

Verbal Commands

Ahoy	Hello
Avast!	Stop!
Aye	Yes
Aye Aye	I understand your orders and will carry them out
Carry on	I am done with my orders and expect a response

Working on Lines

Haul Away	Pull on a line, hand over hand
Slack Away	Let a line out, hand under hand
Heave (Ho)	Pull all together on command
Avast	Stop and hold on!
Up Behind	Let go of the line, get clear
Bitter End	The end of a line not attached to anything
Working part	The part of a line you haul or slack on
Standing part	The part of a line secured to the ship

Names of lines and Places to Secure lines

Bitt	Small posts fixed through the deck of the vessel for fastening lines to
Bollard	Steel posts secured to the pier used for mooring vessels
Cleat	Specially shaped piece of wood or metal used for tying off a line
Block and tackle	Pulleys rigged with a rope to provide mechanical advantage
Fall line	Line that comes from the upper block of a block and tackle, when you haul or slack it the load moves up and down
Tag line	Line that controls a load, when you haul or slack it moves the load fore, aft, port or starboard over the deck
Hawser	A large line that ties the ship to the pier
Heaving line	A lightweight line for throwing, it attaches to a hawser
Lead line	A long line with a weight on one end, marked in fathoms, used to measure the depth of the water

Parts of a Ship and other useful vocabulary

Bow	Front part of a vessel
Stern	Back part of a vessel
Port	Left side of a vessel when looking forward
Starboard	Right side of a vessel when looking forward
Fore/Forward	At or towards the bow
Aft	At or towards the stern
Davit	Used for holding a longboat over the side of a large vessel or pier
Fathom	Six feet
Forecastle	Area forward on a ship where the common sailors sleep
Galley	Kitchen on a ship
Gangway	The ramp to get on or off a vessel in port
Mast	Vertical spar
Square sail	Largest sails, made for sailing before the wind, attach to the “yards”
Stay sail	Smaller sails used for stability and sailing into the wind, attach to the “stays”
Yard	Horizontal spar