

THE ACADEMY OF LIGHT

BASIC KNOTS



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BK101

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GLOSSARY

Bight

A section of rope, between the working and standing ends, bent to create a curve or “bump” in the line.

Cord

A line made up of several strands of yarn plaited together. In general, this name is applied to lines of diameter under 10mm only.

Lead

The direction the working end of a line takes as it goes through a knot, or the action of taking it through the knot.

Loop

A circle made in a rope by passing the working end either under or over the standing part.

Standing End

The section or end of a line not actively being used in creating a knot.

Working End

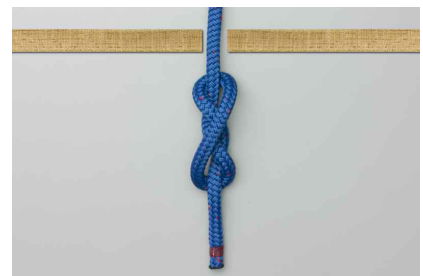
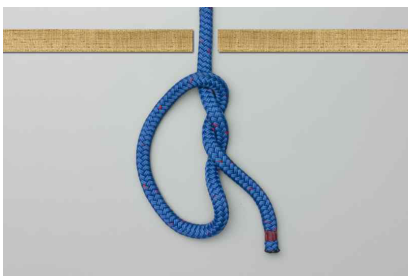
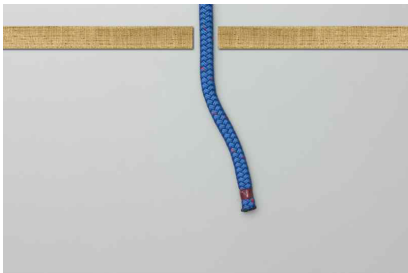
The end of a line actively being used to create a knot.



DOUBLE OVERHAND KNOT

Uses

The Double Overhand Stopper Knot is based on the Overhand Knot with one additional turn. It creates a reliable, moderately large, stopper knot.



BOWLINE

Uses

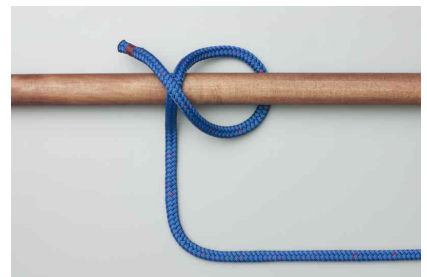
The Bowline makes a reasonably secure loop in the end of a piece of rope. It has many uses, e.g., to fasten a mooring line to a ring or a post. Under load, it does not slip or bind. With no load it can be untied easily. Two bowlines can be linked together to join two ropes. Its principal shortcoming is that it cannot be tied, or untied, when there is a load on the standing end. It should therefore be avoided when, for example, a mooring line may have to be released under load.



CLOVE HITCH

Uses

This knot is particularly useful where the length of the running end needs to be adjustable, since feeding in rope from either direction will loosen the knot to be tightened at a new position. With certain types of cord, the clove hitch can slip when loaded.



EVENK HITCH (SIBERIAN)

Uses

This is a quick-release hitch for tent tarps. The first hitch that would be used in securing tent tarps to a tree or similar.



FIGURE 8

Uses

The Figure 8 Knot provides a quick and convenient stopper knot to prevent a line sliding out of sight, e.g., up inside the mast. Its virtue is that, even after it has been jammed tightly against a block, it doesn't bind; it can be undone easily.



FISHING KNOT

Uses

Well, fishing!

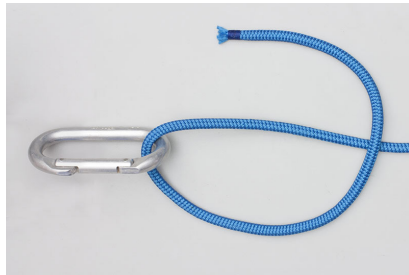
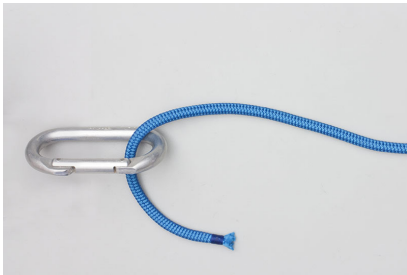


GUYLINE HITCH

Uses

The Guyline Hitch is useful for tensioning a line such as a tent ridgeline or a guy-line. When the knot is adjusted, by sliding it along the standing end, it may require tightening with a pull on the leg that forms the knot.

