



advantage
boating 

Section 1: Part A – Terms & Definitions

Boat Parts

Welcome to the wonderful world of sailing!



You have chosen a leisure lifestyle that can engage you for the rest of your life - whether you are six years old or sixty!

Sailing can become a lifestyle – or be a pastime which you can choose to just enjoy on sunny Sundays in July.

Regardless of your sailing preferences, just like any activity, it is a good idea to know the ropes!



Lesson Outline



- Lesson objectives
- Introduction
- Basic boat terms
- Positioning terms
- Key parts of the sailboat
- Summary
- Quiz

Lesson Objectives



- In this lesson you will learn the basic terminology and lingo that identifies the basic boat parts and key zones or areas on a sailboat.
- You need to understand the language of sailing and be able to identify the key areas and parts of the boat before you can begin to learn how to sail.
- These terms and parts will be referred to throughout the program in the courseware and on the water.



Learning the lingo...

- Sailing has a language all its own.
- The language of sailing allows us to communicate with one another when we are messing around with boats.
- Understanding the terms and what they mean “exactly” is critical.
- Under sail, especially in poor conditions, you and your crew need to have a shared understanding – and share the same interpretations of terms.

Learning the lingo....



Communication and teamwork on a boat is critical - knowing the language can avoid an accident!

Getting your bearings



- You also need to know the terms for the areas located on and around the boat so that you can orient yourself when on the boat and sailing!
- Let's look at the basic positioning terms to help you orient yourself on a sailboat.

