

Bowline

Fixed loop that won't slip or jam. Uses: Rescue loops, tying a line to a ring or post, sailing.

- ☐ Make a small overhand loop in the standing part, with the working end on top.
- ☐ Pass the working end up through the small loop from underneath.
- ☐ Take it around behind the standing part.
- ☐ Bring it back down through the small loop.
- ☐ Hold the working end against the side of the big loop and pull the standing part to tighten.

Clove hitch

Quick attachment to a post or rail. Uses: Starting lashings, temporary mooring, tent guy lines.

- ☐ Wrap the rope around the post.
- ☐ Cross over the standing part and wrap around the post again.
- ☐ Tuck the working end under the second wrap, parallel to the standing part.
- ☐ Pull both ends to tighten.

Notes

Figure-eight stopper

Stops a rope running out through a hole or device. Uses: End of a sheet or halyard, climbing ropes.

- ☐ Make a loop by crossing the working end over the standing part.
- ☐ Pass the working end around behind the standing part.
- ☐ Bring it back through the loop from the front.
- ☐ Pull tight — it should look like the number 8.

Reef (square) knot

Joins two ends of the same line around an object. Uses: Tying bundles, bandages, reefing sails.

- ☐ Right end over left and under.
- ☐ Left end over right and under.
- ☐ Pull tight — each loop should lie flat and symmetrical.
- ☐ Do not use it to join two ropes that will take a load.

Notes

Sheet bend

Joins two ropes, even of different thickness. Uses: Extending a line, attaching to a net or sail.

- ☐ Make a bight (U-shape) in the thicker rope.
- ☐ Pass the thinner rope up through the bight.
- ☐ Take it around behind both parts of the bight.
- ☐ Tuck it under itself (not through the bight) and pull tight.

Two half hitches

Secures a line to a post or ring. Uses: Mooring, hanging loads, finishing other knots.

- ☐ Pass the working end around the post.
- ☐ Take it around the standing part and through the gap — the first half hitch.
- ☐ Repeat in the same direction for the second half hitch.
- ☐ Slide the hitches up snug.

Notes

Taut-line hitch

Adjustable loop that holds under tension. Uses: Tent guy lines, tarps.

- ☐ Pass the working end around the anchor (tent peg or tree).
- ☐ Wrap it twice around the standing part, working back towards the anchor, inside the loop.
- ☐ Take one more turn around the standing part outside the loop.
- ☐ Tuck the end under that last turn; slide the hitch to adjust tension.

Trucker's hitch

Tightens a line with mechanical advantage. Uses: Securing loads to a roof rack or trailer.

- ☐ Tie a fixed loop in the standing part (for example a directional figure-eight or slipped overhand).
- ☐ Pass the working end around the anchor point.
- ☐ Bring it back up through the loop and pull down to tighten.
- ☐ Secure with two half hitches below the loop.

Notes

Improved clinch knot

Ties fishing line to a hook, lure or swivel. Uses: Monofilament fishing line.

- ☐ Thread the line through the eye and pull through about 15 cm (6 in).
- ☐ Wrap the tag end around the standing line 5–7 times.
- ☐ Pass the tag end through the small loop next to the eye.
- ☐ Then pass it through the large loop just formed.
- ☐ Moisten and pull tight; trim the tag end.

Double fisherman's

Securely joins two ropes. Uses: Making prusik loops, joining climbing cord.

- ☐ Lay the ropes side by side, ends pointing opposite ways.
- ☐ With one end, tie a double overhand knot around the other rope.
- ☐ Repeat with the other end around the first rope.
- ☐ Pull the standing parts so the two knots slide together.

Notes