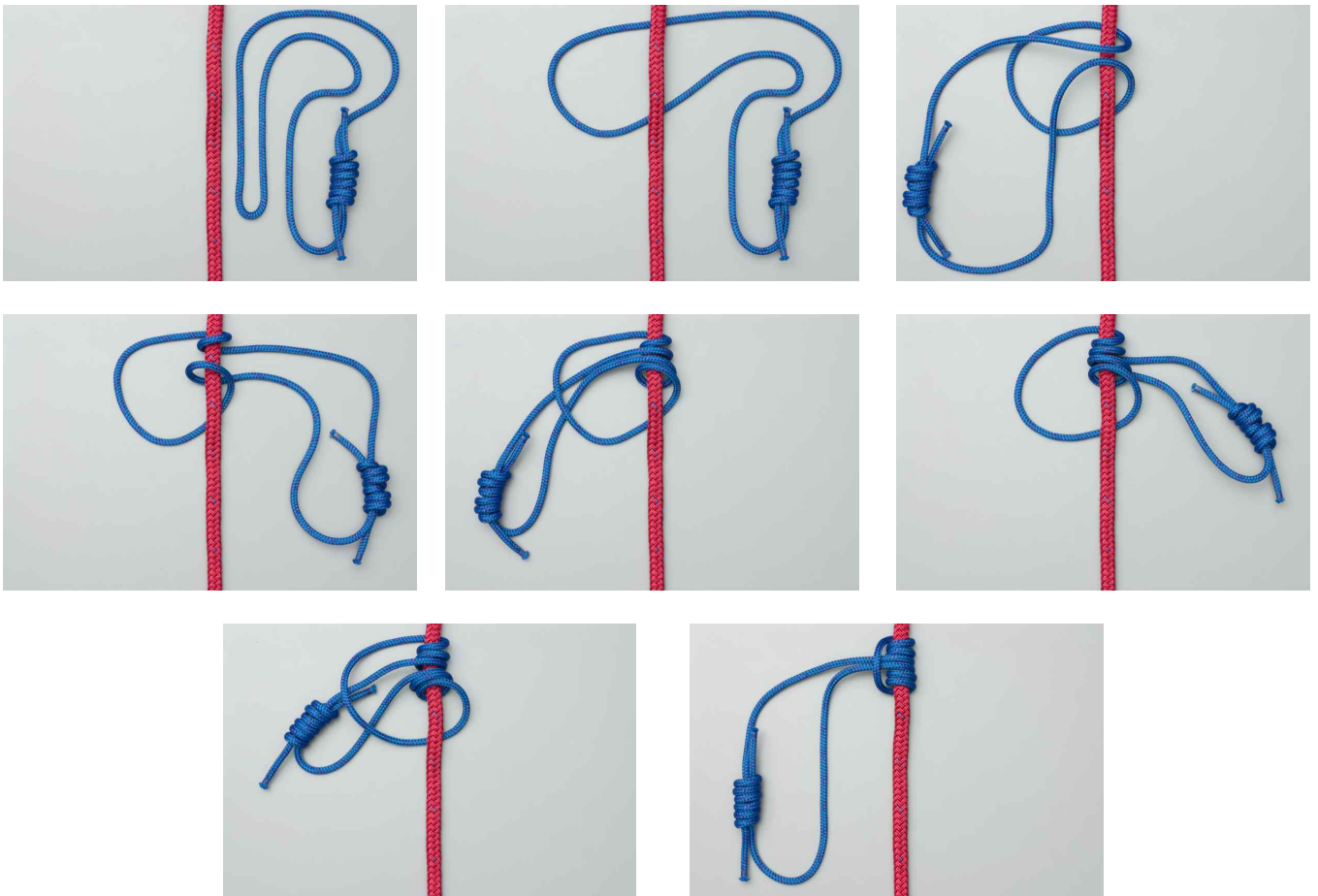
The second knot used for securing a tent tarp.



