

GOLF FUNDAMENTALS



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## **GOLF TERMS & DEFINITIONS**

# A

Above the hole	Refers to a ball on any sloping green positioned so that the next putt is downhill. Downhill putts are harder to judge for speed and slope, and also riskier, so the good golfer aims to keep his ball 'below the hole ' at all times.
Ace	Another word for a hole-in-one.
Address	The act of taking a stance and placing the clubhead behind the golf ball. If the ball moves once a player has addressed the ball, there is a one-stroke penalty, unless it is clear that the actions of the player did not cause the ball to move on purpose. If the player addresses the ball and places the head of the club behind it and in doing so causes the ball to move, a one-stroke penalty does not occur in this case.
Adjusted Gross Score	Your score after you apply your handicap stroke allowance.
Aeration	To get better air circulation into the soil underneath the turf of a golf course. This is necessary for the health of the microbes that live in the topsoil. Grass depends upon these microbes because they convert the nitrogen of fertilizer into a form that the grass can use. Aeration takes the form of poking holes (or slits) into the turf every few inches.
Aggregate	A score made over more than one round of play, or by two or more players playing as partners.
Aim	Generally, the direction in which the golfer's target lies and the direction he or she intends for the ball to travel.

Air shot	A shot where the player addresses the golf ball, swings, and completely misses the ball. An air shot is counted as a stroke. See also whiff.
Alignment	The position of a player's body relative to the target line of the ball.
Alternate Shot	Another twist of stroke play. In this format one player hits the drive and then the other player hits the next shot and so forth until the hole is completed. The score recorded is the same manner as stroke play.
Albatross	Another word for double eagle, or when scoring three under on a hole. This only occurs if you were to make a hole in one on a par 4, or hole out on your second shot in a par 5.
Angle of approach	The angle at which the clubhead strikes the ball. This affects the trajectory the ball will travel and spin.
Approach	Normally a short or medium shot played to the putting green or pin intended to land the ball on the green commonly referred to as the "approach shot."
Apron	Also known as frog-hair or fringe. The grass surface on the perimeter of the green that separates it from the surrounding fairway or rough.
Attend the flag	To hold and then remove the flag while another player putts. A common courtesy performed when playing a round of golf.
Attest	If you play in a tournament, you will submit your score card at the conclusion of each round. You will sign your score card as testimony that you stand behind the accuracy of those numbers you wrote onto the card. But there is another person who must also sign your score card. And that is one of the golfers who

played with you and will vouch for the accuracy of your score card. To "attest" means to say that you were a witness to the score that someone else posted

**Away** The nature rule of golf where the player farthest from the hole is the first to play, as in "Who's away?" In certain circumstances on the putting green, however, particularly in medal competition, a player who has already putted once may hole out before her partner, who may be further from the hole, takes her shot.

## **B**

**Ball** A small sphere used in playing golf, which is intended to be struck by a player swinging a club. Balls are usually white, covered in dimples, and made of a variety of materials.

**Ball-washer** A device found on many tees for cleaning golf balls.

**Banana Ball** A slice, or shot that curves strongly left to right. For some reason, 'banana' always refers to a slice, although a 'hook' is simply a banana facing the other way. Also what professional golfers munch several times a round to maintain their energy level.

**Back Nine** The last nine holes of an 18-hole golf course. Playing the back nine is called "heading in".

**Backspin** A backwards spin that occurs when a player strikes the golf ball. The spin causes the ball to stop quickly or spin backwards after landing on the green.

Backswing	The first part of the golf swing. The backswing starts with the clubhead immediately behind the ball and ends when the clubhead travels back behind the player's head. The term takeaway refers to the first part of the backswing.
Ballmark	The indentation left behind after your golf ball lands on the green (best to fix these).
Bare Lie	When the ball lies directly on hard ground without any grass to buoy the ball up, (i.e.), where there is no grass creating a gap between ball and the ground.
Best Ball	A form of team play using two-, three-, or four-person teams. The team score on each hole is the lowest score obtained by one of the team members. For example, if player A has a 5, player B has a 6, player C has a 4, and player D has a 5, the "best ball" and team score is a 4.
Below the hole	Your ball is 'below the hole' on a green if your next putt is uphill. Uphill putts can be struck firmly, meaning that any break is less important and there is less risk of running way beyond the hole. This is particularly true of fast greens, such as one finds in high-level tournaments. The opposite of 'above the hole'.
Bifurcation	A proposal currently (as of 2021) under consideration by the sport's rulemaking bodies, The R&A and the USGA, to create separate rules for competitive and recreational play, mostly but not entirely relating to allowed equipment.
Birdie	When you score one stroke under par on a whole. Scoring a two on a par 3, or a three on a par 4 would be considered a birdie.
Bite	Some players put a great deal of spin on their approach shots causing the ball to stop immediately when it hits the green. This phenomenon is referred to as biting or checking. Depending on the amount of backspin, the ball may stop advancing forward and roll back towards the player after landing. The amount of backspin imparted on the ball is greatly influenced by the ball material, quality of contact with the face of the club, and course conditions.

Blade	A type of iron where the weight is distributed evenly across the back of the clubhead as opposed to mainly around the perimeter (see cavity back).
	A type of putter with a striking face considerably wider than the distance from the face to the rear of the clubhead.
	A shot struck "thinly" with the bottom of an iron striking high up on the golf ball, causing a low trajectory shot with a lack of control.
Blast	A bunker shot that sends the ball, and accompanying sand, (hopefully) onto the green. Also known as an explosion.
Blind	A shot that does not allow the golfer to see where the ball will land, such as onto an elevated green from below.
Block	A block is when a golfer hits a shot directly to the right (for a right-handed golfer).
Bogey	Scoring one stroke above par. For example, making a five on a par four would be considered a bogey.
Bogey Golfer	A player whose handicap is in the range 20 to 24.
Bounce	The measurement of the angle from the front edge of a club's sole to the point that rests on the ground when addressing the ball. In discussing wedges, bounce describes a sole angle where the back edge of the sole is lower than the front edge, keeping them from digging too deep in sand or being stopped by tall grass.
Bounce Back	Scoring a birdie or better on a hole immediately following a bogey or worse. Also see Reverse Bounce Back.

