

Rope Terminology Cheatsheet

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Basic Rope and Knot Terms

| Terms | Definition |
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| Bight | The slack portion in the rope formed when you double the rope back (usually taken out of the center of the rope) on itself, but does not cross over itself. |
| Loop | When two parts of the rope cross each other, it forms a loop. |
| Standing end | The idle (or longer) part of the rope that includes all the ropes except the working end. Also called the bitter end. |
| Working end | The end of a rope that is used to tie the knot. It is also called the running end or free end or the tag end. |
| Cross | When one part of the rope lies above the other, it is called a cross. |
| Elbows | If another cross is added, it's an elbow. |
| Overhand loop | The end passes over the standing part. |
| Underhand loop | The end goes under the standing part. |
| Turn | One wrap of rope around a spar or object. |
| Round turn | It is the wrap of the rope around a spar so the working end comes back along the standing part of the rope. |
| Eye | Often mistaken for a loop, an eye provides a means to form a fixed connection and doesn't slip. The slipped version is known as a Noose. |
| Open loop | A curve in the rope with separated ends, narrower than a bight. |

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| Closed loop | A curve where the ends come together but don't cross. |
| Capsizing | When a knot deforms into a different structure. |
| Dressing | Arranging the knot to improve its performance and reliability. |
| Tending the knot | Dressing or setting knots correctly before they are put under load to prevent them from capsizing. |
| Setting | Tightening a knot. |
| Whipping | Wraps around rope ends to prevent fraying or wrapping handles for better grip on tools like knives. |
| Lashings | Arrangement of rope used to secure two or more items together. |
| Jamming | When a knot becomes very difficult to untie after use. |
| Seizing | A knot that binds two pieces of rope together side by side to create a loop. |

Climbing Rope Terms

| Terms | Definition |
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| Dynamic Rope | Rope designed to absorb the shock of a fall. It is slightly elastic and stretches under load. |
| Static Rope | Unlike dynamic rope, it is a low stretch climbing rope. |
| Single Rope | Rope designed to use as a single line (usually 9-10mm diameter ropes). |
| Half Rope | Rope used in pairs, helpful for climbers to clip into separate anchors. |

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| Twin Rope | Two ropes are clipped through the same anchors for redundancy. |
| Top Rope | Method where the rope is anchored at the top of the climb. |
| Kernmantle | A type of rope where the inner core (kern) gives strength and the outer sheath (mantle) provides protection. |
| Sheath Slippage | When the outer part of the kernmantle rope (sheath) moves on its own. |
| Core Shot | When the inner core of the rope is visible. |
| Rope Drag | Resistance created when the rope is passed through several protection points. |
| Edge Abrasion | Damage caused on the rope when it goes through several rough and sharp edges. |
| Impact Force | Force experienced by the rope, climber or gear during a fall. |
| Fall Factor | The ratio of the distance fallen to the length of the rope available. Helps to find the severity of a fall. |

Fishing Rope Terms

| Terms | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| Leader Line | A short length of line that connects your lure or hook to the main line. Prevents the line from getting worn by fish's teeth. |
| Braided Line | A line made up of multiple strands of fibers braided together. |
| Monofilament Line | A single-strand line made from Nylon or other synthetic materials. |
| Tippet | A transparent line to attach the fly to the leader. |

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| Backing Line | An extra line attached to the reels to increase the amount of the line in fly fishing. |
| Snagging | When a hook catches an underwater object, it requires a gentle release or cutting of the line. |
| Dropper Line | Multiple short lines to attach additional hooks or baits. |
| Shot Line | Line with small weights attached to find depth while fishing. |
| Floating Line | Line that is lighter and hence floats on water. |
| Sinking Line | Fishing line heavier than water. |

Boating Rope Terms

| Terms | Definition |
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| Anchor line | Connect the anchor to the boat. |
| Mooring Line | Secure the boat to a dock or buoy. |
| Stern Line | Secure the back of the boat to a dock. |
| Spring Lines | Protects the boat from moving fore and aft. |
| Breast Line | Keeps the boat from moving side-to-side. |
| Heaving Line | A lightweight rope for rescue situations. |
| Halyard | A rope to hoist a sail. |
| Ratline | A thin line tied between the shrouds of a sailing ship to form a ladder. |
| Hawser | A large diameter rope for towing or mooring large ships. |

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| Fid | Tool for splicing ropes. |
| Cable | A large diameter rope for anchoring or towing large vessels. |
| Downhaul | A rope to tighten the front of a sail. |
| Outhaul | A rope that stretches the sail tight. |
| Painter | A rope attached to the bow of a small boat like dinghy. |
| Sheet | Rope that controls the angle of a sail, attached at the lower back corner of a sail. |

Other Rope Terminology

| Terms | Definition |
|----------------------------|---|
| Rope Memory | The ability of a rope to retain the shape it was coiled or tied earlier. |
| Coiling | The process of winding the rope into loops for storage. |
| Flakes | A flake is a number of turns in a coiled rope. |
| Fraps | It is a set of loops coiled perpendicularly around the wraps of a lashing as a means of tightening. |
| Splice | A method of joining two ropes by untwisting and then re-weaving the strands. |
| Relative strength of Knots | The percentage of the rope's strength when a knot is tied to the rope. The Figure 8 knot has the highest knot strength of about 75-80%. |
| Tension | Force applied to a rope under load. |

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| Tensile strength of rope | The maximum load a new rope can withstand before breaking in a lab environment. |
| Working Load Limit | The safer, real word limit—usually 15-20% of the rope's Tensile Strength. |
| Shock Load | A sudden force that is applied to the rope due to the climber falling or the boat pulling the anchor in strong currents. |
| Abrasion resistance | The ability of a material to withstand the wear caused by friction. |
| Rope Burn | Damage made to the rope due to friction. |

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