PRUSIK KNOT

Uses

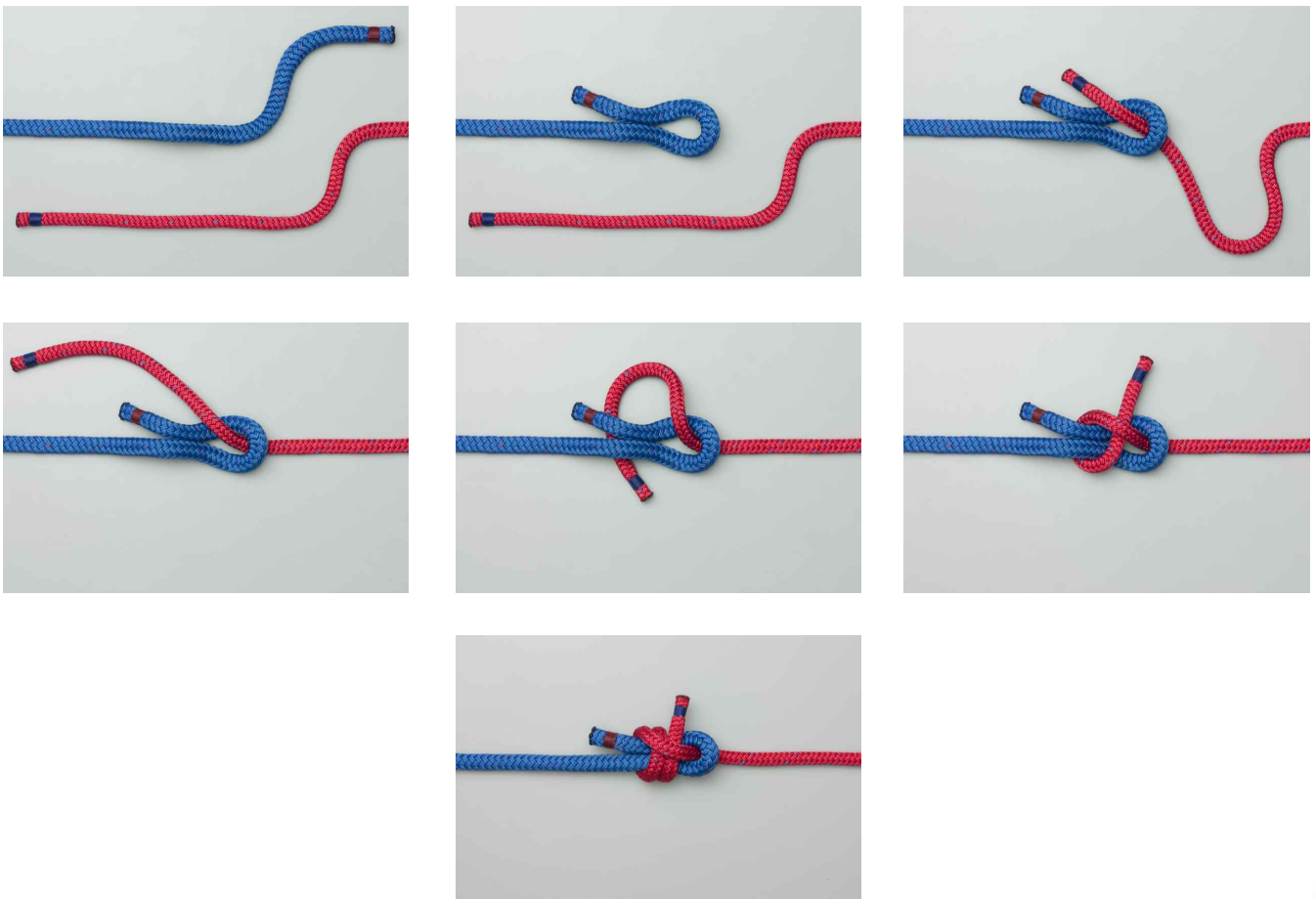
The principal use of a Prusik Knot is allowing a rope to be climbed – ascending or “Prusiking”. Two Prusik loops are alternately slid up the static rope.



SHEET BEND

Uses

The Sheet Bend or Weaver's Knot is recommended for joining two ropes of unequal size. The thicker rope must be used for the simple bight as shown. However, it works equally well if the ropes are of the same size. It can also be used on tarps that have broken eyelets or don't have any. In this example the blue rope would be the corner of the tarp.



TAUT TARP

Uses

For Securing a tent tarps to pegs in the ground. This Knot is relatively easy to tie or untie under load and, even after being heavily loaded, it is reasonably easy to release.