Port and starboard

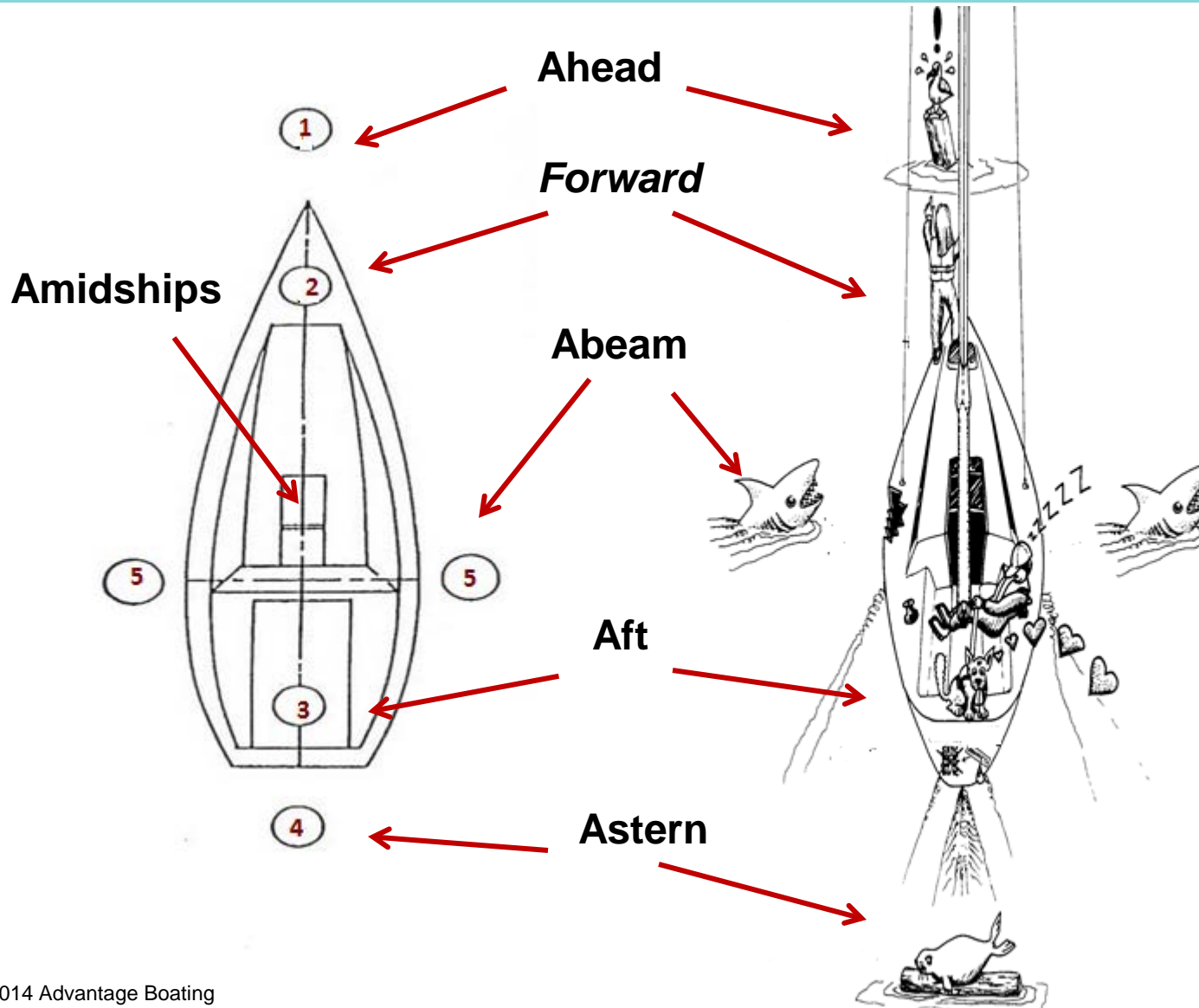


- **Port** is the left side of the boat as you are facing the bow (front of the boat)
- **Starboard** is the right side of the boat as you are facing the bow (front of the boat)

Note: At night, the port side of a vessel is indicated with a red navigation light and the starboard side with a green one



Positions in relation to the boat



Positions translated



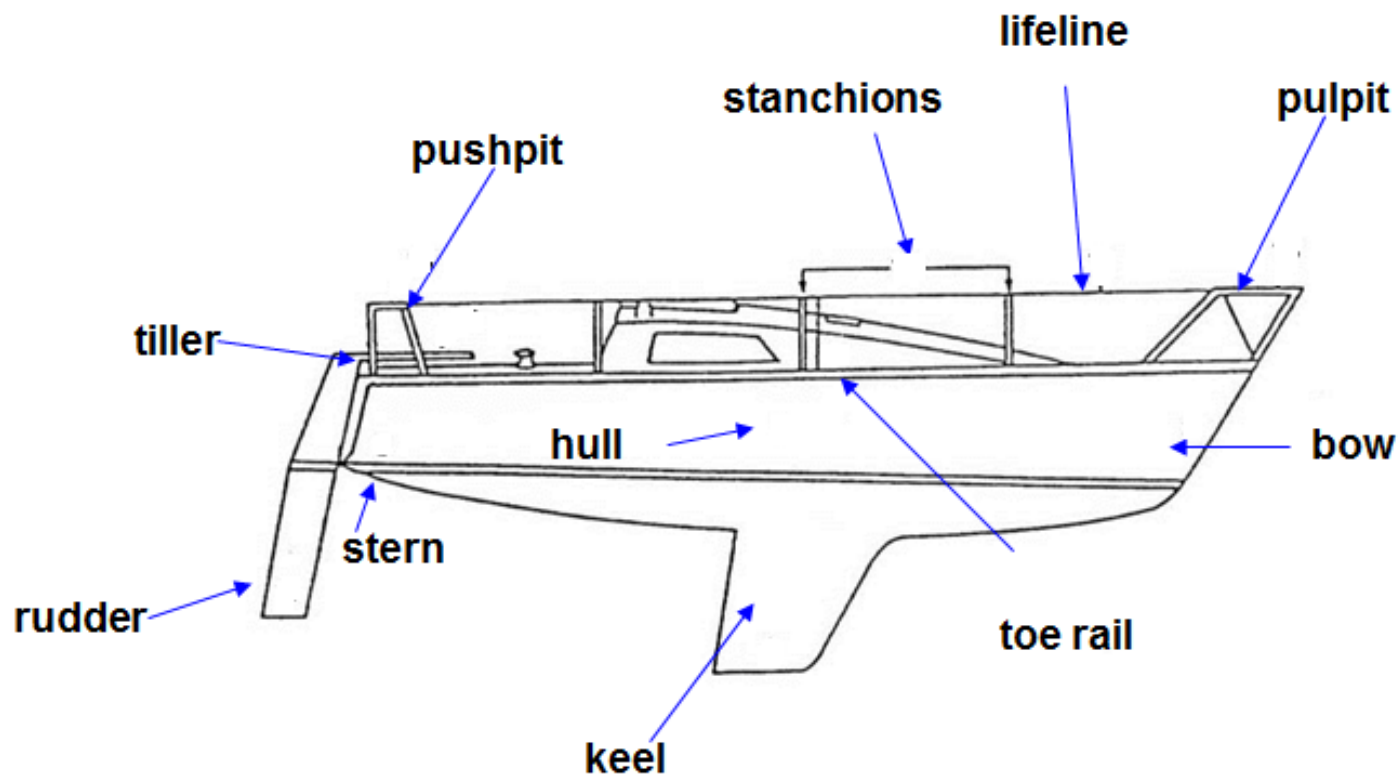
- **Ahead:** the area in front of the boat in the water
- **Forward:** the area towards the bow (front of the boat)
- **Abeam:** the areas at right angles to the sides of the boat in the water
- **Amidships:** the area approximately in the centre of the boat generally between the mast and the shrouds

