

Glossary of Nautical Terms

Adrift	Floating without being steered or attached to anything
Aground	When a ship is touching the ground in shallow water
Anchor	A heavy object that is attached by a rope or chain to the ship and used to secure it in place while it is in the water
Berth	A place to sleep on board ship, either a bunk or hammock
Bow	Front of the ship
Buoy	An anchored float used to mark a hazard or safe area
Cabin	A compartment (room) for passengers or crew
Chart	A map of the sea used by sailors
Course	The direction a ship travels
Crew	People who work on a ship
Crow's nest	A small shelter on the mast where crew can look out to sea
Deck	The part of a ship that forms a floor to walk on
Funnel	A metal chimney, that allows smoke from the engine to escape
Galley	The kitchen area on a ship
Gangway	A narrow bridge allowing people to get on and off the ship
Helm	The ship's wheel or tiller which together with the rudder helps to steer the ship
Hold	A compartment in a ship, used for carrying luggage and other cargo
Hull	The main body of a ship
Keel	The 'backbone' of a ship running along the bottom of the hull



Mast	A tall upright pole on the ship that supports the sails and rigging
Overboard	Over the side of the ship
Port	Left side of a ship when looking forward
Propeller	A device with two or more blades, powered by the engine, which spins and moves the ship
Rigging	Ropes or wires used to attach sails
Rudder	A vertical board, linked to the helm, used for steering a ship
Sail	A large piece of material used to catch the wind and move a ship along
SS	Steamship
Salvage	The act of saving a ship or its cargo after it has been wrecked, damaged or lost overboard
Starboard	Right side of a ship when looking forward
Steerage	The part of a ship where the passengers with the cheapest tickets travelled
Stern	Back part of the ship
Tide	The regular rise and fall of water levels in the ocean
Waterline	The part of the ship's hull that is at the water level

