

GLOSSARY OF NAUTICAL TERMS

Able Seaman	An experienced seaman.
Adze	A traditional boatbuilding tool, for dubbing flat and circular work.
After End	That part of a vessel abaft the beam, nearest the stern.
Aldis Lamp	A portable electric beam signalling lamp.
Aloft	Above the deck, usually meaning high up in the rigging.
Amidships	The middle section of a ship, in a fore and aft line or athwartships.
Anchor Chain	The chain used to anchor a vessel usually called cable.
Anchor Crane	Usually mounted up forward in a vessel for hoisting the anchor aboard.
Angle Irons	Iron or steel plates of angular cross section used in shipbuilding as stiffeners.
Annealing	The heating of metal to soften it when cooled.
Anti-Fouling	Any specially prepared composition used for coating the bottom of a vessel to prevent marine growth.
Apron	Timber situated behind stem to create a landing for plank ends.
As Designed Drawings	Set of drawings from which a vessel is built.
As Fitted Drawings	Set of all modifications built into a vessel during construction.
Backstays	Wire stays fitted as standing rigging to support mast against forces acting in an oblique direction they are led from a mast to a point just abaft it at the ship's side.
Bales	Any cargo packed in bundles as opposed to crates or casks.
Ballast	Solid matter, water or other weight carried down low in a vessel for stability.
Ballast Tanks	Compartments holding water, or other liquid that can be pumped from one tank to another for purposes of trimming a vessel.
Bar Keel	A solid metal keel riveted to the garboards, which projects down outside the hull plating.
Barquentine	A three or more masted sailing vessel having square sails on the foremast only.
Beam	A transverse timber or steel bar to withstand the stresses at the ship's side and used to support a deck.
Beam Shelf	A large version of a gunwale but used in a decked vessel below decks to support the deck beams.
Beam Trawl	A trawl net whose mouth is kept extended by a beam or spreader.
Beating	Sailing close to the wind with all sails taut.
Belay	To make fast a rope round a cleat or belaying pin.
Belaying Pin	A wood or metal pin that is fitted through the pin rail or fife rail to which ropes are belayed.
Bell	All seagoing vessels must carry a bell for use as a fog warning. Also used for denoting the time.
Bent Timbers	The ribs of a boat.
Between Perpendiculars	A traditional measurement of ship length.
Bilge	The rounded part of a hull where the sides and bottom meet.
Bilge Keels	Projecting fin-like plates fastened outside the hull at the bilges to steady the ship at sea.
Bilge Keelson	A stringer placed fore and aft across the frames at the bilge Also called bilge bearing pieces.
Bilge Ways	Runners on a launching carriage to coincide with the bilge keels.
Binnacle	The stand or case in which the ship's compass is housed, located close to the steering position.
Bills	Heavy timbers in the deck to secure ropes to.
Block	A pulley with one or more grooved sheaves, used as a tackle to gain a

	mechanical advantage or to lead a rope in any direction required.
Boat Cover	Canvas cover which, supported by the strong back, protects the interior of the boat when in the davits.
Boat Davits	Curved metal arms used in pairs with a purchase on each to hoist and lower boats from the mother ship.
Boat Hook	A long stave with a hook attached at one end, used for fending off or holding boat alongside or for recovering purposes.
Bobstay	The stay from the cut water to the bowsprit to counteract the upward pull of the forestays.
Body Plan	A sectional diagram showing the curves of the frame, forward and aft in a vessel's construction.
Bollard	A stout circular iron post fitted in any required position to receive ship's securing ropes. Usually mounted in pairs. A vertical timber in a wooden boat.
Bolt Rope	The rope sewn to the edges of sails to prevent fraying or tearing.
Boom	A spar used to extend the foot of a sail.
Boot Topping	Special protective composition applied to the Boot Top, located between light and load waterline.
Boss Plates	The structural shell plates through which the propeller shaft emerges.
Bottle Screw	A screw threaded casting which turns on two opposite threaded bars, each equipped with an eye. Used for setting up rigging.
Bottom	The keel of a ship, though the term is commonly applied to all that exterior part below the waterline.
Bottom Boards	Wooden boards fitted inside the bottom of pulling boats.
Bow	The front of a vessel.
Bowsprit	A spar projecting from the bow of a sailing vessel to which the head stays are secured, supporting the foremast.
Brace	A rope used to trim a yard in square rigged ships, there are two to each yard secured near the yard arms.
Bread & Butter Hull	A laminated wooden hull. the bread being wood, the butter being glue.
Break of Deck	Where a deck is divided by a vertical thwart ship bulkhead.
Breast Hook	A selected crook of wood or metal shaped as a knee and fitted to hold the gunwales or beam shelves to the stem.
Bridge	The raised platform with a clear view all round, from which the officers control the ship.
Brig	A two masted sailing vessel having square sails on both masts, and a gaff main sail.
Brigantine	A two masted sailing vessel with square sails on the fore mast only, being fore & aft rigged on the main mast.
Bright Work	Varnished timber about the decks of a vessel.
Bulkheads	Any transverse or longitudinal vertical partition maintaining rigidity of construction and dividing a vessel into watertight compartments.
Bulwarks	The sides of the ship that are above the upper deck, they form a protection from the sea.
Bumkin	A spar fitted over the stern of a vessel to anchor the mizzen sheets.
Buoy	A floating container anchored to the sea bed which may be used for mooring vessels to.
Burton Buttock	Lines used in ship and boat building plans to represent fore and aft vertical sections equidistant from the hull centre line.
Cable	The chain or rope to which the anchor is shackled.
Calico	A material similar to canvas that has been treated.
Camber	The transverse arching of a ship's deck, which is higher in the middle than at the sides, so that water will flow off.
Cape Horn Fever	Malingering practised in cold rough weather.
Capsize	Turn over.
Capstan	A revolving metal bollard supplying power for lifting anchors and working cables.

