

Unit 34

POINTS OF SAILING

Basic terms

- *gibing* • *run* • *broad reach* • *reach* • *fetch*
- *close-hauled* • *tacking*
- *Bermuda racing rig* • *gaff-rigged*
- *square-rigged* • *fore and aft sails*

When a vessel is sailing as near to the wind as she can, she is said to be close-hauled to the wind, i.e. with her sheets tightened well in and sails just full of wind without any shivers.

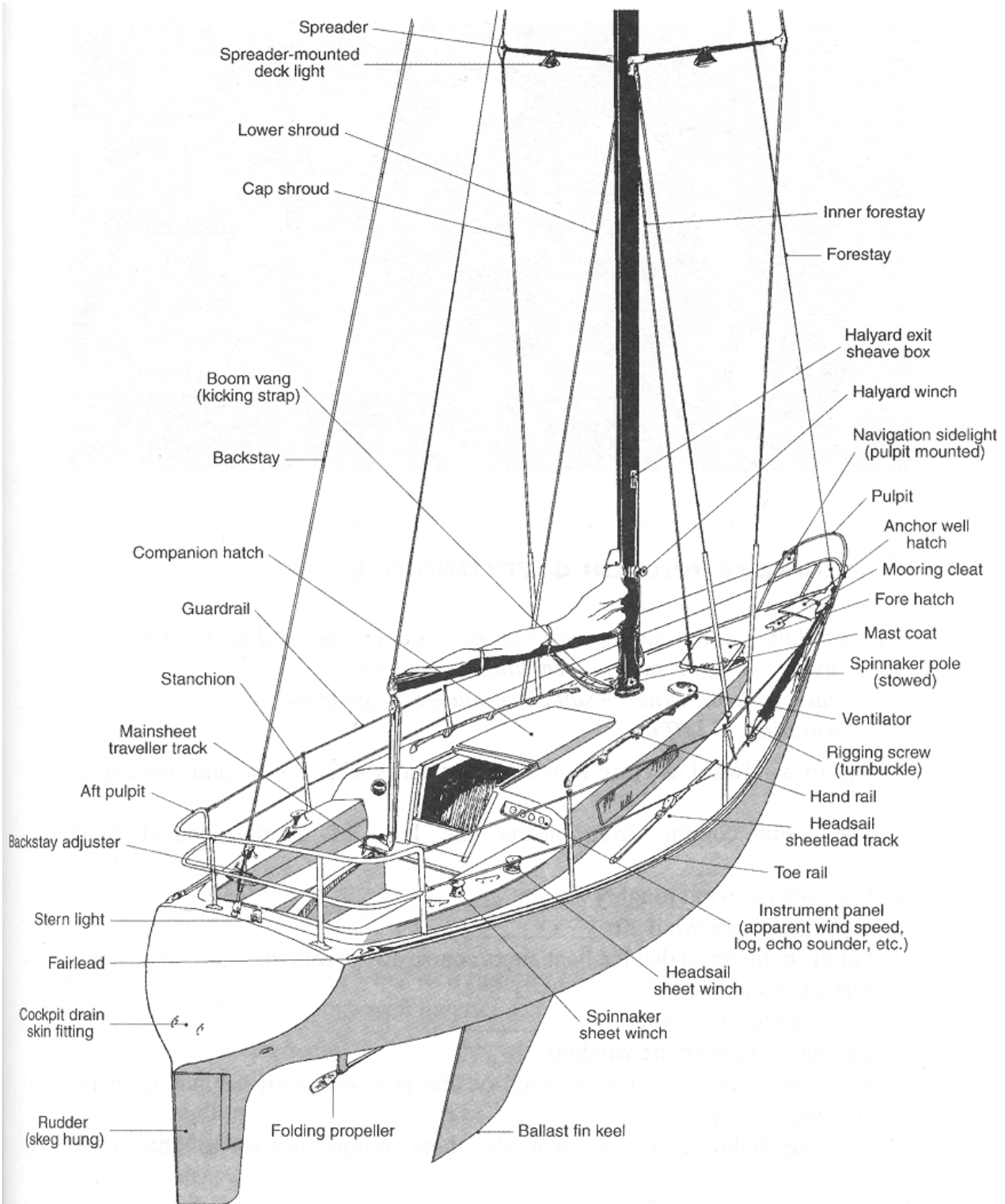
With a Bermuda racing rig, a yacht can sail close-hauled about 3 1/2 points (39°) off the wind, a gaff-rigged vessel about 4 3/4 points (50-55 degrees) and a square-rigged vessel about 6 points (70°).