Positions translated



- **Aft:** the area to the stern (back of the boat)
- **Astern:** the area behind the boat in the water

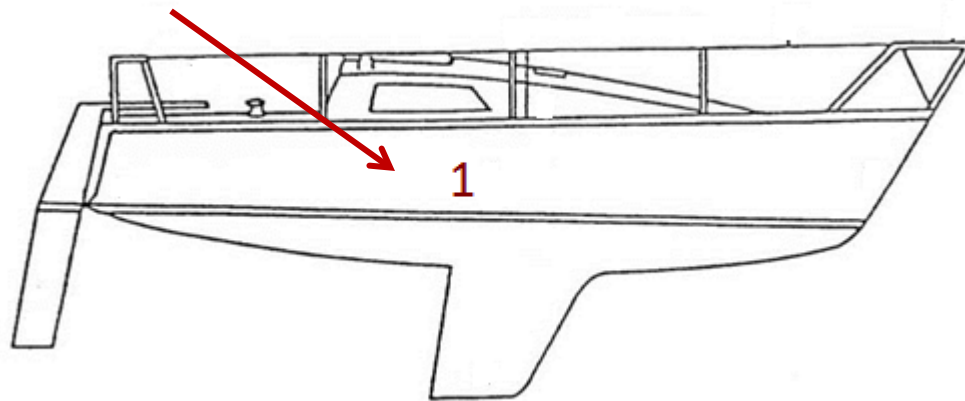
Let's start with some basic boat parts



Hull #1



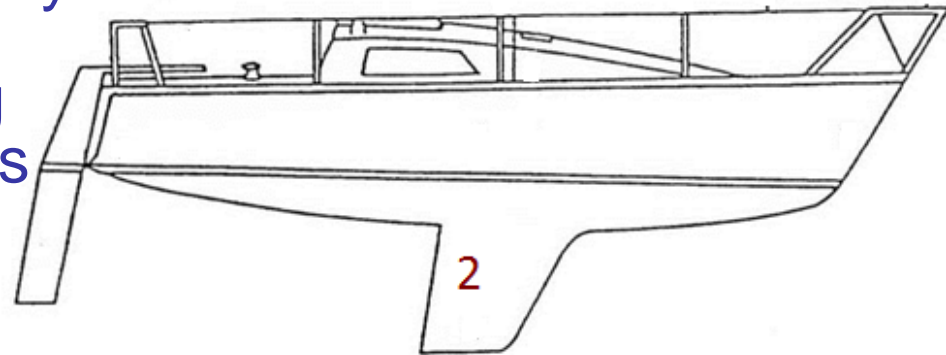
- The hull is the main body of the boat that allows it to float.
- In essence it keeps the water out and all the other parts of the boat are either attached directly to it or indirectly to it.