Carlings	Fore and aft timbers between beams.
Carvel Built	Vessels built with planking running fore. and aft edge to edge.
Cat Head	A strong beam or metal support fitted to project from the bow, to take the large tackle used when catting the anchor.
Caulking	Driving oak um into the seams of plan king or decks to make them watertight, before 'paying' them with pitch.
Ceiling Planking	In wooden cargo vessels the planking on the inner surfaces of the frames forming the hold.
Centreboard	A wooden board lowered from a sailing boat through a slot in the middle of her keel, its purpose being to give lateral stability.
Centre Girder	Major structural girder in centre line of vessel.
Chain Locker	Space below chain or naval pipe where anchor cable is stowed.
Chain Plate	Anchorage for the shrouds at side of vessel.
Chain Riveting	Also called Double Riveting. Rivets placed two abreast in close parallel lines.
Chart House	Compartment on or near the bridge for the stowage of navigational equipment.
Cheeks	Sometimes located either side of stem and stern post to accommodate rollers.
Cleat	A wood or metal fitting with two arms or horns to which a rope may be belayed.
Clench	To fasten or rivet a nail, by beating and then burring its end over a rove, with a hammer.
Clench Built	Also called Clinker or Lap strake. Overlapping strakes in a wooden boat or metal plated ship.
Clipper	A fast sailing ship with fine lines, raked masts and sharp bows.
Clipper Bow	A bow where the stem is concave from the stem head to the waterline.
Cloth	Length of canvas used to form part of a sail.
Coaming	A vertical housing erected around hatches etc., or a raised wooden rail around a well or cockpit.
Cockpit	The after well in sailing boats where the helmsman sits.
Collision Bulkheads	Situated up forward in steel ships, to stop the inrush of water after suffering bow damage.
Companion Hatch	A timber structure over a deck opening giving access to the accommodation below.
Composite Vessel	A vessel constructed with a metal frame, but with planking of wood.
Copper Fastened	Said of a vessel whose plank fastenings are made of copper rather than iron.
Cordage	General term for ropes made from vegetable fibres.
Counter	A projecting stern , or the underside of the overhang of a stern.
Course	The square sail bent to a lower yard, the main sail thus being the main course.
Court	Shed or meeting place for the East Coast Beach men.
Cove Line	A decorative narrow concave band around a hull.
Covering Board	Margin plank surrounding the deck fitted to the vessel's edge.
Coxswain	One who steers a boat or one in charge of a boat and her crew.
Cranse Iron	A circular boom iron fitted to a bowsprit to take the stays.
Crlngles	Metal thimbles fitted into the bolt ropes of sails at the corners.
Cross Jack	Lowest yard on the mizzen mast or the sail it supports.
Cross Trees	Timbers laid across the upper end of a mast supported by the cheeks, a foundation for the top.
Cutter	A sailing vessel with one mast, gaff mainsail and two headsails, jib and staysail.
Cutwater	The fore part or curved portion of a ship's stem.
Cyanoacrylate Adhesive	Commonly known as superglue.
Datum Waterline	A base line at waterline level used in lines plans.