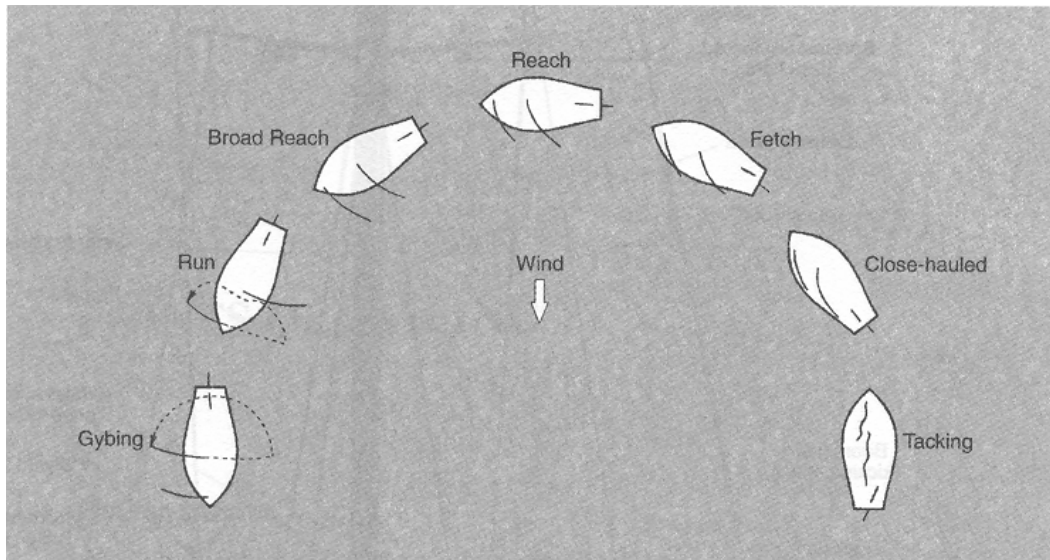
When her desired course takes her further off the wind, she is said to be sailing free, i.e., she can begin to free her sheets to present a squarer aspect of her sails to the wind.

When the wind is within the angle of about two points (22°) before the beam and four points (45°) abaft the wind, a vessel is said to be reaching across the wind, and in many cases this is her fastest point of sailing, particularly when the wind is blowing from abaft the beam. On this point of sailing, her sheets are eased well away so that the angle of the main boom is at a little less than a right angle to the direction of the wind.

When the wind is blowing within the angle of 4 points (45°) either side of the stem, the vessel is said to be running with the wind, and she has her sheets eased right away to allow the boom to take up the broadest possible angle to the wind direction.

Modern Racing Yacht





A. Comprehension & vocabulary

A.1 Find the suitable sailing terms in the box covering the definitions below:

- ***gybe*** • ***on port tack*** • ***reaching*** • ***bear away***
- ***tack*** • ***head-wind*** • ***sail close-hauled*** • ***go about***
- ***running*** • ***luff up***

1. Sail to windward as close to wind as a boat (yacht) can lie and make way: _____.
2. The wind coming from nearer the bow of a close-hauled boat: _____.
3. Sail with the wind roughly abeam: _____.
4. Sailing with the wind ast: _____.
5. Put the helm up so that the boat alters course away from the wind, opposite to ***luff up, beat***: _____.
6. Go about head to wind: _____.
7. Change tacks with the wind ast: _____.
8. Vessel or boat receiving the wind OD the port side with her boom on the starboard side is: _____.
9. Put the helm down so that the boat points nearer to the wind: _____.
10. Change from one tack to another: _____.