Keel #2



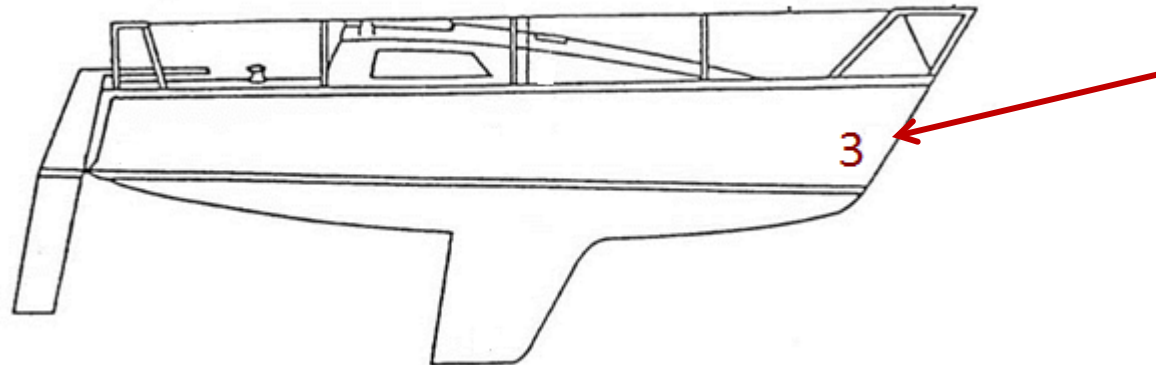
- The keel is attached to the bottom of the hull.
- It stabilizes the boat (laterally or sideways) and helps to keep the boat from making leeway (too much sideways motion).
- The keel provides ballast so that the boat doesn't turn over (capsize) when wind & waves apply pressure from the beam (or side) of the boat.



Bow #3



- The bow is really the forward part of the hull. Besides making the boat pleasing to the eye, its function is to cut through the water.



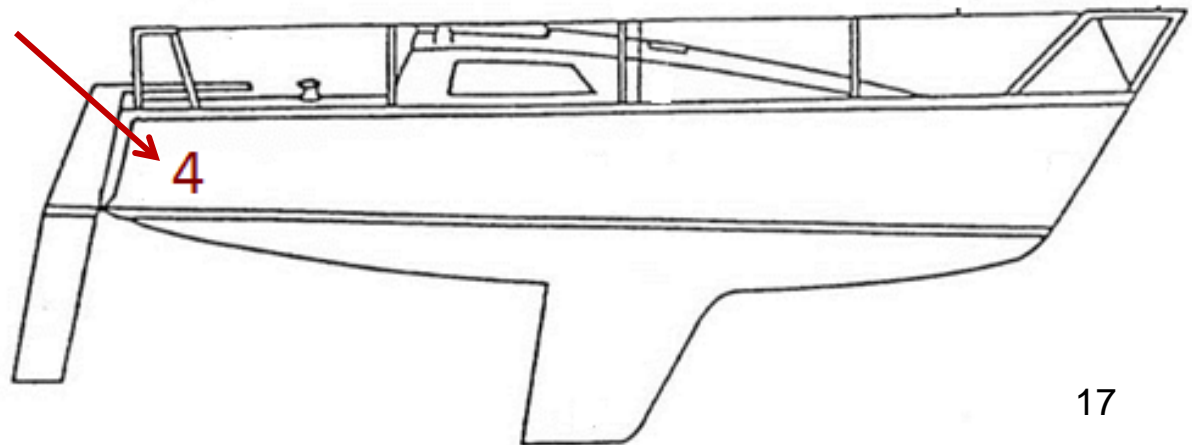


- The bow often has an anchor locker moulded into it in which to store the rode (chain or chain/line {rope} combination) that is attached to the boat and the anchor.
- It often provides the base for a bow roller that supports the anchor rather than having to lift it up and put it in the anchor locker after every use.
- The bow is an important attachment area for the forestay to hold up the mast.