Block	A shot played severely to the right; Similar to the push.
Break	In putting, the curve the ball will follow due to slope and/or grain in the green.
Break	The tendency of a putted ball to roll left or right of a straight line. This deviation may be a result of a number of factors or combination of factors including uneven surface, grain of the grass, how firmly the putt is struck or, in extreme circumstances, wind. In the United Kingdom, it is also known as borrow.
Bullarding	Playing consistently above your regular handicap or regularly failing to achieve in competition play. It is the opposite of sandbagging.
Bump-and-run	A low-trajectory shot that is intended to get the ball rolling along the fairway and up onto the green. Similar to a chip shot, but played from a greater distance.
Bunker	A depression in bare ground that is usually covered with sand. Also called a sand trap. It is considered a hazard under the Rules of Golf.
Bunker, Greenside	A bunker next to or even in a green. See bunker.
Bunker, Fairway	A bunker located on or in the fairway. See bunker.
Bye	A short game played over the remaining holes when the main match finishes early because one player or team has won by a large margin. It serves the joint purpose of adding some competitive meaning to the rest of the holes and also for the losing side to attempt to regain some of the pride lost as a result of their humiliation in the main match. It is usual for the loser of the bye to buy the first drinks in the 19th hole afterwards. In this respect it is an almost direct equivalent to a beer match in cricket.

## C

Caddie or Caddy	A person, often paid, who carries a player's clubs and offers advice. Players are responsible for the actions of their caddies. Players cannot receive advice from anyone other than their caddie or partner. A Scots form of the French 'Cadet', meaning an assistant or errand-runner.
Calcutta	A wager, typically in support of one team to win a tournament. In a Calcutta golfers bid, auction style, on the team (or golfer) who they think will win the tournament (you can bid on your own team or yourself). All the money raised through the auction goes into an auction pool. At the end of the tournament, those who bet on the winning team (or golfer) that won the tournament receives a predetermined payout from the auction pool.
Carry	How far the ball travels through the air. Contrasted with run. Typically regards a shot over a hazard. For example, "This shot requires a 200-yard carry to get over that water."
Cart	<p>A four-wheeled electrical or gas-powered vehicle for use in transporting players and their equipment from hole to hole.</p> <p>A hand-pulled (2-wheel) or hand-pushed (3-wheel) cart for carrying a bag of clubs, also available in powered versions controlled by remote.</p>
Casual water	Any temporary standing water visible after a player has taken their stance. Snow and ice can also be taken as casual water, as well as water that overflows the banks of existing water hazards.
Cavity Back	Any iron whose design characteristic is such that the weight is distributed primarily around the outer edges of the clubhead in order to maximize forgiveness on off-center hits.



Chip	A short shot (typically played from very close to and around the green), that is intended to travel through the air over a very short distance and roll the remainder of the way to the hole.
Champions Tour	The name used by PGA Tour Champions from 2002 through 2015.
Chunk	A swing that results in the clubhead hitting the ground before the ball, resulting in a large chunk of ground being taken as a divot. Also called a fat shot, or "chili-dipping".
Clone	Budget brand golf clubs that look similar to, and emulate the characteristics of, more expensive clubs without breaching any patents.
Closed face	When (in relation to the target-line) the clubface is angled toward the player's body, i.e., angled left for right-handed players.
Closed stance	When a player's front foot is set closer to the target line. Used to draw the ball or to prevent a slice.
Club	<p>An instrument used by a player to hit a golf ball. A player is allowed to carry up to fourteen (14) clubs during a round of golf.</p> <p>An organized group of golfers, usually owning or managing a golf course.</p> <p>The entirety of a golf facility, including course, club-house, pro-shop, practice areas etc.</p>
Clubhead	The part of a club that is used to strike the ball.

Clubface	The surface of the clubhead which is designed to strike the golf ball. Striking the ball with the center of the clubface maximizes distance and accuracy.
Clubhouse	A building on a golf course providing facilities for golfers, typically including changing rooms, bar, restaurant, offices for club officials and noticeboards with information about local rules, the conditions of the course, upcoming events etc. A clubhouse may incorporate a pro shop and dormie house. The clubhouse is normally located adjacent to the first and final holes of the course.
Comebacker	A putt required after the previous putt went past the hole.
Coming Over-the-Top	A term that is used by the golf instructional world all of the time. During the swing when the club head move from outside the target line to inside the target line.
Compress	To hit the ball with a slightly downwards angle of attack of the golf club.
Compression	The measurement for expressing the hardness of a golf ball, normally 90 compression. Harder balls (100 compression) are intended for players with faster swings but may also be useful in windy conditions.
Condor	Probably the rarest of all scores in golf: four-under par on a hole, i.e., a hole-in-one on a par five. Only four examples have ever been recorded, three of them by 'cutting the corner' on par fives with a dogleg, which considerably shortens the hole. Also called a 'triple-eagle' or double-albatross' in the US.
Count-back	A method of determining a winner of a competition in the event of a tie. There are several different methods used, but typically the scores in the last nine, last six, last three and final hole are compared in turn until a winner emerges.
Course	A designated area of land on which golf is played through a normal succession from hole #1 to the last hole.

Course rating	Course rating is a numerical value given to each set of tees at a golf course to approximate the number of strokes it should take a scratch golfer to complete the course under normal conditions.
Courtesy of the Course	The waiver of the green fee. Sometimes extended to visiting golfers playing in official competitions, visiting professional golfers and staff of other golf clubs.
Cross-handed	A putting (and, occasionally, full-swing) grip in which the hands are placed in positions opposite that of the conventional grip. For right-handed golfers, a cross-handed grip would place the left hand below the right. Also known as the "left-hand low" grip, it has been known to help players combat the yips.
Cut	<p>The reduction in the size of the field during a multiple round stroke play tournament. The cut is usually set so that a fixed number of players, plus anyone tied for that place, or anyone within a certain number of strokes of the lead will participate in the subsequent round(s) (typically 65–70 and ties; The Masters is top 50 and ties). Rarely, tournaments may have more than one cut with players missing the secondary cut commonly designated as "made cut, did not finish", or "MDF".</p> <p>A shot similar to a fade, a cut curves from left to right (for a right-handed player), but is generally higher in trajectory.</p>

## D

Dead	TV-broadcaster slang for a shot in which there is no favorable outcome possible.
Dimples	The round indentations on a golf ball cover which are scientifically designed to enable the ball to make a steady and true flight. Dimples, by reducing drag, allow a golf ball to stay in the air for a longer flight than would be possible with a smooth ball.

Divot	Turf removed when hitting a shot.
Dog-Balls	Scoring an 'eight' on any single golf hole. The origin of the term is in reference to what the number 'eight' looks like on its side; also referred to as the "Snowman".
Dogleg	A hole where the fairway is straight for some distance and then bends to the left or right. These holes are so-named because they resemble the shape of a dog's leg.
Dog License	If the winning margin in match play is 7&6, the victory (or defeat) is called a dog license. In Great Britain, until 1987, dog owners bought a license for their pet which cost 7/6d (pre-decimal currency = 37p).
Dormie	In match play, having a lead equal to the number of holes remaining to be played. Two holes up and two to play.
Dormie house	A building at a golf club providing overnight accommodation.
Double Bogey	Completing the hole in two more strokes than the par.
Double cross	A shot whereby a player intends for a fade and hits a hook, or conversely, intends to play a draw and hits a slice. So called because the player has aimed left (in the case of a slice) and compounds this with hitting a hook, which moves left as well.
Double eagle	A hole played three strokes under par. Also called an Albatross.