A.2 Match each English term with the Italian equivalent:

a	windward	1	orzata
b	overlap	2	poggiata
c	gybing	3	abbattuta
d	tacking	4	virata
e	luffing	5	bolina stretta
f	bearing away	6	libero da prua
g	close-hauled	7	libero da poppa
h	clear ahead	8	ingaggiamento
i	leeward	9	sottovento
j	clear astern	10	al vento

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
10									

A.3 Give short descriptions for the following wind forces:

1. Calm: _____
2. Light air: _____
3. Light breeze: _____
4. Moderate breeze: _____
5. Fresh breeze: _____
6. Strong breeze: _____
7. Near gale: _____
8. Gale: _____
9. Strong gale: _____
10. Storm: _____
11. Violent storm: _____
12. Hurricane, cyclone, typhoon: _____

A.4 Re-arrange the following descriptions of the appearance of the sea in increasing order start with number 3:

1. Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere; chance of some spray;
2. Exceptionally high waves. The sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind. Visibility is affected;
- a 3. Sea like a mirror;

4. Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift, foam blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind;
5. Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam in great patches is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind; on the whole the surface of the sea takes on a white appearance;
6. Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced; crests have a glassy appearance and do not break;
7. Small waves becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.

A.5 State the type of wind and the Beaufort scale force corresponding to the descriptions of the sea given above (consult the Beaufort Scale, p. 84):

TYPE OF WIND	FORCE
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

B. Grammar

B.1 Replace the imperative expressing instructions in the text below with the verb ***should***:

EXAMPLE

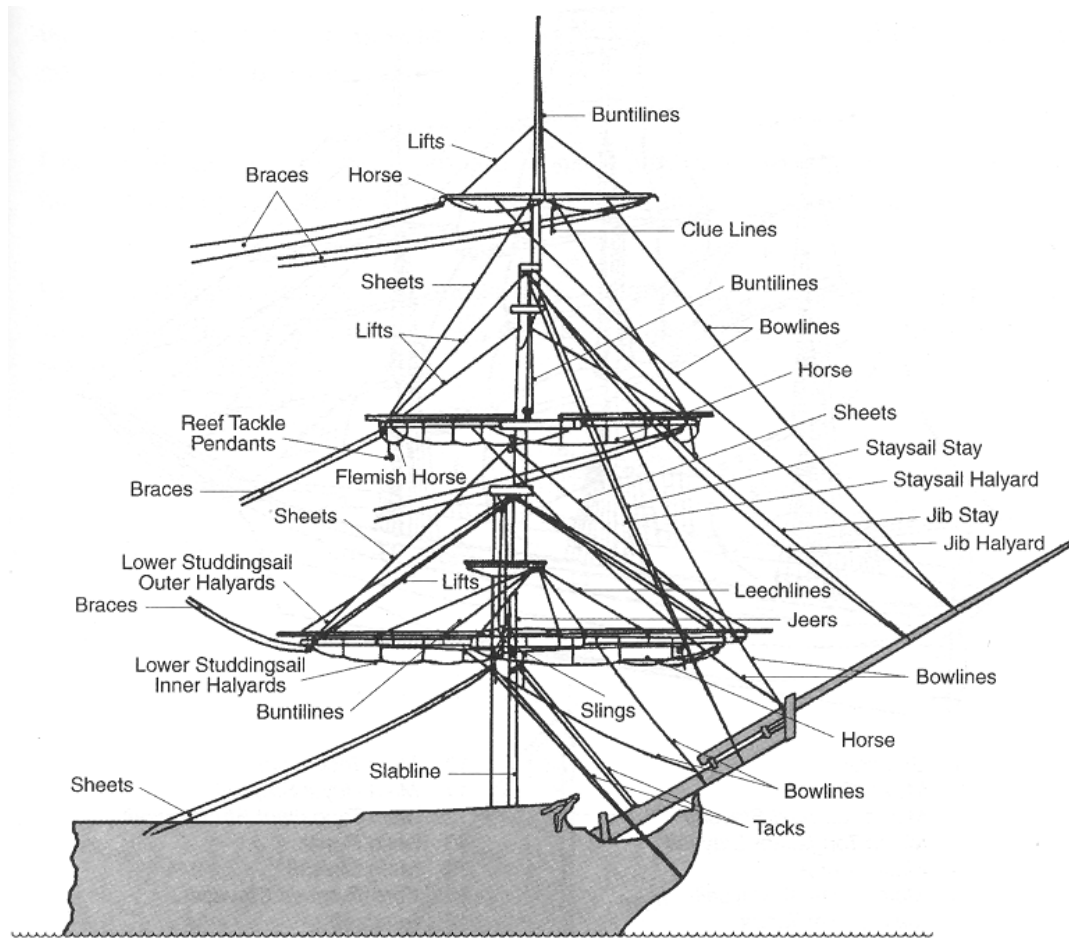
Take every precaution to avoid bad weather.

