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Boat-menclature

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From cooking to bocce ball to air traffic control, different walks of life beget different vocabularies. Being a mariner brings with it an entire codex of terms and phrases like fid, equinoctial and Flying Dutchman. But like most other foreign languages, once you get to know the terms using them becomes second nature.

Full and By – Sailing as close as possible to the wind, with all sails full and drawing.

Even Keel - A boat is considered even keel when it is floating upright on its designed waterline without any list to either side.

EPIRB – EPIRB stands for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon and is an emergency device that alerts satellites or passing airplanes of a vessel's position by using radio signals.

Fiddler's Green – A sailor's paradise, where amusements were plentiful, and the women were accommodating.

Forecastle – The area of a vessel that is most forward in the below decks area. This is frequently the crew quarters on a traditional sailing ship. It is pronounced "foke-sul."

Following Sea – A sea is said to be a following sea when its waves are moving in the same direction as the vessel.

Ease the Sheets - To slowly let the sheet—a line controlling a sail—out while maintaining control.

Flare – Commonly, a flare is thought of as a distress signal. Alternatively, this also refers to the outward curve of a vessel's sides near its bow.

Free Pratique – Clearance by the Health Authorities.