Dead eye	A round fiat faced wooden block with three holes, through which shroud lanyards are rove to tension the standing rigging.
Dead Rise	The amount of rise of a ship's bottom above the base line, as measured at maximum beam at the turn of the bilge.
Dead Weight	Carrying capacity of a vessel beyond her own weight.
Dead Wood	Blocks of timber attached to the keel fore and aft, where the hull is narrow and the angle of the timbers at its most acute. The deadwood extends from the stem and stern post and forms a solid upwards extension of the keel to which the timbers can be fastened.
Deck	A horizontal platform supported by the beams to form both a floor and a covering for the space below it.
Deck Light	Any strong glass prism fitted into a deck to permit access of light to the accommodation below.
Deck Plating	Flat iron or steel laid on the deck beams to provide a deck, usually clinker fashion.
Deep Framing	Uniformly increasing the depth and strength of all frames.
Diagonal Planking	Built with the side planking at an angle of 45° with a second layer set cross-wise at right angles to the first.
Dinghy	A small open rowing boat having no conventional design or type, called a punt on Bristol Channel pilot cutters.
Dipping Lugsail	A lugsail that has to be lowered a short way down the mast when going about, so that the yard and tack may be passed round the mast, and then rehoisted for the new tack.
Discharge	To unload a cargo.
Displacement	The weight of the volume of water displaced by a ship.
Dolly Winch	Used for the discharge of cargo.
Donkey Boiler	Any small boiler, of ten portable, used to operate machinery or provide steam.
Double Bottoms	The spaces between the inner and outer bottom plating of the hull.
Doublings	That part of a built-up mast where the top of one and foot of the other above it overlap.
Down Haul	Any rope specifically fitted to pull anything down from aloft.
Draught	The depth from the underside of keel to the waterline.
Drift Net	A fine mesh net used for fishing.
Drogue	A bucket or canvas bag used forward as a sea anchor, or over the stern to check a boat's way.
Drop Keel	A centreplate or centreboard.
Drop Strake	A discontinued metal strake used in conjunction with a stealer plate in a ship's bottom.
End Boxes	Usually fitted as high air-tight compartments fore and aft in a lifeboat to assist in self-righting.
Eye Bolt	A fixed bolt with an open eye in which blocks may be either hooked or shackled.
Fairlead	A metal fitting having two guards or arms, through which hawsers are led outboard. Sometimes fitted with a central bollard.
Fall	That part of the rope of any purchase rove between the blocks, between the standing and hauling parts.
Fid	The iron or wooden pin used to keep the heel of a topmast or bowsprit securely in place.
Fiddle Head	An ornamental scroll on the bows in place of a figurehead.
Fife Rail	An iron or teak rail fitted near a mast a few feet above the deck, carrying belaying pins to which running rigging is secured.
Figurehead	Any ornamental figure, head, bust or similar design fitted under the bowsprit and usually associated with a ship's name.
Fine Lines	Describes a vessel with a fine entrance.
First Mate	The deck officer next in rank to the Master.
Fisherman's Anchor	The oldest type of anchor, with the stock fixed at right angles to the shank.