Stern #4



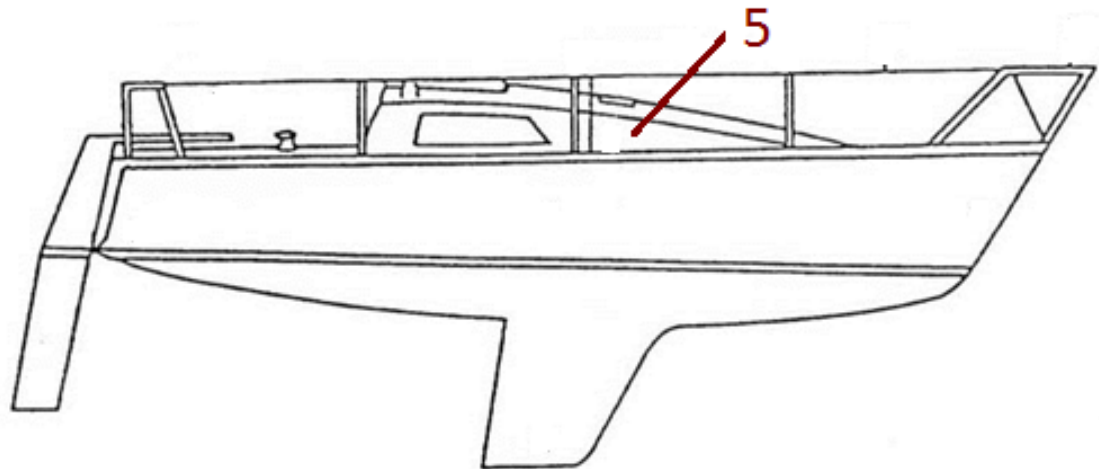
- The stern is part of the hull. It also provides an attachment point for the backstay to hold up the mast.
- One main function is to support the brackets called gudgeons that hold the rudder onto the boat and allowing the boat to turn or swing from side to side.
- Not all boats have stern hung rudders but many smaller boats do.



Toe rail #5



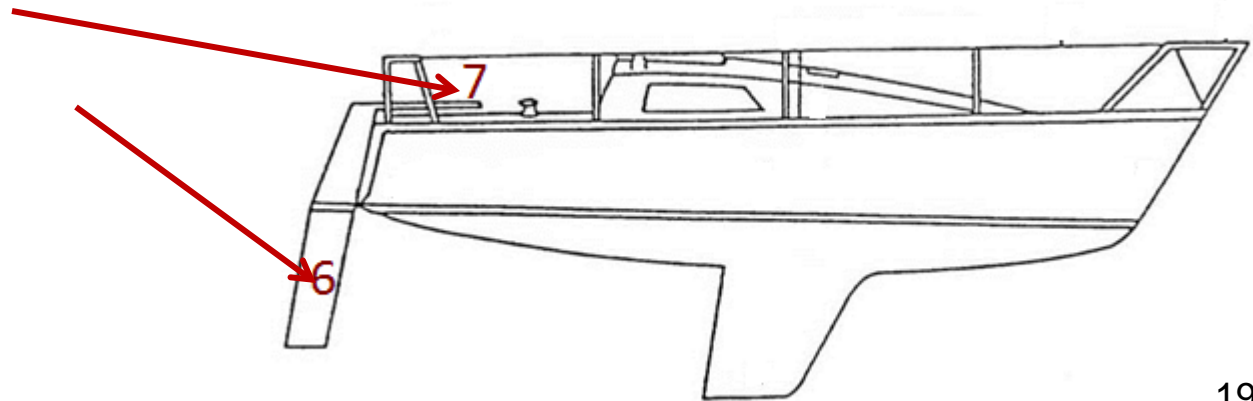
- The toe rail which runs usually along the full length of the boat on both sides where the hull meets the deck joint.
- On most modern boats it is made of aluminum although sometimes it is made of wood or moulded fiberglass.



Rudder #6 and Tiller #7



- The rudder (as shown in this diagram, #6) is transom hung which is referred to as a spade rudder.
- The rudder is connected to a tiller #7 (usually made of wood) to allow the rudder to be turned by the helmsperson to steer the boat.