**Downswing** A motion involving the body and golf club used to move the club from the top of the swing to the point of impact.

**Draw** Controlled right to left shot with a moderate curve (or left to right for left-handers).

**Drive** The first shot of each hole, made from an area called the tee box (see definition below), usually done with a driver (a type of golf club).

**Drop** When the ball is lost, or there is an unplayable lie, a ball is dropped from arm's length at shoulder height onto the course.

**Duck-hook** A severe low hook that barely gets airborne.

**Duff** A horrible shot. Typically, this is a shot where very little or no contact is made between the clubface and golf ball. Also known as Dub, Flub or Shank.

## E

**Eagle** Two under par score on a hole.

**Even** Having a score equal to that of par.

**Explosion Bunker Shot** A bunker shot that sends the ball, and accompanying sand, onto the green. Also known as a blast.

**European Tour** One of the world's leading professional golf tours, along with the PGA Tour. Based in Europe, but also co-sanctions the major championships and World Golf

Championships in the United States, along with many other tournaments in Asia, Africa and Australia.

## F

Fade	A fade is a left to right ball flight (for righties), but it is a more controlled than a slice. Sometimes referred to as a cut shot.
Fairway	The short-grass area between the tee and the green.
Fairway Hit (FH)	A fairway is considered hit if any part of the ball is touching the fairway surface after the tee shot on a par 4 or 5. Percentage of fairways hit is one of many statistics kept by the PGA Tour.
Fairway markers	Fairway markers indicate the distance from the marker to the center of the green. Some fairway markers give the yardage. Most are color-coded as follows: yellow=250 yards, blue=200 yards, white=150 yards, red=100 yards (or meters). These colors are not standardized and may vary based on the specific course layout.
Fat	A stroke in which the club makes contact with the turf long before the ball, resulting in a poor contact and significant loss of distance.
Ferret	Hole out from outside the green.
Flop Shot	A wedge shot played around the green where you open the face of the club up completely, and try to hit the ball very high in the air so that it lands softly on the green.

Follow-through	The latter part of the swing from striking the ball to completion of the motion.
Fore	The word you shout as loud as you can when you hit your ball in the direction of another golfer. You need to warn them!
Forecaddie	One employed by a golfer or group of golfers to walk ahead of the players in order to spot the fall of their shots and to find their balls. More commonly used in the days of hand-made feathery balls when the cost of replacing a ball would be greater than the fore caddy's fee. Today in professional tournaments, ball spotters are normally placed at each hole for the same purpose.
Four-Ball	Group of two pairs of golfers recording the better ball score of each pair based on gross or net scores.
Foursome	Group of two pairs of golfers playing shots alternately with the same ball. The partners drive at alternate holes, so one will drive the even numbers and one the odd numbers.
Foursomes	In match play, a contest between two sides each consisting of a pair of players, where the 2 partners hit alternate shots on one ball. The first player tees off, the second player hits the second shot, the first player hits the third shot, and so on until the ball is holed. Also partners alternate their tee shots, so that one member of each team will always tee-off on the odd holes and the other will tee off on the even holes. In stroke-play, a foursome competition is played between several teams each consisting of a pair of players, where partners play alternate shots until the SINGLE ball is holed. The term foursome is a common reference to any group of 4 players on the course.
Flagstick	A tall marker, often a metal pole with a flag at the top, used to indicate the position of the hole on a green. Also called the pin. An additional smaller flag, or other marker, is sometimes positioned on the flag-stick to indicate the location of the hole (front, middle, or back) on the green.

Flier	A type of lie where the ball is in the rough and grass is likely to become trapped between the ball and the clubface at the moment of impact. Flier lies often result in "flier shots", which have little or no spin (due to the blades of grass blocking the grooves on the clubface) and travel much farther than intended.
Flop shot	A short shot, played with an open stance and an open clubface, designed to travel very high in the air and land softly on the green. The flop shot is useful when players do not have "much green to work with", but should only be attempted on the best of lies.
Follow-through	The final part of a golf swing, after the ball has been hit.
Free drop	When a player is entitled to make a drop without a penalty stroke.
Frenchie	The act of ricocheting a ball off a tree back onto the fairway.
Fried Egg	Sometimes when your ball lands in the bunker it will get buried. It looks exactly like a fried egg in the sand.
Fringe	The closely mowed area surrounding the green. The grass in between the green and the fairway.
Front Nine	Holes 1 through 9 on a golf course.
Funnies	Various informal achievements, both positive and negative; these differ from traditional achievements like birdies or eagles in that the achievements are for unusual things that may happen in the course of a game. Their main use is to add interest to informal match play games as they enable players to win something regardless of the overall outcome of the match. They are frequently associated with gambling because money, usually small stakes, changes hands depending on which funnies occur



## G

GCSAA	The American professional association for golf course superintendents. Analogous to BIGGA in the United Kingdom.
Gilligan	The opposite of a Mulligan. When Gilligans are agreed in a match, your opponent has the right to ask you to play a shot again – typically a good drive or a long putt holed.
Gimme	When your putt is close enough to the hole that it is considered to be made. Sometimes golfers will get a bit too generous with gimmies and start counting putts 3 feet and beyond to be a gimme.
Golden Ferret	Holing out from a (green-side) bunker.
Goldie Bounce	When the ball strikes a tree deep in the rough and bounces out onto the fairway.[2]
Golf Club	<p>An implement used by a player to hit a golf ball. A player is allowed to carry up to fourteen (14) clubs during a round of golf.</p> <p>An organized group of golfers, usually owning or managing a golf course.</p> <p>The entirety of a golf facility, including course, club-house, pro-shop, practice areas etc.</p>
Good-good	When both players in a match agree to concede each other's putts.