Flare	The curve of the freeboard from the bows, upward and outward, providing extra lift to oncoming waves.
Flexible Steel Wire Rope	Wire rope that does not kink when used with a capstan or bollards, also used in conjunction with rigging blocks, in a more pliable form.
Floors	Metal plates vertically situated in the bottom of a vessel attached to the bottom of the frames and extending from bilge to bilge.
Flush Plating	System of plating where plates are fitted edge to edge using butt straps inside.
Flying Bridge	Sometimes known as a catwalk, built to a light specification and runs fore and aft above the upper deck.
Flywheel Pump	A cranked shaft attached to pistons connected to the bilge pump with two flywheels.
Following Sea	When a sea runs with the ship.
Foot Rope	The rope on which seamen on square rigged vessels stand when working on the yards taking in sail.
Foremast	The mast nearest to the bows of a vessel that has two or more masts.
Fore Peak	Forward part of a vessel inside the hull.
Forestay	A wire rope located between the mast and the fore end of a vessel supporting the mast.
Four Poster	Slang term for a four masted vessel.
Frame	The shape of the hull of a vessel fabricated in wood, iron or steel.
Framing	A combination of frames making up the entire shape of a hull prior to planking or plating.
Freeboard	The distance on a ship's topsides between water level and deck.
Freeing Port	Apertures cut in the bulwarks of a vessel to relieve her of sea water on deck.
Full Rigged Ship	A three, four or five masted vessel square rigged on each mast.
Futtocks	The middle sections of a built-up wooden frame.
Gaff	The spar at the head of a four sided mainsail to which the sail is bent.
Gaff Topsail	A three sided sail hoisted above a gaff rigged sail.
Galley	Where food is prepared aboard ship.
Garboard	The strake of planking or plating each side of a vessel adjacent to the keel.
Gig	A lightly constructed open boat capable of being rowed or sailed, carried aboard some vessels to complement the lifeboats.
Gooseneck	A fitting connecting the boom to the mast which has multi-directional movement.
Grapnel	A small anchor with two or more flukes, used for recovering objects from the sea bottom, etc.
Grating	A slatted timber framework used to cover hatches or as bottom boards.
Gun Tackle	A block and tackle purchase used horizontally.
Gunwale	In a small boat the length of fore and aft timber located inside the sheer strake to stiffen the structure.
Gyration Rule	A method of measuring racing dinghies to signify good performance.
Half Tide	Level or time halfway between low and high water, a constant factor.
Halyard	Sometimes spelt Halliard. Ropes used to raise and lower sails, spars and Hags aboard ship.
Handspikes	Wooden spar with square section end used as a lever.
Hatch	An opening in the deck to load cargo or for entry to accommodation.
Hatch Wedges	Used in the hatch cleats to secure the tarpaulin hatch covers.
Hawse Pipes	Iron castings located at the bow, and occasionally the stern, of a vessel with hawse holes through which the cable runs and where the anchor is secured.
Head Rails	Timberwork outside the hull of a vessel at the bow to support the structure, and used by the crew to answer the call of nature outside the vessel, hence the term 'heads' for a marine WC.
Heaving Lines	A line used as a messenger for a heavier warp across a distance.
Heave To	Trimming the sails to stop a vessel.

Heavy Seas	Large seas running strong and high.
Heel	The location where the keel and stern post meet.
Helmsman	Person (or persons) who steer a vessel, by the wheel or tiller.
Hog	A fore and aft piece of timber similar to a keelson, but placed directly on top of a keel in a small boat.
Hold	The interior cavity in a vessel used for stowing cargo.
Horn Timber	The section of timber joining the stern post/keel to the transom or counter.
Horse	A metal fitting on a sailing vessel which anchors the lower blocks of the mainsheets to the deck.
Hounds	Shoulders of timber or metal located at the mast head to create a foundation for the shrouds and trestle frees.
Hull	The name applied to the entire structure of the body of a ship.
In Ballast	When a vessel is not carrying cargo.
Inside Strake	Strake fitted tight to the frame.
Iron Wire Rope	Used for heavy standing rigging, non-flexible.
Jack Stay	A metal bar attached to the top of a square yard on the forward edge to which the square sail is bent.
Jack Yard	Spar supporting a four sided top sail set above a gaff main sail.
Jaws	The arms attached to the end of a gaff to engage the mast.
Jelutong	Timber used by patternmakers. Originates from Malaya.
Jib	The foremost sail in a ship.
Jib Boom	A spar that extends the bowsprit and is located on top of it, though they could be run in when in port.
Jigger Mast	The after mast in a four masted vessel.
Joggled Plating	Allowing both in and out strakes of plating in a metal hull to rest on the frames, the out strakes being joggled over the inner and riveted.
Keel	The backbone of a ship, usually connecting stem and stern post.
Keel Plate	Several horizontal plates which together make up a flat plate keel.
Keelson	An additional inner keel located across the top of the floor timbers above the keel.
Keel Ways	The main bed of a lifeboat carriage to support the keel.
King Plank	The centre plank of a laid deck.
Knees	In a wooden vessel, wood or metal reinforcement to tie the ends of beams and thwarts into the hull structure.
Knight Heads	Heavy timbers located either side of the bow to give additional strength to the bowsprit.
Lapped Joints	The overlap on the after ends of iron and steel shell plating.
Launching Ways	Greased timbers used to launch a vessel in a cradle.
Lay Up	To take a vessel out of service.
Laying Orr	The drawing out of a vessel's hull shape on the mould loft floor.
Lazarette	A small provision store, sometimes on deck aft, to contain fresh food.
Lead Ballast	Used externally in the backbone of yachts, to keep the centre of gravity low, and internally as lead pigs in the bilges.
Leaded Cane	A weighted stick used in lifeboats, attached to a heaving line, to help it be thrown more accurately.
Lears	Structural part of a beach yawl guiding mast movement.
Lee Shore	A shoreline with the wind blowing towards it, thus more dangerous, especially for sailing ships.
Legs	Wooden spars located vertically either side of a vessel to support her when she dries out on a beach or shallow harbour.
Lifebuoy	A ring of cork covered in canvas to support one person in the water.
Lighthouses	The metal towers located either side at the break of the forecastle head to house the navigation lights.
Lignum Vitae	A very hard timber, used for the construction of dead eye's, block sheaves

and rigging lid's.