Rudder #6 and Tiller #7

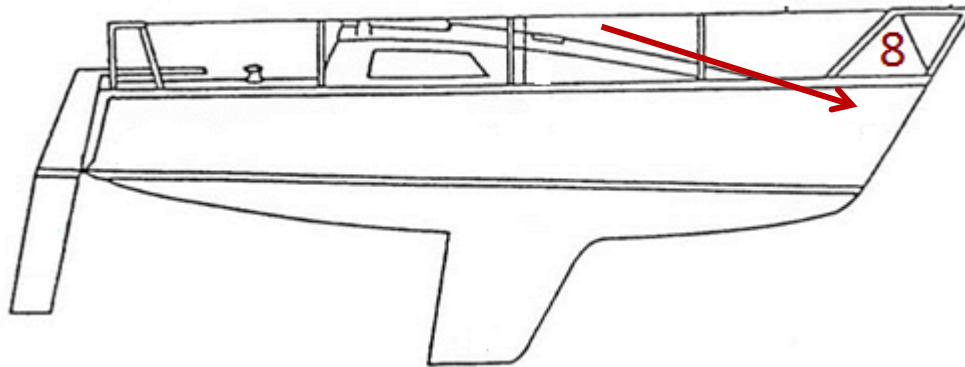


- The rudder allows the helmsperson to steer the boat by pushing or pulling on the tiller - which in turn moves the rudder from starboard (right) to port (left).
- Sometimes the tiller is replaced with a wheel which has the same result but is connected to the rudder differently.

Pulpit #8



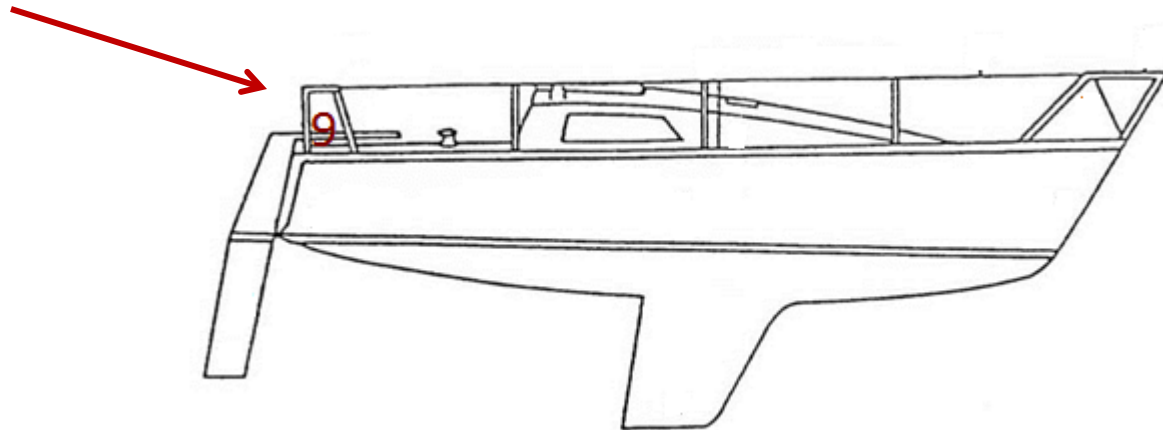
- The pulpit is attached to the deck at the bow of the boat.
- It is a grid of stainless steel uprights and cross members that are an attachment point for the lifelines and form a barrier for a crewperson working in that area of the boat.



Pushpit #9



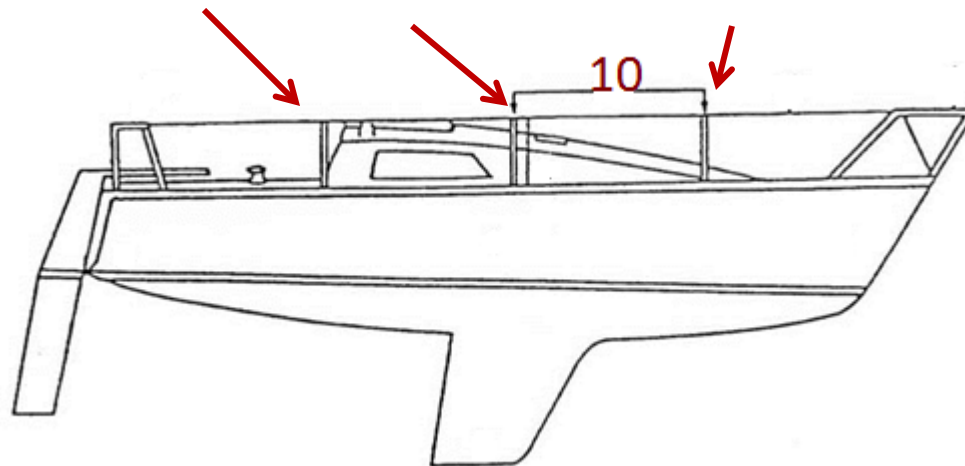
- The pushpit is a similar construction to the pulpit except it is at the stern of the boat.
- Sometimes it has a boarding ladder incorporated into it especially on larger boats.