Grain	The direction in which the grass grows, specifically on the green (see below). Depending on the variety of grass used on the green and mowing patterns, grain can significantly influence the speed and movement of a putt.
Grain	Direction in which blades of grass grow and influence the speed and roll of the ball on the putting green. When looking 'into the grain' a green will appear darker, and 'with the grain' it will appear lighter or shinier. When putting 'across the grain' the ball will move left or right.
Grand Slam	Winning all the golf's major championships in the same calendar year. Before The Masters was founded, the national amateur championships of the U.S and the UK were considered majors along with the two national opens and only Bobby Jones has ever completed a grand slam with these. A "Career Grand Slam" is having won each of the majors at least once, not necessarily in the same year.
Green	Area of course around the hole with finely trimmed grass, for putting.
Green Fee	The charge made for a round of golf by the course management.
Green in Regulation	One of the golf terms that you want to be part of your game – a green in regulation is when any part of the golf ball is touching the putting surface and the number of strokes taken is two fewer than par. For example, on a par 4 if you reach the putting surface with your first, or second shot you have hit the green in regulation.
Greenie	If you are playing a gambling format like Nassau usually groups will make side bets. A greenie is a side bet usually played on a par 3, and the player who lands the ball closest to the pin (while on the green) wins the greenie.
Greensomes	Is a variation of foursomes, where each side consists of 2 players. Both players play one tee-shot each from every tee. A choice is then made as to which is the more favorable of the 2 ball positions, the other ball being picked up. Thereafter the players play alternate shots. So if A's tee-shot is selected, the playing order

from the tee will be A-B-A-B etc. until the ball is holed out. If player B's tee-shot is selected, the playing order will be B-A-B-A etc. The team with the lowest score wins the hole.

Groove	<p>The crevices on the face of a club that are designed to impart spin on the ball.</p> <p>A well practiced swing that is easily repeatable by the golfer is often described as "well grooved".</p>
Gross score	Total number of actual strokes played within a round, before handicap is taken into account.
Grounding the club	To place the clubface behind the ball on the ground at address. Grounding the club is prohibited in bunkers or when playing from any marked hazard.
Ground Under Repair	If an area of the course is under maintenance and your ball lands there, you can remove your ball without penalty. Normally identified by stakes or a white line.

## H

Hacker	Person who demonstrates poor golf etiquette. A golfer lacking skill who often becomes frustrated or quits.
Half	In match play, a hole is halved (or tied) when both players or teams have played the same number of strokes. In some team events, such as the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup (except for singles matches in the latter competition while its overall outcome remains in doubt), a match that is tied after 18 holes is not continued, and is called "halved", with each team receiving half a point.
Handicap	A numerical measure of a golfer's potential that is used to enable players of varying abilities to compete against one another.

Half Shot	Reduced swing when taking a shot. Used for shorter shots, or when extra control is required.
Halfway House	A building, generally between the 9th and 10th holes, providing light snacks and refreshments for golfers during their round.
Handicap	A numerical measure of a golfer's potential that is used to enable players of varying abilities to compete against one another.
Handsy	A player with too much wrist movement in their golf swing or putting stroke, causing inconsistent shots or putts.
Hardpan	Hard, usually bare, ground conditions. Generally, hardpan refers to hard, dry clay, with very little or no grass.
Hazard	Any bunker or permanent water including any ground marked as part of that water hazard. Special rules apply when playing from a hazard.
Hazards	The features golf course architects put in your way like water, sand traps, and tall grass.
Heel	The part of the face of the clubhead nearest the shaft.
Hole	<p>A circular hole in the ground which is also called "the cup", 4.25 inches (108 mm) in diameter.</p> <p>Any one of the (usually 9 or 18) geographic sections of a golf course, beginning at a tee area and ending at a green.</p>

Hole-in-One	Hitting it in the hole on your first shot; a moment a golfer, nor their bar tab, will ever forget. Note: any golfer achieving this feat is expected to buy all patrons of the 19th hole a drink upon finishing the round.
Hole-in-One Insurance	Many tournaments offer large prizes if a player shoots a hole in one on a particular hole. Indemnity insurance is often purchased to cover the cost should anyone make the hole in one. Hole in one insurance is also available for individuals to cover the cost of a round of drinks in the event of their achieving a hole in one.
Hole out	To finish a hole by getting the ball in the cup or hole. Usually done with a putt, but sometimes with a chip from off the green, and occasionally with a full shot.
Honor	Given to the player scoring lowest on last hole, and granting the right to tee off first on the next.
Hook	Shot that curves strongly from right to left (or the opposite, if you play left handed!).
Hosel	Hollow part of clubhead where the shaft is attached. Sometimes called the 'neck' of the golf club.
Hybrid	A type of club, increasingly popular in the 21st century, that in the broadest sense combines the mechanics of a long iron with the more forgiving nature and distance of a fairway wood. Most golfers today carry at least one hybrid.
In contention	A player with a chance of winning a tournament is said to be "in contention". A player who rises up the leaderboard throughout the course of their final round is said to be "moving into contention".

In play	A shot that comes to rest within the boundaries of the course (the opposite of 'out-of-bounds').
Interlocking Grip	A right-handed player using this grip will interlock the little finger of his right hand with the index finger of his left hand (vice versa for lefties). A good grip for players with small hands. Used by Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus, among others.
In the Leather	A ball that lies very close to the hole; so called because it was measured by the leather of the putter grip. In friendly play, a putt 'within the leather' is often conceded .
Inward nine	The back nine holes of a golf course, so named because older links courses were designed to come back "in" toward the clubhouse after going "out" on the front nine.
Iron	A club with a flat-faced solid metal head generally numbered from 1 to 9 indicating increasing loft.

## **J**

Jab	A putting stroke that is short, quick, and, often, erratic.
Jigger	Name of an old club with similar loft to a modern 4-iron. Confusingly, it was also sometimes used to describe a short pitching club for work around the green, otherwise called a pitching niblick, or lofting iron, roughly equivalent to a modern pitching wedge.

## K

- Kikuyu** Fast-growing, thick African grass that like full sunshine and hot weather. Not suited to woodland or temperate climates. A feature of courses in southern Africa, requiring great skill to play from around the greens.
- Knee-knocker** A short putt, which you really shouldn't miss, but often do.
- Knickers** American name for golf trousers that stop just below the knee, worn with knee socks. Called 'plus fours' or 'plus twos' in Britain.
- Knife** Golfing slang for the 1-iron. In the days when all iron heads were forged, they were often known as 'blades', and the 1-iron was the sharpest (and most dangerous to use) blade of all.
- Knockdown** A type of shot designed to have a very low trajectory, usually employed to combat strong winds.

## L

- Lag** A long putt designed to simply get the ball close to the hole.  
During the downswing, how far the clubhead "lags" behind the hands prior to release.
- Lay-up** A stroke deliberately played with a shorter range club than to reach the pin, in order to position the ball in a certain spot. This may be done to ensure a more comfortable next stroke or to avoid a hazard.

