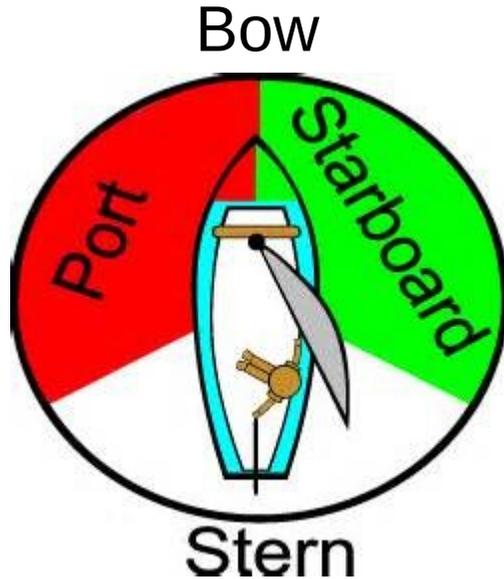


Port and **starboard** are nautical terms for left and right, respectively.

Port is the left-hand side of a vessel, facing forward.

Starboard is the right-hand side, facing forward.

Since **port** and **starboard** never change, they are unambiguous references that are not relative to the observer.

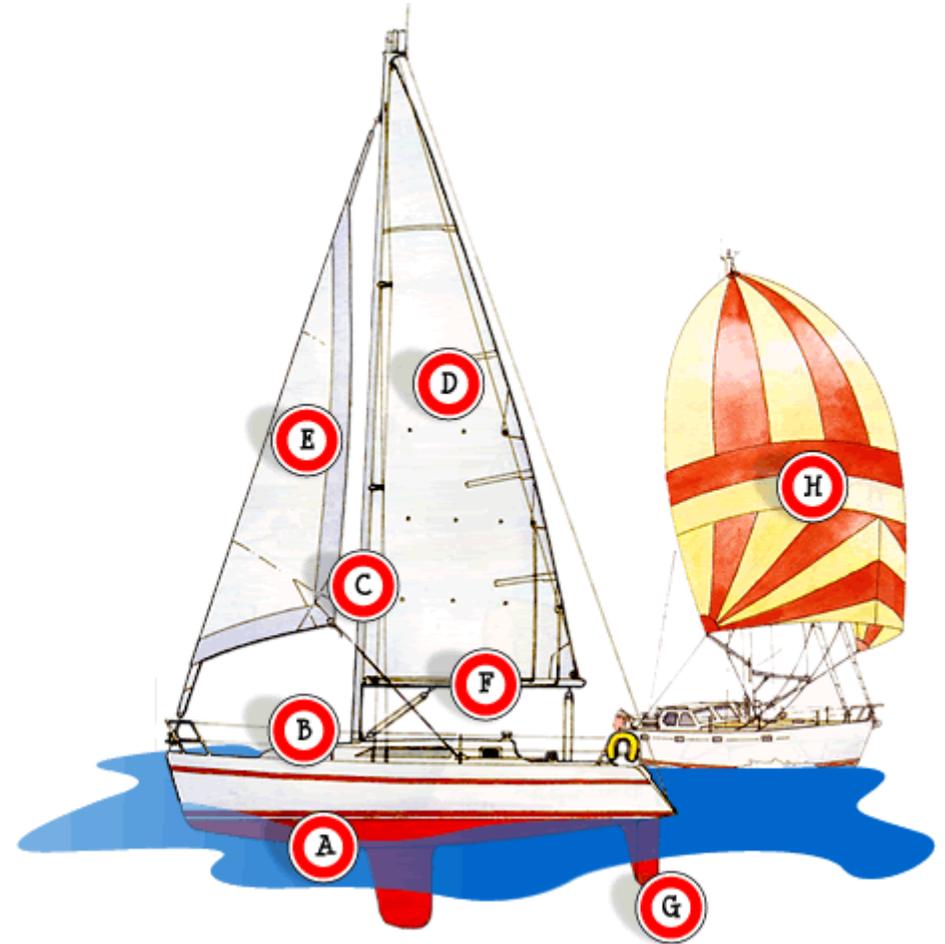


The **bow** of a boat is at the front
The **stern** of a boat is at the back

Port and **starboard** are also terms used to describe navigational aids like buoys, that show you how to get into or out of a harbour. On your way in the **port** buoys will be on your left coloured (or at night, lit) red and the **starboard** buoys on your right coloured or lit green.

