

# Piratey Expressions

Here be some phrases that ye need know if ye want to not be mistaken for no landlubber!

**Ahoy** Used to hail a ship or a person or to attract attention.

**Arr! / Argh / Arrgh! / Yarr! / Harr! etc.** A general piratical term - can be used with anything.

**Avast!** Used as a command to stop or desist.

**Belay** Used in the imperative as an order to stop. Belay there!

**Blimey!** Used to express frustration.

**Bucko** A friend.

**Dead men tell no tales** Phrase explaining why pirates leave no survivors.

**Gangway!** Used to clear a passage through a crowded area.

**Hang the jib** To look ill-tempered or annoyed. To pout.

**He's gone to Davy Jones's locker** He is dead.  
(Davy Jones's locker is also the bottom of the sea)

**Me hearties** My Comrade; boon companion; good fellow; a term of familiar address and fellowship among sailors. Captains often refer to their entire crew this way.

**Shiver me timbers!** An expression of surprise.

**Sink me!** An expression of surprise.

**Smartly** Quickly.

**Splice the Mainbrace!** To have a Drink, or perhaps several.

**Yo-ho-ho** Completely meaningless, but fun to say.

# Important Piratney Words

Here are some simple words every tried and true Pirate of the High Seas should know:

**Aye** Yes. Aye, aye captain!

**Me** My. Me ship is the biggest brig in the port!

**Ye** You Ye be walking the plank!

**Aft** Short for "after." Toward the rear of the ship.

**Bilge** That part of a ship's hull or bottom which is broadest and most nearly flat, and on which she would rest if aground. Also - Stupid talk or writing; nonsense.

**Bilge Pump** A pump to draw the bilge water from the hold of a ship.

**Bilge Water** Water which collects in the bilge or bottom of a ship or other vessel. It is often allowed to remain till it becomes very offensive.

**Clap of Thunder** A strong drink.

**Fore** Short for "forward". Toward the front end of the ship.

**Mast** A tall vertical spar, sometimes sectioned, that rises from the keel or deck of a sailing vessel to support the sails and the standing and running rigging.

**Mizzenmast** The hindmost mast of a three-masted vessel.

**Poop deck** The deck forming the roof of a poop or poop cabin, built on the upper deck and extending from the mizzenmast aft.

**Port** A seaport or the left side of the ship when you are facing toward her prow.

**Prow** The "nose" of the ship.

**Rigging** The arrangement of masts, spars, and sails on a sailing vessel.

**Spars** A wooden or metal pole used to support sails and rigging.

**Starboard** The right side of the ship when you are facing toward her prow.

# People Words

Are ye a landlubber or a corsair? Read on if ye don't know.

**Buccaneer** A robber upon the sea; a pirate; a term applied especially to the piratical adventurers who made depredations on the Spaniards in America in the 17th and 18th centuries (Caribbean Pirates).

**Corsair** A pirate; one who cruises about without authorization from any government, to seize booty on sea or land (Mediterranean Pirates).

**Deadlights** Yer eyes, lad!

**Hand** One who is part of a group or crew.

**Jack** A flag or a sailor; showing how sailors would refer to thier ship's colors as one of the crew

**Jack o' Coins** The paymaster or Quartermaster. **Jack o' Cups** The First Mate.

**Jack o' Staves** The First Lieutenant. **Jack o' Swords** The Bosun.

**Jack Ketch** A public executioner or hangman. To Dance with Jack Ketch is to hang.

**Jack Tar** A popular colloquial name for a sailor (also called Jack Afloat).

**Lad** A young man.

**Landlubber** or lubber A person who lives and works on land or an inexperienced sailor; a sailor on the first voyage.

**Lass** A girl or young woman.

**Matey** Sociable; friendly. A way to address another pirate you are familiar with.

**Messdeck** lawyer A know-it-all.

**On the Account** Living the life of a pirate. If you are Going On The Account, you are becoming a pirate.

**Privateers** A ship privately owned and crewed but authorized by a government during wartime to attack and capture enemy vessels.

**Scallywag** A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.

**Scurvy** Vile; mean; low; vulgar; contemptible. Ye Scurvy Dogs!

**Sprogs** Raw, untrained recruits or children.

**Squiffy** A buffoon. **Sutler** A supplier. **Swab** A sailor, often a lout.

# Object Words

Ye know what thar things be? Piratey objects!

**Booty** Goods or property seized by force or piracy.

**Cat O'Nine Tails** An instrument of punishment consisting of nine pieces of knotted line or cord fastened to a handle used to flog offenders on the bare back.

**Chantey, Shantey, Shanty** A song sung by sailors to the rhythm of their movements while working.

**Cutlass** A short heavy sword with a curved single-edged blade, once used as a weapon by sailors.

**Deadlights** Eyes.

**Doubloons** A gold coin formerly used in Spain and Spanish America. In Puzzle Pirates, a currency purchased with real money.