Leven	A short par-four golf hole where a bold drive carrying over a bunker or other hazard is rewarded with much simpler approach to the green than one played short or to the side of the hazard. Named after what is now the 16th Hole at Lundin Links, near Leven in Scotland.
Lie	Resting place of the ball on the course, hence a 'good lie', or 'poor lie'. You may have a side hill lie, where the ball is either above or below your feet.  Also the angle at which the clubhead is set on the shaft. Tall people usually have clubs with an 'upright' lie (making the shaft more vertical) and shorter people use a 'regular' or 'flatter' lie (placing the club head further away from the body).
Line	The path the ball is expected to take following a stroke. This is of particular importance on the green, where stepping on another player's line is considered a breach of etiquette.
Links	Golf course on coastal terrain, usually with sand dunes and very few trees, and exposed to the wind. Literally a piece of ground that 'links' the mainland to the sea.
Lip	Edge of the hole.
Lip-out	A putt that catches the lip of the hole and turns around the rim without falling in.
Lob	A short, high arc shot, often produced with a lob wedge.
Local rule	Addition to the rules of golf applying to abnormal conditions that may be found on a particular golf course.



Loft	The angle between the club's shaft and the clubface.
Loose impediment	A small natural item which is not fixed or growing, solidly embedded, or stuck to the ball, such as a small stone or leaf. Unless found within a hazard players are generally permitted to move them away, but if the ball is moved while doing so, there is a one-stroke penalty (except in greens, so long as the ball is put back).
LPGA	<p>A U.S.-based organization that operates the world's most significant women's golf tour. From its inception, it has included female club and touring professionals in its membership—unlike men's golf in the U.S., in which club and touring professionals have been represented by different bodies since 1968.</p> <p>Any of several other national organizations, modeled after the U.S. LPGA, supporting women's professional golf. These bodies may follow the U.S. model, or may be devoted solely to touring pros.</p>
Lucy	Rhyming slang: Lucy Locket = socket, or shank . Arguably the worst shot in golf.

## M

Major(s)	The most prestigious golf tournaments. In the modern game the Masters Tournament, U.S. Open, The Open Championship and the PGA Championship are considered the men's major golf championships. The Kraft Nabisco Championship, LPGA Championship, U.S. Women's Open, Women's British Open and The Evian Championship are currently considered the women's major golf championships. Historically, from before the dominance of the professional game in the mid 20th century, the British and U.S. Amateur Championships are also often considered men's majors. Sometimes, people refer to The Players Championship as "The Fifth Major".
Marker	Thin, flat item used to mark the position of a golf ball on the green to prevent your ball obstructing other player's shots. Small coins may be used, or specifically designed discs of metal or plastic.

Also a person who keeps the score in a match, either as a spectator accompanying the players, or one's opponent.

Mashie niblick	An obsolete name for an iron club with the loft similar to a modern 7 iron. The term became redundant with the introduction of numbered clubs, "matched sets", in the first half of the 20th century.
Match Play	A form of golf play where players or teams compete against each other on a hole-by-hole basis. The total number of strokes does not determine the winner. Instead, the number of holes won determines the winner. It is possible to win in Match Play with more strokes than your opponent.
Medal Play	Another name for 'Stroke Play', keeping the score on every hole. The lowest number of strokes, gross or net, wins.
Medalist	The leader in the Medal play qualifying rounds preceding a match play stage.
Member's Bounce	Any favorable bounce of the golf ball that improves what initially appeared to be an errant shot.
Mid-Amateur	Term used to describe a (usually low handicap) amateur golfer who is over a certain age but is not yet old enough to qualify for the senior ranks (i.e. under 50 or 55 years of age). The minimum age limit for Mid-Am competitions varies widely by country and organization; for example, the USGA men's and women's Mid-Amateur championships have a minimum age limit of 25, and the English Mid-Amateur (Logan Trophy) run by England Golf has a minimum age limit of 35.
Misread	A misread is to incorrectly discern the correct line of a putt.

Mixed	Man and woman playing together, eg: 'Mixed Foursomes'. Each partner plays off their own tees.
Monday Qualifier	A stroke play golf tournament held on the Monday before a professional golf tournament that awards top finishers entry into the tournament.
Moving Day	The moving day of a four-day tournament, so called because it is the day where competitors try to set themselves up for the final push on the final day.
Mud ball	A golf ball that has soil or other debris stuck to it which can affect its flight. Under normal rules of golf one is only allowed to clean a ball in play when it is on the putting green. During exceptional conditions this rule may be waived by a local rule (see Preferred lies).
Mulligan	An unofficial do-over. Many times golfers will be kind to another and elect to award mulligans (usually on the first tee shot) without giving penalty strokes. This is not part of the official rules of golf!

## N

Nassau	A type of wager between golfers that is essentially three separate bets. Money is wagered on the best score in the front 9, back 9, and total 18 holes.
Net score	Score after the handicap strokes have been deducted from the gross score.
Niblick	Old-fashioned Scottish term for nine iron.
19th hole:	Golf lingo for the clubhouse bar where your rounds end and golfers customarily conduct scoring recap and have a drink.

**Nobble** To nobble is to top a ball, or catch it on the upper half, causing a low, weak, running shot, called a 'nobbler'

**No Card (NC)** If a player does not turn in a scorecard for a round the player is recorded as "NC" for the round. An exception is if the player is injured and withdraws.

## O

**On the Charge** A player is said to be "on the charge" when stringing together birdies to move into contention during the final round of a stroke play tournament.

**Open stance** When a player's front foot is drawn backwards and shoulders aimed further from the target line. Used to fade the ball or to prevent a hook.

**Outside agent** Any agent not part of the match or, in stroke play, not part of the competitor's side. Referees, markers, observers, and fore-caddies are outside agents. Wind and water are not outside agents.

**Outward nine** Refers to the first nine holes, so named as links golf courses were set up where the first nine holes went "out" away from the clubhouse.

**Out-of-bounds** The area designated as being outside the boundaries of the course. When a shot lands "O.B.", the player "loses stroke and distance", meaning that the player must hit another shot from the original spot and is assessed a one-stroke penalty. Out-of-bounds areas are usually indicated by white posts. As an example, if a player's first shot from the tee comes to rest out of bounds, a one stroke penalty is assessed and the player then plays the third shot from the tee.

