

## CHAPTER 15

## Golf Terms

**Did you know?  
Why are beginners called  
rabbits?**

You know what rabbits do when they run: they double back, jump around and are always changing direction.

In golf, beginners cannot control the direction of their ball so well. The ball often flies in the exact opposite direction it was intended to go. Beginners end up going back and forth, left and right, all over, almost exactly like a running rabbit.

**Which is what?**

Even if you're just a beginner, you can sound like an old pro if you acquaint yourself well with the following terms.

**On the golf course****Breaks:**

Unevenness in the green that causes the ball to curve from the line of putt.

**Bunkers:**

Bunkers are small or somewhat larger sand-filled hollows that seem to have a magical attraction on your ball.

**Dogleg:**

A golf hole shaped like the leg of a dog. The





fairway curves left or right usually at the point a long drive would reach.

Boys up to 12 years old play from the Junior Championship Tee. This is actually just the ladies' tee but sounds much better, don't you think?



### Driving range:

Here you can meet up with your friends as well as practice your swing.

### Did you know?

#### A skyscraper as a playing field

In Japan, there are numerous players and far too little room for golf courses. That is why driving ranges have been built on rooftops as well as in buildings on several floors.

### Fairway:

The fairway is the stretch between the teeing ground and the putting green. Here, the grass is mown shorter than it is on the sides, which are called the rough.

Always try to keep your ball on the fairway, because it is much easier to play from there.

**Flight:**

A group of players playing a round of golf together. You can play alone, as a pair or in a three- or four-some.

**Golf cart:**

A vehicle that can transport two players and their golf bags over the golf course.

**Golf professional:**

A specially-trained golf instructor, in our case Greg the little hedgehog. An instructor is called a teaching professional, or pro. A tournament player is called either a tour professional or a playing professional.

**Green:**

A round-shaped area with grass mown very short and a small hole, in which the flagstick is located. This is where your ball is headed.

**Holes:**

A golf hole consists of a teeing ground, the fairway and the green.

On your way, you will encounter various





obstacles to overcome until you finally land your ball in the “right” hole.

### **Out of bounds:**

The area outside of the boundaries of a given hole marked with white stakes.



### **“Platzreife”:**

In certain European nations, for example Germany or Austria, you must earn a license to play without a golf instructor present on a golf course. You must pass a test to earn this right.

### **Rough:**

The rough is located to the sides of the fairway. The semi-rough is on the sides of the golf hole where the grass is only somewhat higher than on the fairway. The actual rough consists of unmown grass and lots of bushes and trees.

### **Tee:**

Your first stroke of the hole. It is also the name of the small wooden or plastic pegs from which you tee off your ball.

**Teeing ground:**

The teeing ground is an area of shortly mown grass at the beginning of a hole. You will find two markers, behind which you may place your tee. There is a professional tee, men's tee and a ladies' tee. A special tournament tee is often used in tournaments. Teeing off describes the first stroke you take on a hole.

**Water hazard:**

Here your ball just loves to take a dip, not just on a hot day.

Water hazards are marked by yellow (water hazard) and red stakes (lateral water hazard).

**In play:****Air ball/Whiff:**

If you take a swing and completely miss the ball, it still counts as a stroke because you intended to hit the ball.

**Albatross:**

This is one of the heaviest birds and a very rare one at that. This is what you get when you play a hole three strokes under par.

**Birdie:**

What you get when you play a hole one stroke under par.

**Bogey:**

A bogey is one stroke over par.

**Caddie:**

A person who carries the player's golf bag and offers helpful advice.

**Chip shot:**

This shot makes the ball fly short and roll long on the green.

**Dimples:**

These are the little dents on the surface of the golfball. The ball would not fly nearly as far without them.



**Divot:**

A piece of turf forced out of the grass by your club during your swing. Always replace it and tamp it down. That way the grass can grow back again.

**Driver:**

The longest club with the least loft (1-wood). The ball flies low but farthest, which is why it is well suited for long drives. But, it is a hard club to master.

**Drop:**

Allowing the ball to fall from your outstretched hand at shoulder's height.

**Eagle:**

This regal bird is also very rare. This also means a score of two strokes under par.

**Etiquette:**

The dos and don'ts on the golf course and during play.

**Fore!:**

The warning you shout when your ball might hit someone.

