

## Subject

language arts

### Summary

Nautical terms for students - while they are fun they are essential for accurate communication on board a boat.

### Overall Expectations

Students will understand the vocabulary and language structures appropriate for this grade level

### Specific Expectations

Students will make judgments and draw conclusions about the content in written materials, using evidence from the materials

### Author

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## Nautical language: talk like a sailor (1)

### BACKGROUND

Many of the terms that sailors use have been around for hundreds of years. Some are quite recent and have joined the language of sailors who now use electronics to communicate and navigate. You might wonder why so many of the old terms are still being used. Why say bow instead of front of the boat?

**Challenge:** If you were a guest on Amanzi, would you understand where things are and directions about how to sail?

### And...

If you were the skipper of Amanzi for a four hour shift, called a watch, while it sails across a lake or an ocean, you would need to know many terms in order to give commands, ask questions, make comments or understand them. On the boat, with only two people, you will take turns being skipper or crew. You need to use a common vocabulary because a lack of understanding could be very confusing and even dangerous.

Very often one person will be skipper AND crew because the other person is sleeping. That's right, while under way sailing the boat each person gets to sleep for only 4 hours at a time. Imagine having to get up, have a snack, use the bathroom, called the head, and be ready to take over all the tasks of sailing and navigating at midnight. You will be the only person on deck until four o'clock in the morning! There will be no one to talk to but at least you will have time to review all the vocabulary you need to know while you're at the helm.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Read the list of terms and their meanings. Now pretend it's your turn to be the skipper of Amanzi. Write six commands or directions you would possibly say to your crew, using words from the list. Try practicing them with a partner. Check with your partner to see if he or she understands clearly.

2. In a small group, share all the commands and directions you created. Then pick the best one from each person to make a final list. Try quizzing each other to check that everyone understands.

## Nautical Terms

vessel	Official term for a boat, the Sailing Vessel Amanzi
abaft	Old-fashioned term for the back of the boat
aloft	Above deck level, often up the mast
bow	The pointy front area that slices through the water
ahoy	A greeting or call for attention
rigging	All the ropes, cables and supports that keep the sails up
watch	A specific length of time operating the boat, resting or sleeping – usually four hours
helm	A wheel or long pole (tiller) attached to the rudder for steering
cabin	The living area below deck; could you live in your bedroom for two years? See the plans of <i>Amanzi</i>
galley	The area where food is stored, prepared and cooked
head	A tiny area with toilet, small sink and maybe a shower
lee	The side sheltered from the wind, opposite of windward
mayday	An international distress call; for very serious situations when the crew needs help
overboard	Over the side and out of the boat; where you don't want to be
starboard	To the right hand side looking towards the bow; confusing if you are on the bow looking back; see the picture of <i>Amanzi</i>
port	To the left side; it used to be called larboard but that was confusing. The word also means the city where a boat stays.
squall	A sudden violent wind, often with rain