**Overlapping Grip** See Vardon grip

# P

Pace	The speed at which a putt must be struck to get to the hole. Pace and break are the two components of green-reading.
Par	Standard number of strokes taken for each hole, always including two putts. Almost all golf holes are par 3, 4 or 5, although some new courses are building ultra-long par 6 holes.
Penal	A type of golf hole design where the player has little choice in the shots required to make par at the hole. Failure to execute these shots successfully is punished by severe hazards. Compare with Strategic.
Penalty	Extra stroke(s) added to a player's score for violation of the rules, loss of ball, out of bounds, etc.
Perfect round	Having scored a birdie or better on all 18 holes of a round.
PGA	Any Professional Golfers' Association, for example the Professional Golfers' Association of America.
PGA Tour	The organizer of the main male professional golf tours in the United States and North America.
PGA Tour Champions	A tour for male golfers age 50 and over, held mostly in the U.S., operated by the PGA Tour.
Pick Up	When the golf ball is picked up before finishing the hole. Most often on a short putt on the green

Pin	Flagstick on the greens.
Pin-high	Refers to a ball on the green that is positioned along an imaginary horizontal line through the hole and across the width of the green.
Pitch	A short shot (typically from within 50 yards or meters), usually played with a higher lofted club and made using a less than full swing, that is intended to flight the ball toward a target (usually the hole) with greater accuracy than a full iron shot.
Pitch Mark	A small indent that your ball makes when a ball lands. Players must repair their pitch marks, usually with a tee or a divot tool.
Play Through	When a group of slower golfers or those searching for a ball allow others to pass them. It is good etiquette to allow faster players to 'play through'.
Playing the Tips	When a golfer elects to play the farthest tees available on any golf course. Not recommended for beginners.
Playing it "Up" or "Down"	Playing the ball down means that you have to hit your shot no matter what the lie is. In certain situations golfers are allowed to play the ball "up" meaning they can improve the lie. Sometimes if there is inclement weather such as rain it makes sense to play it up.
Plugged Lie	A bad lie where the ball is at least half-buried. Also known as a "buried lie" or in a bunker a "fried egg".
'Plus' Golfer	A golfer whose handicap is better than scratch, so he has to add or 'plus' strokes to his gross score after a round, rather than subtracting them.

Plus Fours / PlusTwos	Golfing trousers once very popular because they end just below the knee, avoiding getting mud on the trousers when playing. Plus fours are more traditional and fuller cut, folding over 4 inches below the knee, while plus twos are slimmer and more modern, folding only two inches.
Pop-up	A poor tee shot where the top of the clubhead strikes under the ball, causing it to go straight up in the air. In addition to being bad shots, pop-ups frequently leave white scuff-marks on the top of the clubhead. Also known as "sky shots".
Power Transfer Ratio	Ratio of ball speed divided by swing speed. Also referred to as "Smash Factor.
Preferred Lies	A Local rule that allows the ball in play to be lifted, cleaned, and moved on the fairway during adverse course conditions.
Pre-shot routine	The steps an experienced player goes through to get ready for their shot. It usually involves taking practice swings and visualizing the intended shot.
Press	If you are playing a betting game with your partners a press refers to making another bet. It is usually for the same amount as the original wager.
Pro (Professional)	A golfer or person who plays or teaches golf for financial reward. They may work as a touring pro in professional competitions or as a teaching pro (Also called a club pro).
Pro Shop	A shop at a golf club, run by the club professional, where golf equipment can be purchased and golfers check in to play.
Pull	When a golfer says they pull their shot, they have hit it directly to the left.

Pull	A pull is a shot that unintentionally travels on a path on the same side of the ball from which the player swings.
Punch shot	A shot played with a very low trajectory, usually to avoid interference from tree branches when a player is hitting from the woods. Similar to the knock-down, it can also be used to avoid high winds. Also known as a Stinger. Depending on the angle of attack upon impact, stingers can stay low or climb later in the ball flight due to the backspin caused by a steep angle of attack, typically with a low-lofted club.
Push	A push, or block, is shot that unintentionally travels on a trajectory opposite the side of the ball from which the player swings. In match play, a push occurs when neither competitor wins the hole.
Putt	A shot played on the green, usually with a putter.
Putter	A special golf club with a very low loft that makes the ball roll along the green to the hole with top-spin.
Practice Green	A practice green is a putting surface usually found close to the club house, used to warm up and practice putting.

## Q

Quarter Shot	Greatly reduced swing in taking a shot. Used for short shots, or when great control is required. (Also 'three-quarter' shot, somewhere between a 'half-shot' and a full swing.)
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# R

The R&A	Since 2004 the governing body of golf throughout the world except the United States and Mexico, where this responsibility rests with the United States Golf Association (USGA). It works in collaboration with national amateur and professional golf organizations in over 110 countries. The R&A is a separate organization from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews which formerly performed this role.
Range	Practice area (also called the Driving Range).
Range Finder	A measuring device used to determine one's relative distance to an object. In golf, they are most commonly used to find out how far a player is from the hole.
Ranger	The person who drives around in the cart monitoring the speed of play. You do not want to be visited by the ranger, That means you are a slowpoke which will not win you fans on the golf course.
Recovery	Shot played back into a good position from an unfavorable one.
Redan	A hole that has a green which slopes downward and away from the point of entrance, typically the front right portion of the green, inspired by the original Redan hole on the North Berwick West Links, Scotland.
Release	The point in the downswing at which the wrists uncock. A late release (creating lag) is one of the keys to a powerful swing.  The forward motion of a ball played onto a green after the braking effects of backspin have ceased.

Relief	Permission to lift and drop the ball without incurring a penalty.
Reverse Bounce Back	Scoring a bogey or worse on a hole immediately following a birdie or better. See also bounce back.
Rough	The areas of longer grass that border the fairway
Rowan Match play	A form of singles match play which can be played by 3 or more players. Players begin all playing against one another until one player wins a hole outright by posting a better score than all other playing partners on a hole. That player is then 1 up versus all of their combined playing partners who now form a team against the player leading and try to get the match back to all-square. In a 3 player game, after someone goes 1-up, the match then takes the form of the leading player versus the scores of the other two players.
Rub of the Green	Occurs when the ball is deflected or stopped by a third party/object, e.g. if a ball is going out of bounds and is deflected in bounds by hitting a spectator or a tree.
Run	The distance a ball travels once it lands. The two distances of a golf shot are first its "carry" and then its "run".
Rutter	A small headed niblick for hitting the ball from a cart track.

