shrouds.

Running Rigging: Lines which control and adjust the sails.

Halyard: A line used to raise a sail. (Main sail halyard, jib halyard, spinnaker halyard)

Sheet: Line used to adjust a sail against the force of the wind.

Boom Vang: cable that holds the boom down



Sailing Terms:

Starboard Tack: Sailing with the wind coming from the starboard (right) side of the boat

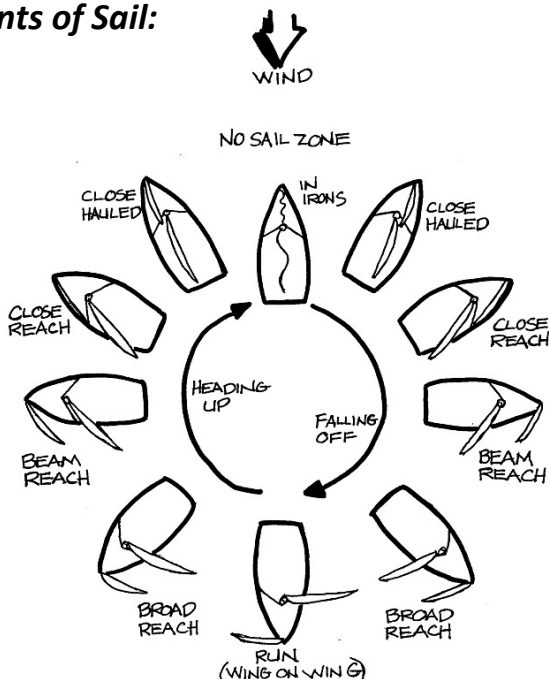
Port Tack: Sailing with the wind coming from the port (left) side of the boat

In Irons: When the boat is pointing directly into the wind (or close) such that it cannot get any wind in the sails to sail away.

Trimming the Sail: Pulling the sail in or letting it out to the desired place.

Luffing: When the sail flaps about because it is heading directly into the wind or the sail is not trimmed properly.

Points of Sail:



Sailboat Maneuvers:

Tacking: Turning the boat with the bow going through the wind. Usually done from a close-haul. Boat changes "tack" from port to starboard or vice versa.

Jibing (Gybing): Turning the boat with the stern going through the wind. Usually done from a broad reach. Boat changes "tack" from port to starboard or vice versa.

Heading Up: To turn upwind while staying on the same tack.

Bearing Off: To turn downwind while staying on the same tack.