Liners	Sheets of metal used to fill the space between the outer belts of plating and the frame in a normal in and out plated hull.
Lines Plan	The contours of a hull drawn in three views.
Load Line	Load water line or Plimsoll mark.
Lodging Knee	A horizontally positioned angled bracket in wood or metal built into a vessels hull structure.
Longboat	The largest and strongest boat of a ship.
Main Boom	The spar on the lower side of a main sail.
Main Course	The lowest square sail on the main mast.
Main Rall	The timber or metal rail capping the bulwark stanchions.
Mainsail	A three or four sided sail hoisted on the main mast.
Mainsail Haul	The order issued when tacking a square rigged vessel.
Mainsheet	The rope purchase used to trim the mainsail.
Make Fast	To belay a rope.
Manilla	Best quality natural fibre rope.
Margin Plate	Part of the tank construction in a double bottomed metal ship.
Mast Hoops	Steamed ash hoops, clenched together and secured to the luff of a main sail.
Mast Step	A grounding for the heel of a mast.
Midship Section	The broadest cross section of a hull, a drawing showing a cross sectional view of construction of the hull.
Mizzen Mast	The mast third from the bows, usually the after mast. Also spelled mizzen.
Molgogger	Sometimes called Mole Jenny. Portable multi-roller fairlead used with drift nets.
Mortice	A cavity mostly rectangular cut to receive a tenon on another piece of timber, so forming a joint.
Mould	A temporary series of pieces of timber fastened together to form the shape of one section of a hull, used in the construction of boats.
Mould Loft	Where the moulds for the hull and other parts of a vessel are constructed. Usually close to where the laying off of a vessel is done.
Nave	Wooden or metal hub for wooden spoked wheel.
Oak um	Strands of old hemp rope teased tarred and used for caulking planking seams.
Oilskins	Waterproof over garments treated or soaked with linseed oil giving bad weather protection.
Ordinary Seaman	Crew member yet to qualify as an Able Seaman.
Overlap of Plating	The part of a metal strake covered by another.
Oxter Plate	A complex shaped shell plate situated adjacent to the sternpost immediately below the counter or transom.
Painter	The rope secured to the fore end of a small boat to make it fast.
Parral	Also spelled Parrel. Rope or ironwork attaching the middle of a square yard to the mast, enabling the whole to be hoisted or lowered, used in conjunction with parral balls at the gaff jaws.
Pawl Post	A stout vertical post with the pawl for the windlass attached to it.
Pay	Filling caulked plank or deck seams with molten pitch.
Peak Halyard	A means of hoisting the outer end of a gaff with a series of blocks and span.
Pillar	Vertical supports under thwarts in small boats and iron rods in the tween decks in iron and steel vessels.
Pitch of a Propeller	The angle of the blade of a propeller or the distance one revolution would cause it to move forward.
Pitch	Resinous substance produced by distilling tar.
Planning Machines	Used in industry to reduce the thickness of wood and metal.
Planking	The external shell of a vessel made of timber.
Plating	The external shell of a vessel made of metal.