## S

Sandie	Term used when playing for money. Betting against an opponent. Either a) making par on a hole after being in a bunker at some point, or b) getting out of a bunker and into the hole in two (an 'up and down ').
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Sandbagging	When a golfer claims they have a handicap that is much higher than their actual playing ability. If golfers compete against each other based on handicap this practice is frowned upon because that golfer will get extra strokes that they technically don't deserve – don't be a sandbagger, be honest!
Sandbagger	A golfer that carries a higher official handicap than their skills indicate, e.g., carries an eight, plays to a two. Sandbaggers usually artificially inflate their handicaps with the intent of winning bets on the course, a practice that most golfers consider cheating. Also known as a bandit.
Sand Save	Professional equivalent of a 'sandie.' Getting out of a bunker and into the hole in two shots. Whether the player makes par or not is immaterial, it is the 'up and down' which counts. Expressed as a percentage of the number of times achieved out of the number of attempts, and one of the many statistical categories computed on the various pro tours.
Sand Trap	The sand-filled pits of that line fairways and guard the greens. Slang for bunker.
Sand wedge	A lofted club designed especially for playing out of a bunker. The modern sand wedge was invented by Gene Sarazen. Although sand wedges were designed for bunker shots, they are actually used for all types of shots within 100 yards.
Scotch foursomes	In scotch foursomes teams of 2 players compete against each other. Players alternate hitting the same ball. The first player tees off, the second player hits the second shot, the first player hits the third shot, and so on until the ball is holed. To this point, the definition of 'scotch foursomes' is the same as that of ordinary 'foursomes'; however, players do not alternate hitting tee shots as they would in foursomes. If Player A teed off on the first hole and Player B holed the final putt, Player B would not tee off at the second, meaning that Player A could, in theory, play every tee shot on the round. The team with the lowest score wins the hole.
Scramble	(i) When a player misses the green in regulation, but still makes par or better on a hole. Scrambling percentage is one of many statistics kept by the PGA Tour.

(ii) A two or four man format, similar to Best Ball, except in a scramble, each player strikes a shot, the best shot is selected, then all players play from that selected position.

Scratch golfer	A player whose handicap equals zero.
Senior	Describes a competition for older golfers, or individuals who play in such competitions. In men's professional golf, the standard lower age limit is 50. Some competitions use 45 (the Legends Tour in women's golf) or 55 (the U.S. Senior Amateur) as the lower limit.
Senior PGA Tour	The original name of the tour now known as PGA Tour Champions; used from 1980 through 2001.
Shamble	A format, similar to a scramble, where every player hits from the tee, the best tee-shot is selected, and each player holes-out from the selected tee-shot.
Shank	Shot in which the golf ball is struck by the hosel of the club and travels a relatively short distance at a severe angle to the target. A golfer who regularly hits the ball out of the hosel is said to be affected by the "shanks".
Shiperio	Similar to a Mulligan, a second shot graciously allowed by your opponent, but in this case you can choose which of the two balls you will play.
Shoot your (my) age	A round of 18 holes where a given player has a score equal to, or less than, a player's age. For example, an eighty-year-old man who scores an 80 has shot his age.
Shoot your (my) temperature	A round of 18 holes where a given player has a score equal to 98 or 99. Usually used derisively.

Short game	Shots that take place on or near the green. Putting, chipping, pitching, and green-side bunker play are all aspects of the short game.
Short-sided	If you hit your approach shot on the side of the green where the pin is located. It makes your chip/pitch shot terribly difficult. Always aim for the "fat" side of the green to avoid this!
Short side	To hit a shot that misses the green to the same side in which the hole is cut. This typically results in a difficult following shot with very little area on the green to land and stop the ball.
Sit!	Telling the ball to drop softly, and not roll after landing.
Skin	A skins game pits players in a type of match play in which each hole has a set value (usually in money or points). The player who wins the hole is said to win the "skin", and whatever that skin is worth. Skins games may be more dramatic than standard match play if it is agreed by the players that holes are not halved. Then, when any two players tie on a given hole, the value of that hole is carried over and added to the value of the following hole. The more ties, the greater the value of the skin and the bigger the eventual payoff.
Skinny	Said of a shot hit thin , which flies lower than usual and with no control.
Skull	To skull the ball means to contact the ball with the leading edge of the iron, often resulting in a low shot that goes further than expected with little to no spin. A skulled shot is almost always due to a mishit by the golfer. The terms "blade" and "thin" are also used interchangeably with skull.
Slice	A shot that curves violently to the right, banana-shaped, usually caused by striking the ball with an open clubface and an in-to-out swing. The most common shot shape.

Slice	A golf shot that moves severely left to right for right-handed hitters and the opposite way for left, which also happens to be the most common shot shape among beginners and high-handicappers.
Slope rating	Slope Rating is a number, from 55 to 155, used to determine the level of difficulty of a golf course for a bogey golfer. An "average" course has a slope rating of 113.
Snap hook	A severe hook that usually goes directly left as well as curving from right to left, for a right-handed golfer. A snap hook is when a severe left to right hook occurs for a left-handed golfer.
Snowman	Of all the golf terms listed, this is the one you probably never want to be associated with. A snowman is when you score an 8 on a hole because the 8 looks like a snowman.
Society	An organized group of golfers, usually not affiliated with any individual golf course. Members are often drawn from the same workplace, profession, alma mater, or other association.
Sole	The bottom or underside of any type of golf club. It is where the club rests on the ground in playing position.
Span	Move your marker when in the way of another person's line of putt.
Speed	The pace of a putt. Proper 'speed' of a putt will either hole the putt or leave it about 18 inches beyond the cup. Furthermore, the speed of the putt will often determine the amount of curve, or break, in a putt.
Sprachle	Generally, this refers to playing badly. Sprachle is a Scottish term.

Spray	To hit the ball with a grossly inconsistent direction, compared to the intended target, in a seemingly random manner.
Stableford	A points based scoring system. The number of strokes taken on each hole relative to par translates into a set number of points, with the winner being the player who accumulates the highest number of points.
Starter	The person stationed at the first tee who makes sure you tee off on time.
Stimpmeter	A device used to measure the speed of putting greens.
Stony	An English golf term dating back to the late 1800s which means, a shot that lands close to the flagstick.
Strategic	A type of golf hole design where the player has a choice of shots that can be played to make par on the hole. Generally the choices that have the least chance of entering a hazard are intended to have the least chance of making par. Compare with Penal.
Stroke	What you have when you miss a short putt; just kidding, refers to the act of making a swing.
Stroke Index	A number assigned to each hole, and printed on the score card, to indicate the holes on which handicap strokes should be taken.
Stroke Play	A format in golf where players count all their strokes to determine a final score (the common format of professional tournaments).

Stymie	To block another player's putting path to the hole with one's own ball. Now an anachronism since the rules of golf permit marking the spot of the ball on the green, thus allowing the other player to putt into the hole without obstruction.
Sunday Bag	A small and lightweight golf bag. Traditionally caddies were not available on a Sunday, so the golfer would carry their clubs in such a bag. Now often used to carry a small number of clubs or when travelling to play golf when a full size bag would be unnecessary or inconvenient.
Sunday Stick or Sabbath Stick	A golf club disguised as a walking stick for surreptitious golf on a Sunday in societies with strict observance of the sabbath.
Sweet-spot	The location on the clubface where the optimal ball-striking results are achieved. The closer the ball is struck to the sweet-spot, the higher the power transfer ratio will be. Hitting it in the sweet-spot is also referred to as hitting it in the screws.
Swing	The movement a golf player makes with their body and club to hit the ball. A golf swing is made up of a series of complex mechanical body movements. A perfect golf swing is regarded as the "holy grail" of the sport, and there are many approaches as to how to achieve "perfection". Although there is only one "textbook" golf swing, a perfect golf swing is unique to every individual, and, in fact, it is impossible for a human to perfectly duplicate the textbook golf swing.

