

1 Parts of the Boat

Understanding the language

You only need to know a few basic terms when you start to learn and it is sufficient to know the names for the parts of the boat shown here.

Two important words are **port** and **starboard**. The port side is the left side looking forward and always remains so even if you turn round to face astern.

The term **windward** means the upwind side of the boat. **Leeward** is the downwind side of the boat. **Bow** and **stern** refer to the front and back of the boat.

Sails and their parts

The simplest boats use a single sail behind the mast. This is called the **mainsail**.

Most boats have a mainsail plus another sail, the **jib**, in front of the mast. Both sails are controlled by ropes called **sheets**.

The mainsail has a **mainsheet** attached to the boom. The jib has **two jib sheets** - one for each side of the boat.



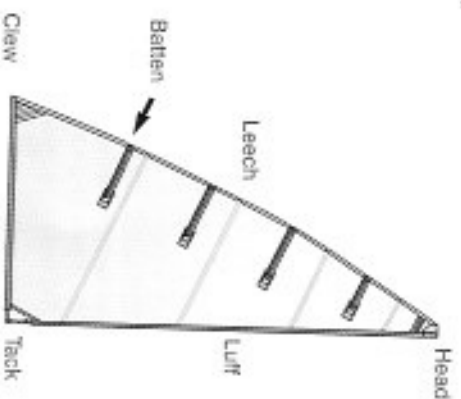
Sailing with a mainsail and jib.

Variations on a theme

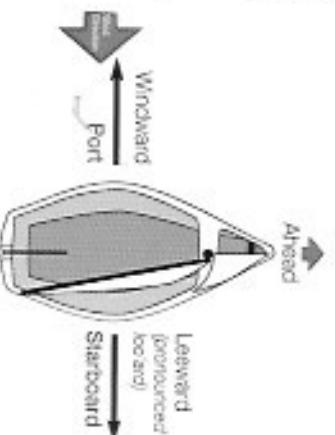
You may encounter a different mainsheet layout. Techniques will vary according to whether you sail a boat with a centre or aft mainsheet.



Here the mainsheet is attached at the stern - this is called an aft mainsheet.



Standard sails are triangular and each part has a name.



Some directions are described relative to the boat or the wind.

Before you go afloat 1



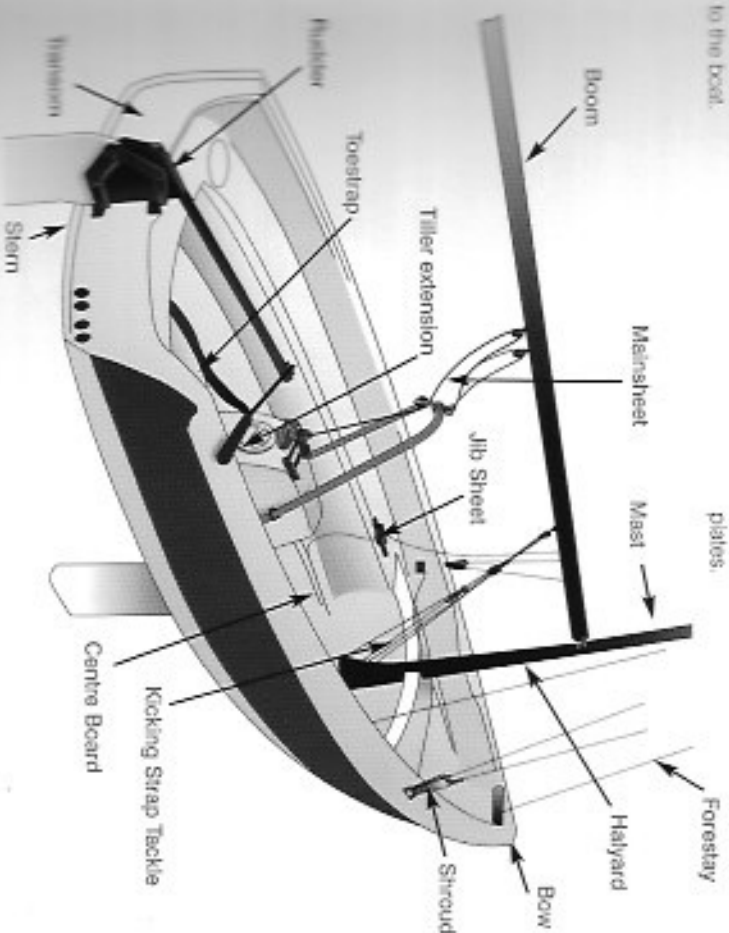
Mainsheet (rope) used to adjust the angle of the boom to the boat.



Kicking strap tackle holds the boom down when sailing.



Shrouds hold the mast up and attach to the strout plates.



(A thwart (rope)) to hold through a thwart and held by a clew clew.



The **halyard (rope)** that hoists the sail is held by a clew clew.



Centreboard pivots up or down to act as a keel.



Rudder attaches to boat's transom and is removable.