The term starboard derives from the Old English 'steorbord', meaning the side on which the ship is steered. Before ships had rudders on their centrelines, they were steered with a steering oar at the stern of the ship and, because more people are right-handed, on the right-hand side of it.

Can you remember what these parts of a boat are called?



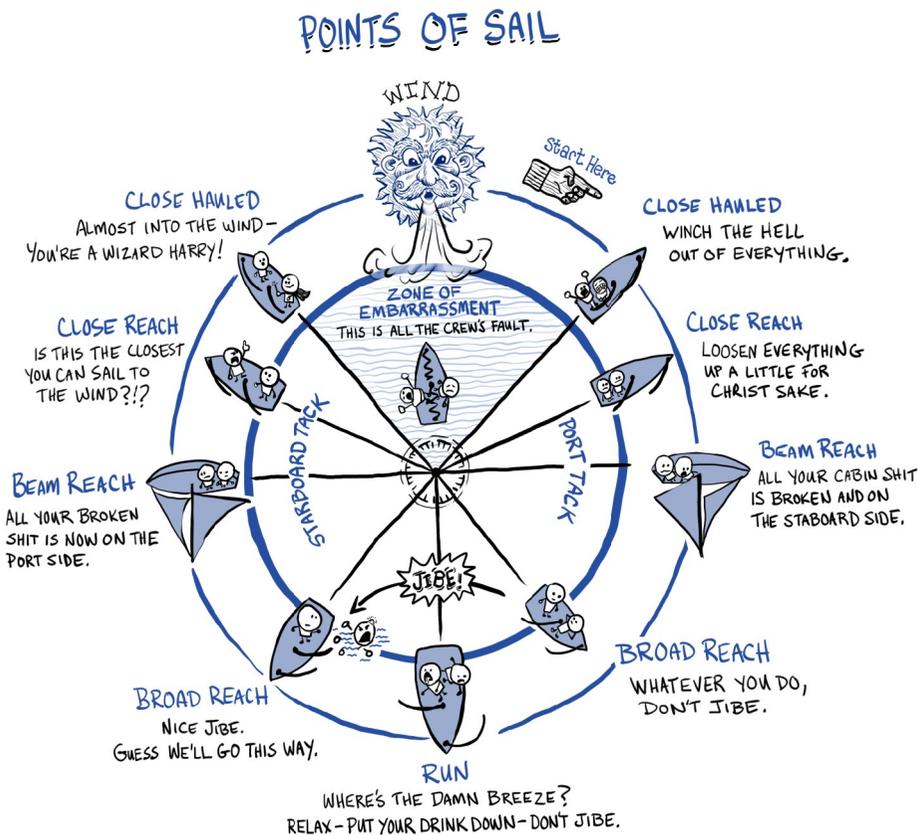
- A E
- B F
- C G
- D H

When we're sailing a boat we always want to know where the wind is coming from. We can't sail straight into the wind, but we can start sailing from about 30 degrees away from the wind. Each 'point of sail' has a name according to the angle away from the wind. Have a look through the points of sail below and see how the sails are set according to the direction the boat is in and the direction the wind is coming from.

An introduction to sailing terms

When you first come out sailing you'll discover a whole new language. This little leaflet is to introduce you to some of these new words, and ways of thinking, so you can get the most out of your first sailing experience.

These are the names of some of the big bits of a yacht:



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- A = Hull
- B = Deck
- C = Mast
- D = Main sail
- E = Jib
- F = Boom
- G = Rudder
- H = Spinnaker