## T

An abbreviation on a scoreboard for "Tied", indicating that a player has the same score as another player. A scoreboard showing a T2 for example means that the player is tied for second place with one or more other players.



Tap-in	Often called a "gimme", a tap-in is a ball that has come to rest very close to the hole, leaving only a very short putt to be played. Often, recreational golfers will "concede" tap-ins to each other to save time.
Target line	The target line is the straight line from the ball to its intended target. It is also extended backward.
Tee	A small peg, usually made of wood or plastic, placed in the ground upon which the golf ball may be placed prior to the first stroke on a hole. May also refer to the teeing ground.
Teeing ground	The area from which you hit your drive or tee shot. The teeing ground for a particular set of tees is two club lengths in depth. The ball must be teed between the markers, called tees, that define the teeing ground's width, and no further back than its depth. Tees are colored, but there is no standard for colors. The "teeing ground" refers to one set of tees. Most courses have at least three sets of tees; some have more than twice that many. The areas where tee markers are placed are called "tee boxes".
Tempo	The smooth change of the speed of a player's swing from first movement, through the ball strike, to the follow-through.
Ten-finger grip	Grip style with all ten fingers on the club. Also known as the baseball grip.
Texas Wedge	A Texas Wedge is another term for using a putter any time you are off the green. Some players will elect to putt from the fairway, rough, or even the bunker sometimes.
Thin	A shot somewhere between a top (see below) and a well-struck ball. The ball is hit below the equator, but not enough to get properly airborne, causing a low and uncontrolled shot. Especially destructive when chipping or pitching around the green.

Three-Putt	When it takes you three putts to get your golf ball in the hole when on the green.
Thin shot	Usually, an unintentional, poor shot where the clubhead strikes too high on the ball. When taken to an extreme but still at or below the center-line of the ball, it is known "blading" the ball. Sometimes, when the ball is lying a certain way around the green, advanced players will intentionally hit a thin shot to achieve certain results.
Through line	When putting, the imaginary path that a ball would travel on if the putted ball goes past the hole. Usually observed by PGA players and knowledgeable golfers when retrieving or marking a ball around the hole.
Through the green	The entire area of the golf course, except for the teeing ground of the hole being played, the green of the hole being played and all hazards on the course.
Tiger Slam	Winning four consecutive major championships but not in a calendar year.
Tips	The championship tees on a golf course are known as "the tips".
Toe	The far end of the club-head (farthest from the hosel).
Topped	An errant shot where the clubhead strikes on top of the ball, causing the ball to roll or bounce rather than fly.
Tree shot	A bad shot that has hit the trees' leaves, branches, and/or trunk and has resulted in a negative situation, i.e., going out of bounds, into a hazard, or leaving the ball much shorter than anticipated.
Triple bogey	A hole played three strokes over par.

Turkey Three consecutive birdies during one round of golf.

Turn After the 9th hole, the halfway point on a golf course, where you 'turn' for home.

## U

Unplayable A player can declare their ball unplayable at any time when it is in play (other than at a tee), and can drop the ball either within two club-lengths, or further from the hole in line with the hole and its current position, or where they played their last shot. A penalty of one stroke is applied. A ball declared unplayable within a penalty area must be dropped within that penalty area.

Up and Down When a player fails to be on the green in regulation, but gets on it with an approach shot and one-putts into the hole. A variation is called "up and in".

USGA United States Golf Association. The governing body of golf for the U.S. and Mexico. Together with The R&A, the USGA produces and interprets the Rules of Golf.

## V

Vardon grip A common grip style in which (for right-handed players) the right pinkie finger rests on top of the left index finger. Also known as the overlapping grip, it is named for Harry Vardon, a champion golfer of the early 20th century.

Vaulting dormie A possible occurrence in match play when a player or team converts a lead into a victory without passing through dormie, a guaranteed minimum of a tie at the

end of regulation play—for example, converting an 8-hole lead with nine to play into a 9-hole lead with eight to play, or converting a 1-hole lead with two to play into a 2-hole lead with one to play.

## W

Waggle	A part of a pre-shot routine where a player adjusts their body, the club, and/or practice swings at the ball.
We Are Golf	A coalition formed by the Club Managers Association of America, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the National Golf Course Owners Association, and The PGA of America to highlight the economic and social impacts of the game of golf.
Wedge	A type of golf club; a subset of iron designed for short range strokes. Of all the categories of clubs, wedges have faces with the highest degrees of loft.
Whiff	To swing and miss the ball completely. Counts as a stroke. Also called an 'air-shot', or 'fresh air'.
Winter green	Typically an area of fairway used as a temporary putting green to prevent damage to the normal green during inclement winter weather.[16] On some courses, particularly in Japan, holes are built with two greens with different varieties of grass, one for summer play, the other for winter.
Wire-to-wire	Leading a tournament after every round (may or may not include ties).

**Wood** A type of club where the head is generally (except for the clubface) bulbous in shape; so named because the head was originally made of wood, although almost all are now metal. Of all the categories of long hitting clubs, woods have faces with the lowest degrees of loft.

**Worm Burner** When you strike a shot that barely gets off the ground and just rolls.

## **X**

**X-outs** Balls that do not meet a manufacturer's stringent quality controls, either because of a small cosmetic blemish or because they are very marginally outside the size or weight tolerances (1.680" and 1.620oz). They are sold at a reduced price and the manufacturer's name is 'x'-d out. Otherwise perfectly normal and very good value, but beware of using them in competition as incorrect tolerances will make them illegal.

## **Y**

**Yardage** The distance between the player's ball and the target he is aiming for. The 'yardage' of a hole is officially the figure given on the scorecard from a specific tee, but will vary according to the position of the tee-markers and the pin position on the green. Top players use 'yardage charts' to calculate their distance from specific points on the course and to help with club selection.

**Yips** Chronic missing (or fear) of short putts, usually because of a nervous twitch. Very difficult to overcome, but can be alleviated by unorthodox grips or long, 'broom-handle' or 'belly') shafted putters.

## Z

- Zinger                      A ball hit high and hard close to the leading edge, causing a low flight and a slight vibratory feel.
- Zoysia                      A very thin bladed, slow-growing grass with deep roots that is resistant to drought and extreme temperatures.