**Grog** An alcoholic liquor, especially rum diluted with water.

**Hempen Halter** The hangman's noose.

**Jolly Roger** A black flag bearing a white skull and crossbones; indicates a pirate ship.

**Letter of Marque** A license to a private citizen to seize property of another nation.

**Pieces of Eight** An old Spanish silver coin. In Puzzle Pirates, they are gold.

**Rope's end** A piece of rope; especially, one used as a lash in inflicting punishment.

**Six Pounders** Cannons.

**The Hulks** Old or dismasted ships, formerly used as prisons.

# Action Words

Know what we pirates are doing? Read on and ye will!

**Black Spotted** Similar to being black balled, it marks a pirate for death.

**Careen** To lean (a ship) on one side for cleaning, caulking, or repairing.

**Chain Shot** Two cannon balls united by a shot chain, formerly used in naval warfare on account of their destructive effect on a ship's rigging.

**Chase** To engage in pursuit of quarry or the ship being pursued.

**Heave To** To turn a sailing ship so that its bow heads into the wind and the ship lies motionless except for drifting, in order to meet a storm.

**Hornswaggle** To cheat.

**Keelhaul** To haul under the keel of a ship, by ropes attached to the yardarms on each side, used as a punishment.

**Marooned** To put ashore on a deserted island or coast and intentionally abandon.

**Overhaul** To gain upon in a chase; to overtake.

**Scuttle** To cut or open a hole or holes in a ship's hull or to sink a ship by this means.

**Titivate** To clean up or make shipshape.

**"To Be Three Sheets in the Wind"** Casting out all three sails, causing the ship to shudder and stagger like a drunken sailor.

**Walk the plank** To be forced, as by pirates, to walk off a plank extended over the side of a ship so as to drown.

**Weigh anchor** Heave up an anchor in preparation for sailing (can be used for to leave port).

# Pirate Phrases

*Aaaarrrrggggghhhh!* - exhortation of discontent or disgust

*Ahoy!* - Hello!

*Ahoy, Matey* - Hello, my friend!

*Ahoy, me Hearties!* - the same as saying "Hello, my friends!"

*All hand hoay!* - comparable to all hands on deck

*Avast ye* - stop and check this out or pay attention

*Aye* - yes

*Batten down the hatches* - put everything away on the ship and tie everything down because a storm is brewing

*Bilge-sucking* - insult

*Blimey!* - exhortation of surprise

*Blow me down!* - expression of shock of disbelief akin to "Holy Crap!"

*Blow the man down* - command to kill someone

*Booty* - treasure

*Buccaneer* - a pirate

*Bucko* - a buccaneer

*Cat O'Nine Tails* - a whip with nine strands

*Corsair* - pirates in the Mediterranean Sea

*Crow's nest* - small platform atop the mast where the lookout stands

*Cutlass* - short heavy curved bladed sword used by pirates

*Davy Jones' Locker* - fabled, mythical place at the bottom of the ocean where the evil spirit of Davy Jones brings sailor and pirates to die

*Dead men tell no tales* - phrase indicating to leave no survivors

*Doubloons* - other coins or found in pirate hoards and stashes

*Feed the fish* - will soon die

*Hang 'im from the yardarm* - punishment of those captured in battle

*Head* - the pirate ship's toilet    *Heave Ho* - give it some muscle and push it

*Hempen Halter* - a noose for hanging

*Hornswaggle* - to defraud or cheat out of money or belongings

*Jacob's Ladder* - the rope ladder one uses to climb aboard a sloop

*Jolly Roger* - pirate's flag including white skull and crossbones over a black field

*Keelhaul* - punishment in which a person were dragged underneath the pirate ship from side to side and was lacerated by the barnacles on the vessel

*Lad, lass, lassie* - a younger person

*Landlubber* - big, slow clumsy person who doesn't know how to sail

*Letters of Marque* - letters issue from governments during wartime to privateers endorsing the piracy of another vessel

*Man-O-War* - pirate's ship outfitted for battle      *Me* - my

*Mizzen* - third mast from the bow of the ship on ships that have three or more masts

*Old Salt* - an experienced sailor      *Pieces of eight* - coins or found in pirate stashes

*Pillage* - rob, sack or plunder

*Poop deck* - the part of the ship farthest to the back, which is usually above the captain's quarters. This is not the bathroom.

*Privateer* - government-sponsored pirates      *Rum* - pirate's traditional alcoholic beverage

*Run a shot across the bow* - warning shot to another vessel's captain

*Savvy?* - do you understand and do you agree?

*Sallywag* - mild insult akin to rascalion or rogue

*Scurvy dog* - the pirate is talking directly to you with mild insult

*Scuttle* - to sink a ship      *Seadog* - old pirate or sailor

*Shark bait* - will soon join Davy Jones' Locker

*Shipshape* - cleaned up and under control

*Shiver me timbers!* - comparable to "Holy Crap!"

*Son of a Biscuit Eater* - insult directed towards someone you don't like

*Thar she blows!* - Whale sighting

*Three sheets to the wind* - someone who is very drunk. One sheet is mildly drunk and four sheets is passed out.

*Walk the plank* - punishment in which person walks off a board jutting over the side of the ship while at sea. The consequence is drowning and a visit to Davy Jones' Locker.

*Weigh anchor and hoist the mizzen!* - pull up the anchor and the sail and let's get going

*Ye* - you      *Yo Ho Ho* - cheerful exhortation to demand attention