**Hacker/Duffer:**

Not a very flattering expression.

This is what you call someone who ends up hacking around in the grass more than actually hitting the ball.

**Handicap:**

Your handicap (hcp) reflects your abilities as a golfer.

**Hole-in-one or Ace:**

This is an absolute feat. Your first stroke of the hole lands the ball right into the hole.

**Honor:**

This is the right to tee off first.

**Hook/Slice:**

Relax, Peter Pan! Captain Hook has nothing to do with this. After you hit the ball it either drifts to the left or to the right, respectively.

**Long game:**

These are the longest possible shots you make on the fairway with woods and irons.



**Loft:**

Remember the hedgehog on a bobsled? This is the degree of angle on a clubface.

**Par:**

The number of strokes a good golfer should take to play a hole.

**Par 3:** 1 stroke to the green,  
2 putts on the green

**Par 4:** 2 strokes on the fairway,  
2 putts on the green

**Par 5:** 3 strokes on the fairway,  
2 putts on the green

**Pitch mark:**

Little marks that your ball sometimes makes on the green.

**Pitch-mark repair tool:**

This is a handy little fork you use to fix any marks your ball makes, especially on the green.

**Pitch shot:**

This swing makes your ball fly high briefly and roll a short way.



### Provisional ball:

Saves wear and tear on your leg muscles and saves time! Play one if you are unsure whether your ball is out of bounds or lost.

### Short game:

This is what you call putting and the short shots approaching the green, pitching and chipping.

### Wedge:

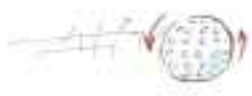
The club with the highest degree of loft. The ball flies high but not very far.

### Now, the details:

#### Special knowledge “fore” experts

### Backspin:

When the ball is hit, it takes on a backward spin. The more backspin a ball has, the shorter the distance it will roll out on the ground.



### Cavity-back iron:

A type of club in which the back of the club

head is hollowed out. This increases the sweet spot, making it easier to hit the ball perfectly

**Draw:**

A draw is an intentional hook by which the ball is played with a slight left spin. This can be achieved using a strong grip.

**Fade:**

A fade is an intentional slice. In other words, the ball travels along a slight curve to the right. This can be achieved using a weak grip.

**Handicap:**

There are handicap and course handicap. Handicap is the official handicap calculated to the last decimal point of a given player and can go all the way up to hcp. 36. For players of much less ability there is an unofficial course handicap of between 37 to 54.

**In and Out:**

This is not a list of who's popular and who



isn't. It is a way of describing the holes at some golf courses where the ninth hole is located farthest away from the clubhouse. The first 9 holes you play away (*out*) from the clubhouse, the second 9 you play towards (*in*) the clubhouse.

**Lady (or Girlie):**

An unfortunate drive from the men's tee that didn't even go as far as the ladies' tee. That costs the round.

**Lob:**

A very short, high shot on to the green.

**Longest drive:**

This is a special tournament prize awarded for the longest drive made on a hole designated beforehand.

**Long hitter:**

A player who hits the ball particularly far.

**Marshal:**

No, we're not back in the Wild West. To ensure that things run smoothly on the

course, an official sees to it that play keeps moving and that course etiquette is observed.

**Mulligan:**

This is a second try after a failed shot. It is actually not allowed.

**Nearest to the pin:**

This is a special tournament prize awarded to the player who comes closest to the flag on a par-3 hole.

**Socket:**

An unfortunate shot in which the ball flies high and pulls sharply to the right.

**Strong grip:**

This doesn't mean that you should hold the club tightly. If you look down at your hands, you will see more than two knuckles, if you are right-handed. The club is turned somewhat to the right. The ball will curve slightly to the left.

**Sweet spot:**

The perfect spot for the club face to make contact with the ball.

**Tiger line:**

This was around even before Tiger Woods came on to the scene. It is a very long, risky shot in direct line with the hole, for example as a short cut through a dogleg.

**Topped shot:**

The top half of the ball is struck and, as a result, does not fly high enough.

**Waggle:**

What you call the back and forth movement you make with the club in the address position. It helps you relax and feel the weight of the club head.

**Weak grip:**

This doesn't mean that you hold the club loosely. If you look down at your hands, you will see only one knuckle on your left hand, if you are right-handed. The club is turned a bit to the left. The ball will curve slightly to the right.