You ***should*** take every precaution to avoid bad weather.

Sailing in bad weather

Try to avoid bad weather if you feel that you cannot cope with it. Watch the weather forecasts, and make your own forecasting. If possible, carry a radio and a barometer. Plan your passage so that you are unlikely to be caught in exposed waters. Take shelter if necessary. Always *reef* the mainsail in good time if a blow is coming. Extend your range only very gradually. Remember that if you get into trouble and try to do more than you are capable of, you may, if nothing worse happens, frighten off your friends or family (and perhaps yourself) from sailing for life.

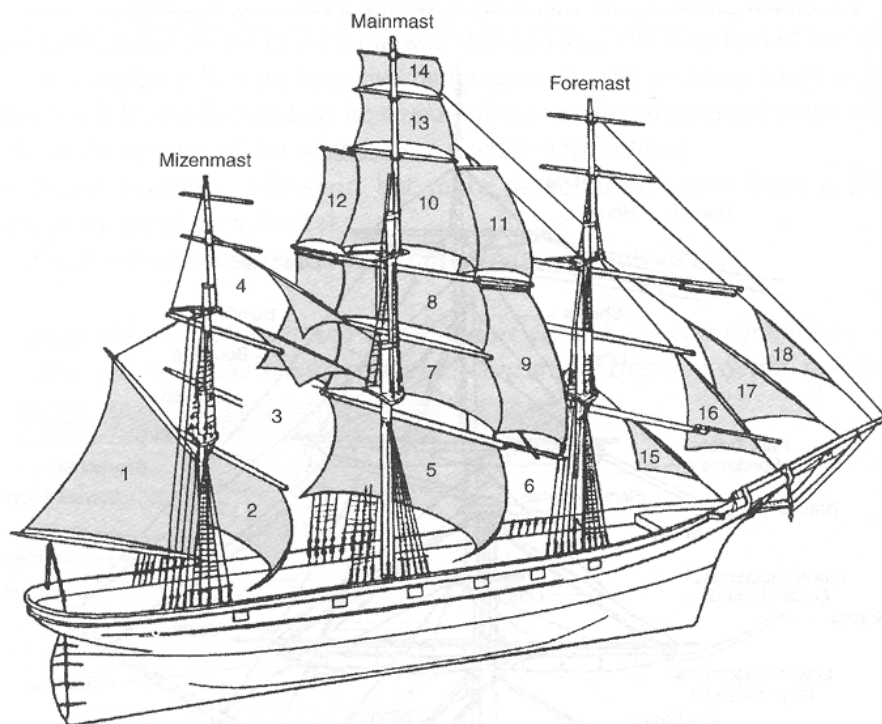
Foremast Showing the Elements of a Ship's Running Rigging



B.2 Supply the right preposition:

Sailing points

With sails hoisted and the crew aboard the boat is held 1. _____ her painter 2. _____ the pier, ready to set off. The sails are slatting because she is lying head 3. _____ wind. If the wind is blowing 4. _____ the beam striking the port side of the boat, she is sailing on a beam reach 5. _____ port tack, with the boom to starboard. Helmsman and crew are sitting 6. _____ windward on the port gunwale or rail to keep her level. The helmsman bears away by pulling the tiller towards him and the yacht is therefore broad-reaching 7. _____ port tack with the wind 8. _____ her port quarter. The boat is 9. _____ a close reach when the wind is 10. _____ an angle of about 50 degrees 11. _____ the course, and the sheets are trimmed in to match. She is close-hauled when she is sailing very close 12. _____ the wind.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Spanker | 10 Main Topgallant |
| 2 Mizen Course | 11 Main Royal Staysail |
| 3 Mizen Topmast Staysail | 12 Main Topgallant Studdingsail |
| 4 Mizen Topgallant Staysail | 13 Main Royal |
| 5 Main Course | 14 Main Skysail |
| 6 Main Topmast Staysail | 15 Fore Topmast Staysail |
| 7 Main Lower Topsail | 16 Inner Jib |
| 8 Main Upper Topsail | 17 Outer Jib |
| 9 Main Topmast Studdingsail | 18 Flying Jib |

C. Translation

C.1 Translate the text below into English:

Regolamento di regatta **Definizioni**

Partenza

Uno yacht parte quando ... dopo il segnale di partenza, qualunque parte del suo scafo, equipaggio od attrezzatura taglia per la prima volta la linea di partenza in direzione del percorso per la prima boa.

Abbattuta

Uno yacht inizia l'abbattuta quando col vento in poppa, la base della sua randa taglia la linea mediana dello scafo, e completa l'abbattuta quando la randa si è riempita sull'altro bordo.

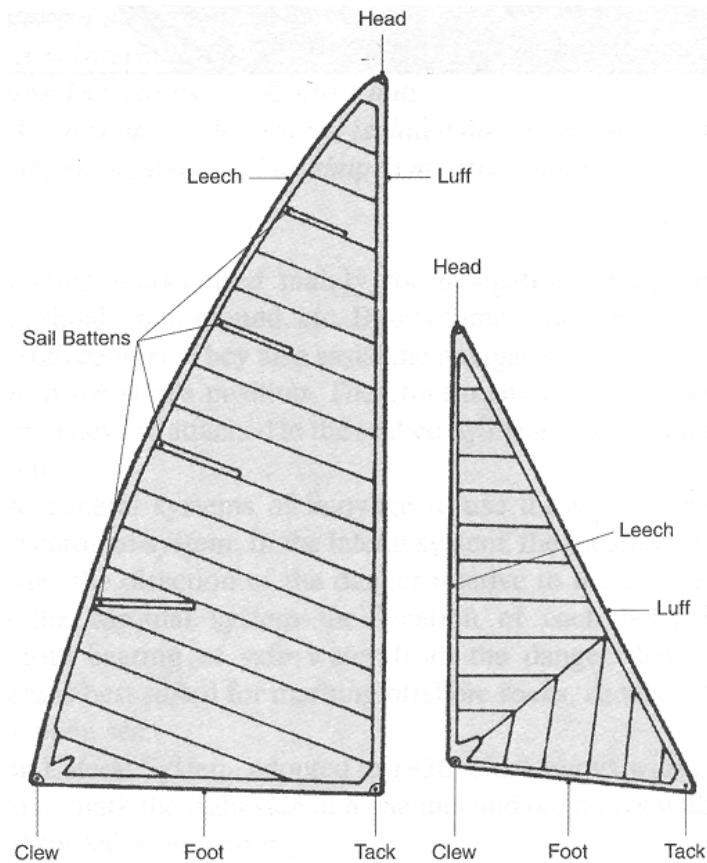
Virata

Uno yacht sta virando, dal momento in cui è oltre la posizione di prua al vento, finchè non ha poggiato (*bear away*) fino a una rotta di bolina stretta.

Arrivo

Uno yacht arriva quando qualunque parte del suo scafo, del suo equipaggio od attrezzatura in posizione normale, taglia la linea d'arrivo nella direzione del percorso dall'ultima boa ...

Dingy – Fore-and-Aft Sails



Principal Elements of a Ship's Standing Rigging

