



JUNIOR SAILOR

TRY YOUR HAND AT KNOT-TYING!

Tying different kinds of knots was essential for sailors and still is!

Knot-tying is used to tie-off ships, join together lines on ships, and secure objects on the deck and below.

Below you'll find diagrams on how to tie 3 different kinds of knots, try your hand at each of them!

The Bowline

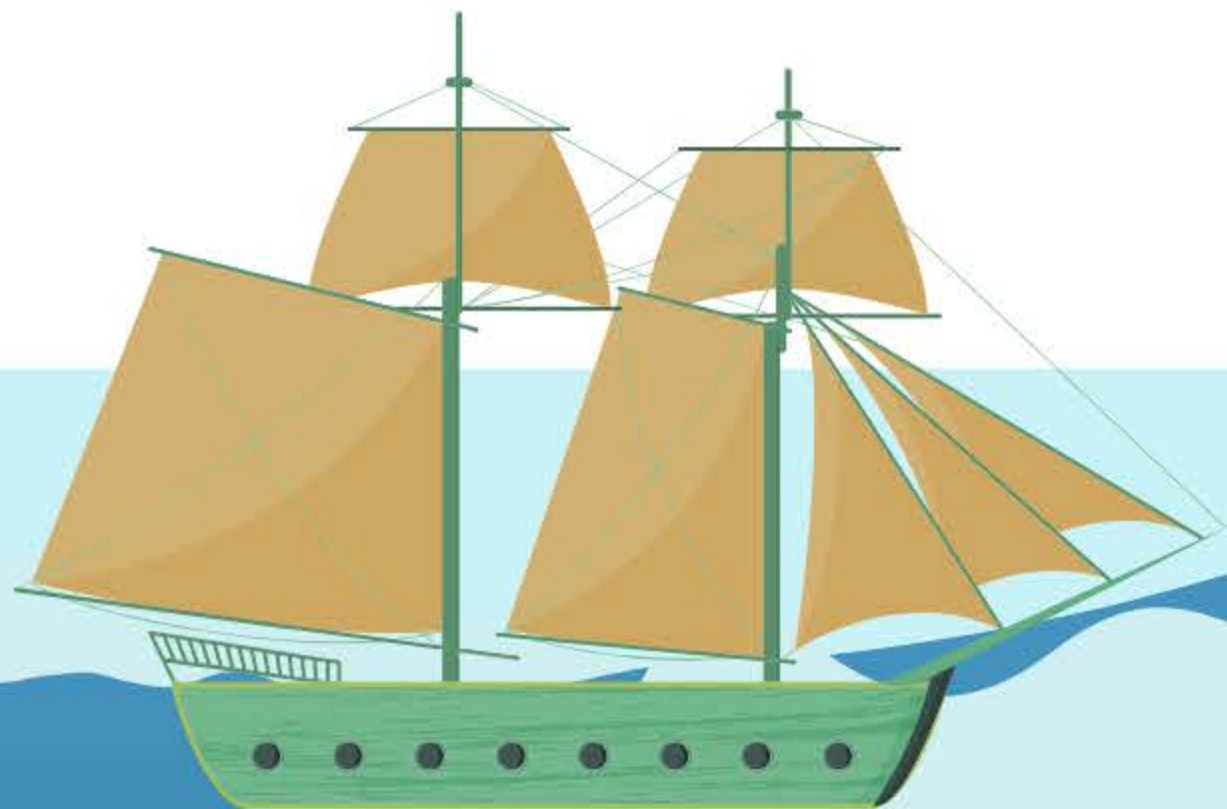
One of the most useful knots aboard a sailing ship is the bowline. It forms a fixed noose at the end of a line that cannot run or slip



Here's a little ditty to help you tie a bowline!

"The rabbit comes out of the hole, goes around back of the tree, and jumps back into the hole." The "rabbit" is the moving end of the line; the "hole" and "tree" are the standing ends.

To finish the knot, give a hard pull on the tree and the rabbit's ears at the same time, so the knot keeps its shape.