Stanchions #10



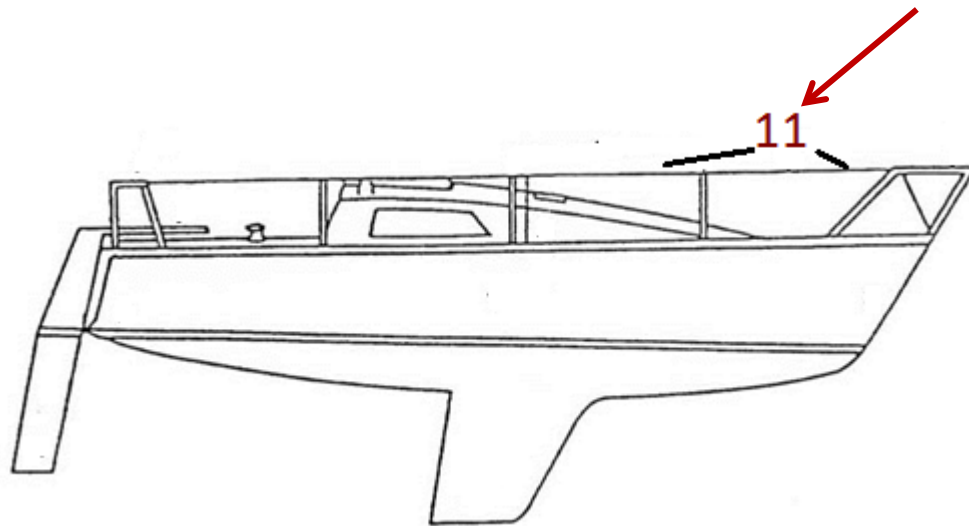
- The stanchions are uprights made of stainless steel which are attached to the deck.
- They are attachment points for the lifelines as they run from the pulpit to the pushpit.



