

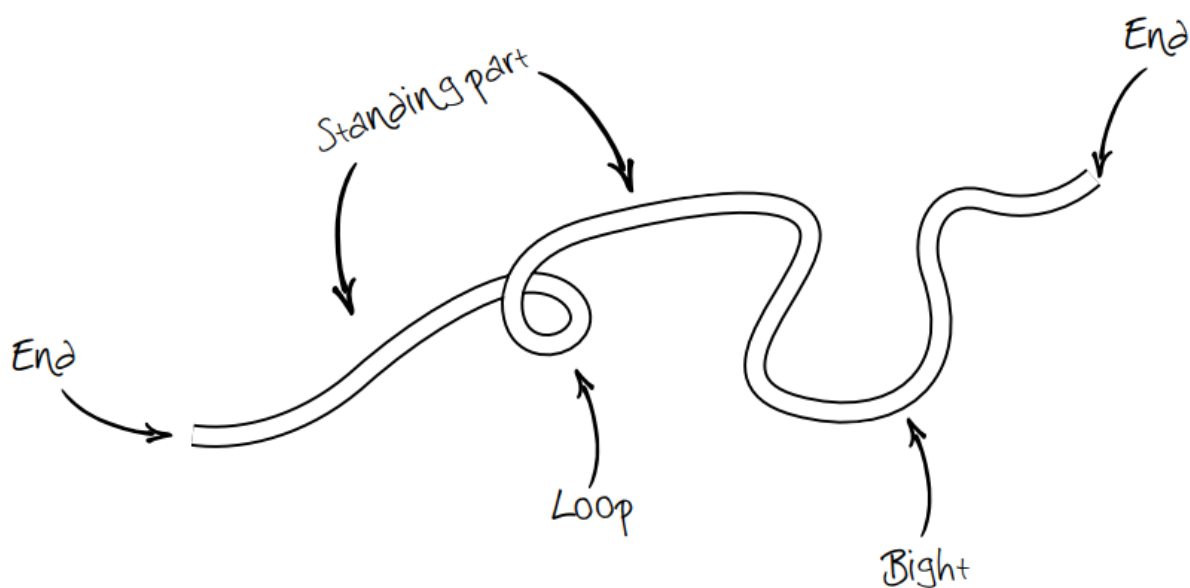
What knot?



Quick guide to popular knots

First things first – learn the parts of a rope:

- Working (or running) end: the end of the rope you are using to tie a knot.
- Standing end: the rest of the rope.
- Loop: a loop made by turning the rope back on itself and crossing the standing part.
- Bight: a loop made by turning the rope back on itself without crossing the standing part.



Now try tying some:

Overhand knot

This is the simplest knot, which joins two pieces of cord together. It's the start of a shoelace knot and the basis of many of knots. Practise this one first.

Form a loop and pass the end through. Tighten by pulling on the ends.



Reef knot

A reef knot is a flat knot used for tying a scarf, a sling or bandage or a bundle of sticks together.

Try this rhyme to help you remember how to tie it: left over right and under, right over left and under.



Half hitch

A hitch is used for tying a rope to a ring or post and it's the basis for many knots.

Form a loop around another piece of cord or a stick. Pass the end around the standing end and through the loop. Tighten into a half hitch.



Round turn and two half hitches

This knot is useful for tying a boat to a post.

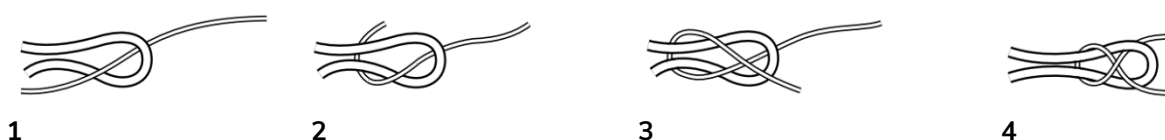
Wrap the cord around the stick. Next, make a half hitch around the standing part of the rope. Then make another half hitch. When both half hitches are made, pull them tight.



Sheet bend

A sheet bend is used to tie together two cords of different thicknesses.

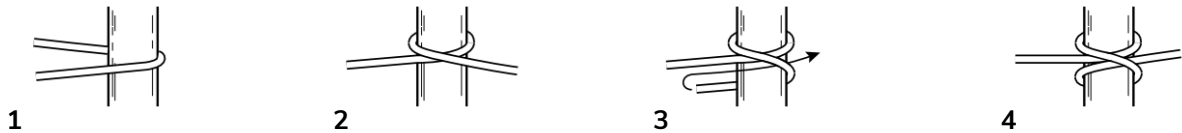
Form a bight in the thicker rope and hold it in one hand. Pass the thinner rope or cord through the bight and behind the tail and standing ends. Finally, tuck the smaller rope under itself to finish the knot.



Clove hitch

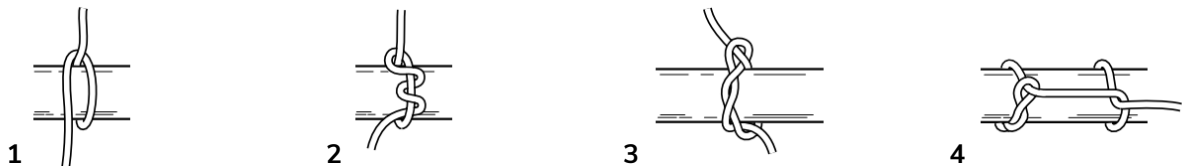
This hitch is another way to fasten a rope to a post. It is not as secure as the round turn and two half hitches, but is often used to start other hitches and lashings.

Form a loop around another piece of cord or a stick. Continue over the standing end and around the stick a second time. Thread the end under itself and pull tight to form the clove hitch.



Timber hitch

This hitch is a temporary knot used to drag, lift or tow a log or pole. When used in this way, the timber hitch is usually made near the centre of the log or pole and a separate half hitch is dropped over the end to act as a guide when pulling.



Highwayman's hitch

This slip hitch holds fast when the standing end is pulled, but will come free when the working end is pulled. It is used to tie a boat to a mooring ring or an animal to a rail or post.