Poop	The after raised deck in a ship vessel's hull or superstructure.
Pooping of Vessels	To be overtaken by a following sea which crashes aboard, doing damage.
Port	The left hand side of a boat when looking forward.
Port Hole	A circular aperture with glass in a that may be sealed with a cover in bad weather.
Purchase	A type of block and tackle.
Quadrant (Tiller)	A partially cylindrical metal casting mounted on the rudder head to accommodate steering chains.
Quarter	That part of a ship between the stern and midships.
Quarter Decks	A low raised deck back aft, not as high as a poop deck.
Rabbet	Groove cut into the backbone of a vessel to receive the planking, edges and ends also used in other locations with ship's joinery.
Rake	The angle of masts or funnels from the vertical.
Ratlines	Small ropes providing steps to climb the shrouds of a vessel, to which they are tied.
Reefing	A method of reducing sail area as the wind becomes stronger, by folding or rolling up part of the sails.
Reef Points	Lengths of cord worked into sails in lines for tying in a reef.
Refit	A period when a vessel is made lit for sea again.
Relieving Valves	Metal one way valves for discharging water.
Reverse Sheer	Convex line of hull instead of the more usual concave.
Reversed Frames	Built up from angle iron.
Ribs	The timbers of a small to medium sized vessel boat to which the planking is fastened.
Rider Keelson	An additional keelson situated on top of the ordinary keelson.
Rig	The arrangement or a vessel's sails, masts and spars.
Rigger	A tradesmen who fits spars and rigging.
Ringtail	A sail set aft of the spanker in light weather.
Rise or Floor	The amount of rise of a ship's bottom above the base line, as measured at maximum beam at the turn of the bilge.
Risings	Fore and aft timbers in an open boat to support the thwarts at their ends.
Rivet	Small iron or steel rod with a head at one end. They are heated, then pushed through a prepared hole to fasten two or more metal plates together, the hammer on the other side, creating a head which creates a permanent fastening.
Rocker	The keel of a vessel that is rounded fore and aft instead of being straight.
Rocker Arm Windlass	Type of windlass operated with a pivoted arm with a crew member at each end.
Roove	A copper washer for riveting a coppers nail over.
Rowlock	A space in the wash strake or a crutch fitted into the gunwale for rowing purposes.
Rubbing Strake	A plank of thicker dimensions than its surrounding planking.
Rudder Head	The top end of the rudder stock.
Rudder Trunk	Housing in the hull for the rudder stock.
Ruffle Holes	Holes in a keel fore and aft to assist in hauling a vessel up the beach.
Run	A description of a fine lined stern to a vessel.
Running Rigging	The rigging of a vessel that moves with the operation of the sails, as compared with the standing rigging, which holds the masts and spars in place.
Sail Hanks	Metal hanks used to secure a sail to a stay.
Sail Plan	A drawing denoting the dimensions of masts and sails of a vessel.
Samson Post	A strong bitt.
Scarph	A method used to join wood or metal to itself by cutting a diagonal joint giving maximum gluing or welding surface to each item. The finished structure is of uniform thickness throughout.

Scull	A method of propelling a small boat with one oar.
Scuppers	Holes at deck level cut into bulwarks to allow small quantities of water to escape from decks and waterways.
Scuttles	Apertures in the decks for loading coal.
Sea Anchor	A bucket or canvas bag used forward as a sea anchor, or over the stern to check a boat's way.
Seam	The gap left for caulking in a planked vessel. The overlap of cloths in sail making.
Seeking	Term used by pilots of the time they spend at sea looking for ships.
Self Righting	A vessel designed with the ability to recover from a capsiz.e
Serving	The binding of wire rigging with marlin for rust protection.
Shackle	A U shaped metal link with a threaded bolt, used to connect items of rigging.
Sheathing	Wooden vessels were copper sheathed if visiting the tropics to prevent their hulls being attacked by marine borers.
Sheer	The fore and aft curve of a vessel's rail or deck.
Sheer Plan	Drawing showing a vessels fore and aft layout with athwart ship, horizontal and. vertical sections.
Sheer Stroke	The top strake in a vessel's hull.
Sheet	A rope fastened to the clue of a sail and employed to trim it.
Shell Landings	The lines the rows of plates take on a metal hull.
Shell Plating	The external shell of a vessel made up of metal plates.
Shift of Butts	The staggering of the butt joints employed in the construction of a vessels hull planking or plating.
Shipwright	A person skilled in the building and repair of ships.
Shroud	Wire or rope employed from the ship's side to masthead to support it, part of the standing rigging.
Shutter Plank	The final plank to be fitted in the hull planking.
Side Girder	Used to reinforce groups of underdeck pillars.
Siding Measurement	Applied to the dimensions of timber which is curved but is a constant thickness sideways, as used for frames and timbers and the backbone of vessels.
Skylight	A framework over a deck aperture glazed to admit light below.
Spanker	Gaff rigged fore and aft sail on the mizzen or jigger mast of a square rigged vessel.
Spider Band	Metal band on a spar with eyes for rigging and perhaps metal belaying pins.
Spike Bowsprit	A bowsprit of metal or wood constructed from one spar.
Spreaders	Extensions bolted on cross trees to spread the mast rigging, giving a better angle of support.
Square Sail	A four sided sail supported by a yard at right angles to the mast.
Stanchion	A fixed pillar of metal or wood for supporting bulwarks and other deck and hull structures.
Standing Rigging	The parts of the rigging that are fixed and do not move with the operation of sails and spars.
Starboard	The right hand side of a vessel when looking forward.
Stays	The rigging supporting the masts in a fore and aft direction, from the head of the masts downward and forward.
Staysail	A triangular sail hanked to the stays supporting the masts.
Stealer	A single strake replacing two strakes in the bottom of a vessel when terminating one strake before reaching the stem head or sternpost.
Steel	An alloy of iron, usually with such additives as carbon, silica, sulphur, phosphorus, manganese, copper, etc to improve strength and other properties.
Stem	The timber or metal to which the planking or plating is attached at the bow of a vessel.
Stern	The after end of a vessel.