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The Stopper Knot

To keep a line from slipping, a knot should be tied in the end of it. The best knot for doing this is the double overhand stopper knot, this knot does not come loose easily!



The easiest way to tie a stopper knot is by using your hand.

Just loop the end of the line twice around the palm of your hand, tuck the moving end under the two loops, and then pull the loops off your hand.



The Clove Hitch

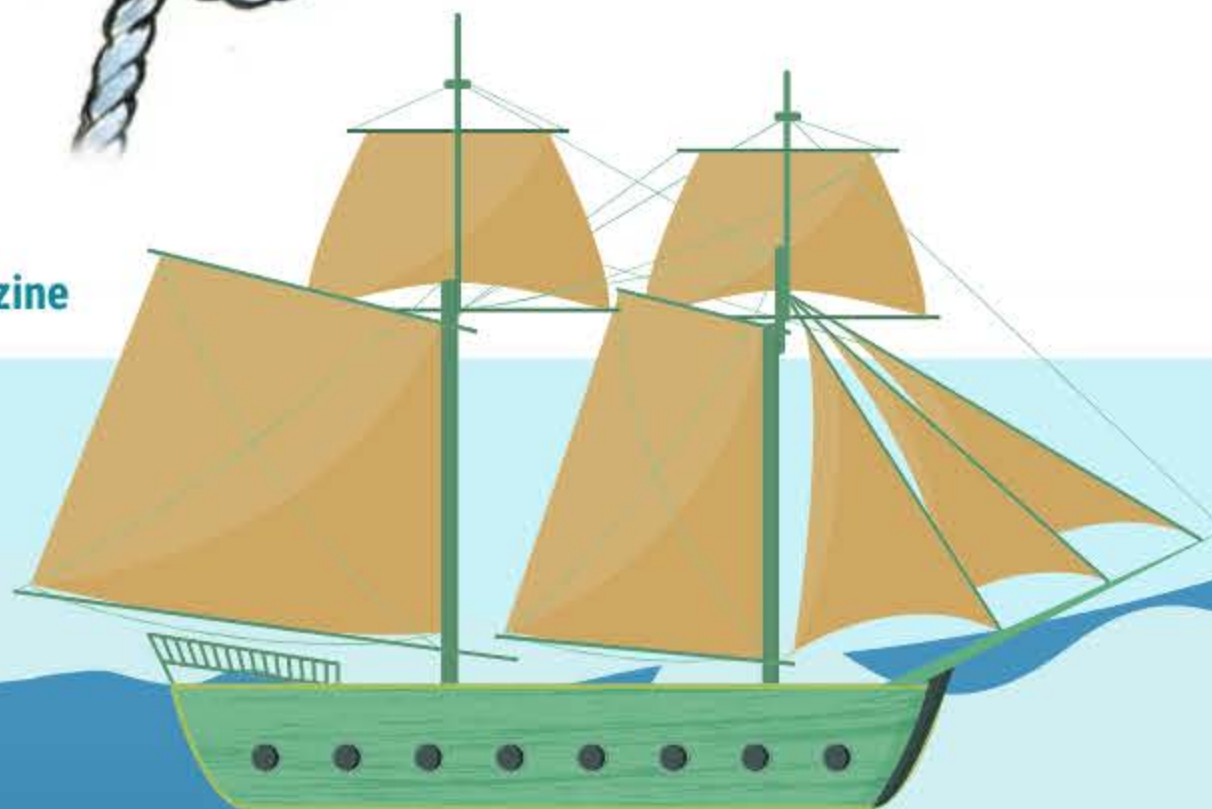
This knot is very handy because it can be tied very quickly. The clove hitch knot is often used to temporarily secure ship to a dock. But, be careful! This knot comes untied easily as a ship moves around in the waves.

Take one full turn around the stick, ruler, or object your line is being tied to.

Then loop the line over itself as you take another turn. Finish the knot by tucking the moving end under itself and pull tight.



Courtesy of U.S. National Park Service and Sail Magazine



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