

Glossary

Abaft the beam	Astern or to the rear of the midpoint of the ship.
Athwartship	From one side of the ship to the other
Beam	A timber mounted athwartship to provide lateral strength; the term is also used to indicate the maximum breadth of the hull.
Beaufort scale	A 0–12 scale of wind force and sea state, described according to a range of velocity, with 0 being a dead calm and 12 a hurricane: 0 : <1 kt, 1 : 1–2 kts, 2 : 3–6 kts, 3 : 7–10 kts, 4 : 11–15 kts, 5 : 16–20 kts, 6 : 21–26 kts, 7 : 27–33 kts, 8 : 34–40 kts, 9 : 41–47 kts, 10 : 48–55 kts, 11 : 56–63 kts, 12 : >64 kts.
Berth	The space allotted to a vessel along a quay or at anchor.
Brace	Rope tied to the end of a yard of a square-rigged ship and used for adjusting it.
Brail	Lines which stretch from the deck, over the yard, and down the forward face of the sail via brailing rings; used for gathering the sail to the yard and for shaping the leech of the sail for different sailing configurations.
Cabotage	Navigation from point to point along a coast for trading purposes.
Clew	The lower corner of a square sail, or the after lower corner of a fore-and-aft sail; controlled by sheets.
Close-hauled	As close to the wind as a vessel will sail.
Cutwater	A stem-post timber that curves forward and downward below the waterline of a wooden vessel, dividing the water as the vessel advances.
Deadeye	a hardwood discoid construction through which a lanyard is rove and attached to the stays. Used to loosen and tighten stays.

Diurnal winds	Winds which exhibit a periodic alteration of condition with day and night, typically caused by the uneven heating of different surfaces (such as land and sea).
Fairlead	A pulley or batten used to change the direction of a rope, forming part of the rigging of a ship.
Fore-and-aft sail	Any of various sailing rigs which are not set on yards and which are arranged in a fore-and-aft direction amidships.
Galley	A seagoing vessel propelled primarily by oars but also usually outfitted with sails. Also, the name given to the ship's kitchen.
Halyard	Lines used for hoisting a spar or sail into position.
Heliacal	Occurring near the sun; applied to stars which rise and set concurrently with the sun while still visible.
Keel	The main longitudinal timber upon which frames and end posts were mounted; the backbone of the hull.
Keelson	An internal longitudinal timber or line of timbers mounted upon the frames along the centerline of the keel. It provided additional strength to the bottom of the hull.
Lee	An area that is sheltered or turned away from the wind. . Also, the quarter ore region toward which the wind blows.
Leeward	Approaching the quarter toward which the wind blows (opposite is windward).
Lifts	Lines that run from the deck to a block near the top of the mast and down to the yard; used for hoisting and lowering the yard.
Log	Any device used to determine the speed of a vessel.
Port	The left side of the ship when facing forward.
Prow	The forward part of a vessel.
Reef	To shorten sail by tying in one or more reefs.

Rigging	The various ropes and chains employed in supporting and working the mast, yards and sails.
Starboard	The right side of the ship when facing forward.
Stay	One of several ropes or wires used for steadying the mast. Ancient square rigged vessels employed two, one stretched from the head of the mast to the stern, the other to the bow.
Stem, Stempost	A vertical or upward curving timber to which the two sides of the bow attach; they are scarfed to the keel at the lower end.
Stern	The rear or after end of a vessel.
Sternpost	A vertical or upward curving timber to which the two sides of the stern attach; they are scarfed to the keel at the lower end.
Scud	To run before a gale with little or no sail set. Also, low clouds and spray driven by the wind.
Set and drift	The set is the direction toward which a current is flowing, and the drift is its speed. Both are used to compute offsetting influences of the ship's intended course.
Sheet	Rope that controls the tension of the clew, or loose bottom, of a square sail.
Tack	The course of a vessel running obliquely against the wind. Also, one of a series of straight runs that comprise the zigzag course of a ship proceeding to windward.
Telltale	A string or strip of textile that indicates the relative direction of the wind. On sailing ships it is often attached to the shrouds and backstay for ease of reference.
Yard	A long spar to which the head of a square sail is attached.
Way	Movement or passage through the water.
Wear	The act of bringing a vessel onto another tack by turning the head away from the wind until the wind is on her stern, and then bringing the head toward the wind on the other side.