Stern Post	The post to which the rudder and planking or plating is attached at the stern of the vessel.
Stern Sheets	The part of an open boat extending aft from the aftermost thwart.
Stopwater	Softwood plug employed through the back bone of a wooden vessel in the rabbet to prevent inflow of water at joints.
Strakes	Planking of wooden hull shell or belts of plating in a metal ship, which run fore and aft.
Stretchers	Foot support mounted thwart ships in the bottom of pulling boats for the oarsmen.
Stringers	Fore and aft strengthening members laid inside vessel's frames whether wood or metal.
Studding Sails	Of ten called Stunsails. Extension to a square sail at its outward edges when sailing in light winds to increase sail area.
Studlink Chain	Employed for anchor cable iron bars across links to prevent kinking and for strength.
Stunsail Booms	The extending booms from which stunsails are supported.
Suit of Sails	A full set of sails.
Sweep	A long oar.
Swept Deck	A laid deck that follows the curve of the covering board.
Tarpaulin	Canvas weatherproofed with tar-like preparation used for covering hatches and other deck openings, vulnerable in rough weather.
Teak	A very hard durable timber used in ship and boat building.
Thole Pin	Wooden or metal pin in gunwale, in pairs or singly instead of a rowlock or crutch to hold an oar.
Throat Halyard	Rope used to hoist the inboard end of a gaff next to the mast.
Thwarts	The seats upon which oarsmen sit, placed athwartships.
Tiller	Metal or wooden bar attached to the rudder head to steer a boat.
Timber	Large sections of wood used for the construction of wooden vessels.
Tommy Hunter	A tackle used on beach yawls to help support the mizzen mast.
Tonnage	A method of describing the size of a vessel, derived from the number of casks or (tons) a vessel carried.
Top	Platform at masthead to extend shrouds.
Topgallant Rail	The highest rail at the side of a vessel situated on top of the main rail.
Topping Lift	A tackle or rope supporting a spar or derrick.
Topsail	A sail set above the main sail.
Topsail Schooner	A schooner with square sails and a fore sail on the fore mast.
Topsides	Sides of the hull above the water.
Trailboards	Decorative boards on a ship's side usually at the bows.
Tramp Steamer	A vessel carrying cargo that is not employed on a regular route but calling at different ports.
Transom	Area of vessel's hull which extends athwartships across the stern, and supports the hull planking.
Treenail	A bolt made of hardwood, usually oak, used to secure planks to the wooden timbers.
Trestle Trees	Fore and aft supports for the top at masthead height, giving a better purchase for rigging.
Tumble Home	Inward slope of the topsides as they rise toward the top of the bulwarks.
Tyres	Iron strip round the perimeter of a wooden spoked wheel.
Ventilators	Usually fitted with cowl tops for the purpose of ventilating the lower regions of a vessel without allowing the inflow of water.
Wale	The thickest strakes in a vessel's topsides just above the waterline.
Wash Strake	May be the top strake of a boat's planking, sometimes has rowlocks cut into it.
Water Ballast	Water carried to give an empty ship stability. Pumped out when not needed.
Waterways	A channel along the outer edge of a deck adjacent to the bulwarks down

	which excess water will run towards the scuppers.
Web Frame	Extra strong frame located between every fifth and sixth frame.
Well Deck	Any part of an upper deck with bulkheads fore and aft carrying a higher deck.
Westerman	Name given to man responsible for sailing a Bristol Channel pilot cutter when looking for business.
Whiskers	Shrouds supporting a bowsprit.
Windlass	A geared wooden or metal horizontal barrel for hauling up the anchor.
Yoke	A wooden or metal fitting attached to the top of a rudder and having yoke lines to steer by instead of a tiller.
Zig-Zag Riveting	Rivets in parallel rows alternately spaced, not side by side.