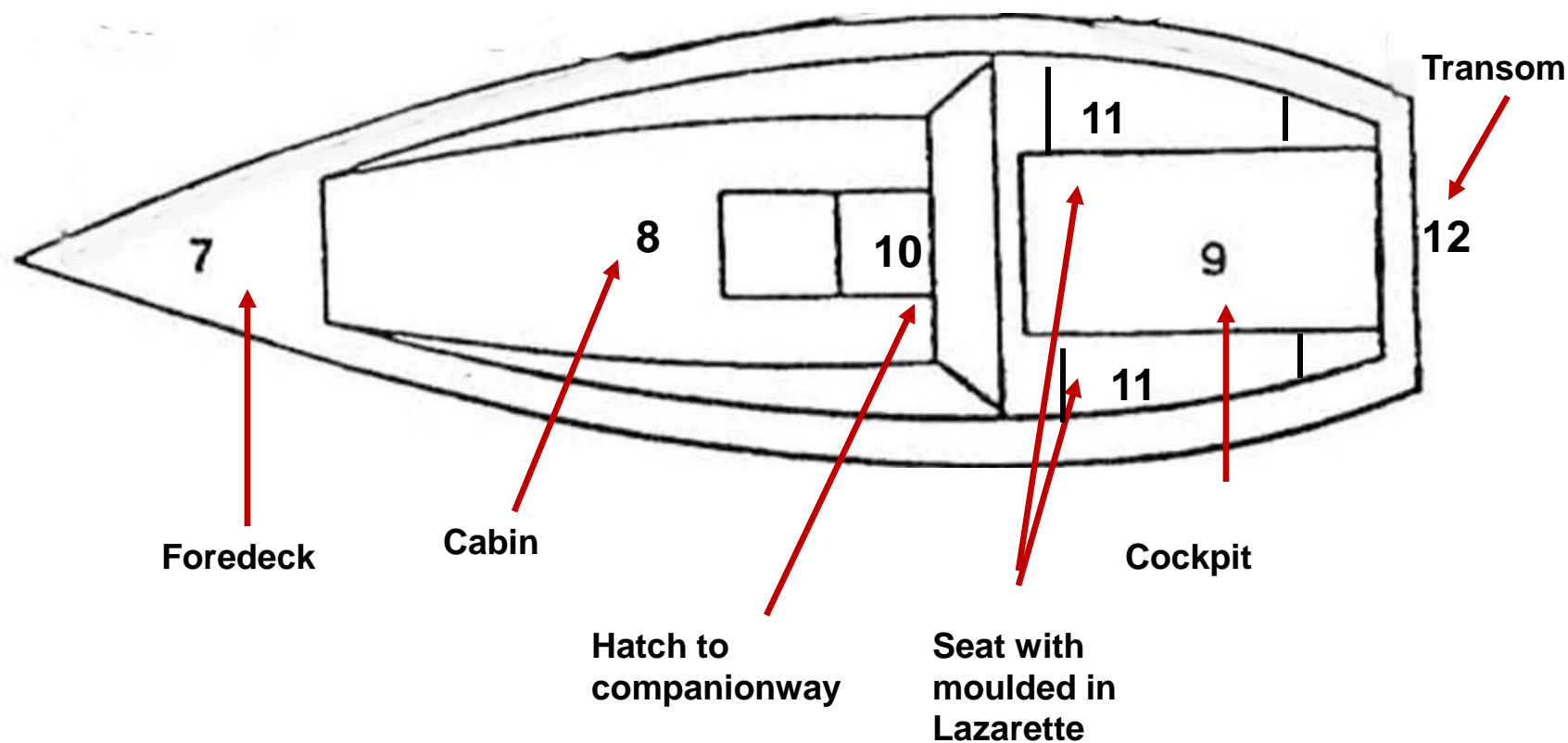
Lifelines #11



- The lifeline(s) run from the pushpit at the stern to the pulpit on the bow.
- Typically constructed of stainless wire and covered with vinyl or some other plastic type material, the lifelines are supported every few feet by the stanchions in between.



Top-view parts of the boat



Top-view parts described



- **Foredeck:** the deck at the front of the boat
- **Cabin:** the under-deck quarters
- **Hatch:** sealable "door" and sliding top cover to under-deck quarters
- **Cockpit:** the area towards the stern of a small decked vessel that houses the steering controls and allows a place for crew to sit and operate the sails and engine

Top-view parts described



- **Transom:** the surface that forms the stern (rear) of a vessel. Transoms vary; may be flat, curved, vertical, slanted etc.
- **Lazarette:** usually a storage locker used for gear or equipment and the lids provide seating for the crew

Summary



- In this lesson, you learned the basic lingo and terminology of the parts of a sailboat used to help you orient yourself on the boat and on the water.
- Communication and teamwork on a boat is critical - knowing the language can avoid an accident! You need to be able to identify and locate specific parts on the boat to help you communicate effectively with your crewmates.
- Make sure you study the terms and definitions explained in all Section 1 modules and in your textbook before you head out on the water for your first lesson!

Next steps!



In the next lesson, Section 1, Part B, you will learn the terminology specific to sailboat structures and rigging.

You need to understand even more unique terms and nomenclature used in sailing before you can learn to actually sail.

Let's practice our knowledge!



- Complete the following quiz to test your knowledge of boat parts and terms.



True or false:

- At night, the port side of a vessel is indicated with a *green* navigation light and the starboard side with a *red* one.
- **Port** is the **left** side of the boat as you are facing the bow (front of the boat).
- The bow is really the **rear** part of the hull.
- **Forward**: the area in front of the boat in the water
- **Ahead**: the area towards the bow (front of the boat)