NAMES AND USES OF VARIOUS LINES IN RIGGING A SAILING SHIP

Bobstay	A chain used to confine the bowsprit down to the stem. It is one of the most important stays in the ship; if it carries away, the ship can be partially or totally dismasted.
Bowlines	A rope from the weather side of the foresail to the bow. Also a knot for forming a non-slipping lock at the end of a rope.
Braces	Ropes with tackles leading from the yardarms to the vessels side or adjacent masts to haul the yards to any position.
Buntlines	Ropes used for hauling up the body of a sail.
Clew	The lower corners of a square sail and the aft corner of a fore and aft sail.
Clew Garnet	A whip to haul up the clews of lower square sails.
Cock Bill	To slant the yards at an angle to the deck.
Downhaul	A rope used to haul down jibs and staysails.
Fag	The frayed end of a rope.
Gaskets	Lengths of handy rope used to secure furled sails to the yards or booms.
Gun tackle Purchase	A purchase formed by a rope rove through two single blocks.
Guy	A rope attached to anything to steady it.
Halliards	Ropes or tackles for hoisting sails.
Heart	A steel heart-shaped thimble around which the lower ends of back-stays and shrouds are doubled for seizing. The sheer-pole is rove through a hole in the centre of each to prevent their turning and to serve as a lower ratline. Also the centre strand running through a rope.
Jackstays	Long rods of iron or steel along the upper side of a yard to secure the head of a sail. They run the length of the yard and a rove through short bulbous pegs (called dogs) and bolted to the yard.
Jigger	A small tackle used about the decks and loft.
Lay	The direction in which the strands of a rope are twisted.
Lanyard	Ropes rove through deadeyes for setting up rigging. Also a short rope or line attached to the end of a chain or wire to secure it.
Leech	The vertical edge of a sail.
Leechlines	Ropes leading from the leeches of a square sail through blocks above the yard and down to the deck and used to control and gather in the sail for furling.
Lift	A wire or tackle from the yard arms to the mast head to support the yard before the sail is set. It is also used to slant the lower yards for cargo work or to avoid entangling with other ships in port.

Log Line	Log Lines are usually 75 fathoms (1 fathom = 6 feet) in length which allow the log or drag to have 15 fathoms of stray line and to record the speed up to 15 knots by the use of the 14 second sand glass. A knot bears the same proportion to the sea mile that a 14 second glass does to one hour of time.
Marlin Spike	A 12 or 18 inch machine pointed, hardened steel tool for separating strands of wire or rope for splicing, screwing and tightening shackle bolts.
Martingale	A wire or chain to provide strength to the jib-boom or bow sprit. It counteracts the upward pull of the head stays.
Oakum	Material made by picking rope yarns to pieces or old rope untwisted and loosened like hemp. It is used for caulking. Stockholm tarred rope is usually used.
Parcel	To wind tarred canvas around a rope or wire.
Parrel	A band to hold the yard to the mast.
Pin Rails	A hardwood rail fixed inside the bulwarks with holes for belaying pins.
Purchase	A tackle.
Racking	A temporary seizing.
Ratlines	Lines running across the shrouds horizontally like the rungs of a ladder for climbing aloft.
Reef	To reduce a sail by securing the upper part of it to its yard.
Reef Tackle	A tackle used to haul each leech up to the yard so that the sail can be easily reefed.
Ring Tail	A sail set above a three cornered spanker. Its clew is at the end of the spanker boom and its luff hoists up the top mast.
Roach	A curve in the foot of a square sail.
Serve	To tightly wind spun yarn around a rope to prevent chafing.
Sheave	The wheel in a block over which the rope moves.
Sheer Pole	A bar of iron about an inch diameter. It is rove through the hearts of a set of backstays and serves as a lower ratline. It prevents the rigging from twisting when the rigging screws are tightened.
Sheet	A rope, chain or wire used in setting a sail. It is connected to the clew to stretch the sail.
Shrouds	The standing rigging between the lower mast head and the ships side; from the topmast head and rim of the top; from the topgallantmast head and the topmast cross-trees.
Spars	The general term for all masts, yard and booms.
Stays	Large wires used to support masts. Fore and aft stays lead forward, and backstays lead from the mast heads to the side of the ship.
Stirrups	Short ropes extending from jackstays to footropes abaft the yard at regular intervals to support the footropes.
Strop	A piece of rope or wire spliced around a block or a basket.
Swifter	The forward shroud of the lower mast.
Tack	The rope or tackle by which the weather clew of a lower squares sail is brought forward and down to the deck.
Tackle	A purchase formed by a rope rove through two or more blocks.
Tar (Stockholm)	A liquid gum taken from pine or fir trees and used for caulking, parcelling and serving and for waterproofing ropes.
Whip	A purchase formed by a rope rove through a single block.
Worm	To fill up between the lay of the rope with small yarns wound spirally.
Yard	A spar slung at its centre from and forward of the mast. It is used to support and extend square sails.
Jeers	A tackle used to raise and lower the yards by a series of blocks attached to the mast.