

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 21, 1928

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WIND DIRECTIONS AT SEA

While the landsman has but one system for indicating the direction of the wind - viz, by compass points - the sailor has two. He not only describes winds as north, east, south, etc., but also according to a system based on the angle between the direction of the wind and the direction toward which his vessel is headed. Ansted's "Dictionary of Sea Terms" enumerates the following winds included in the second system:

1. Wind ahead.
2. Wind abaft. (Sailing with such a wind is called "running".)
3. Wind on the port beam.
4. Wind on the starboard beam.
5. Wind on the port bow.
6. Wind on the starboard bow. (A vessel with the wind on either bow is sailing "close-hauled".)
7. Wind athwart the beam, port side.
8. Wind athwart the beam, starboard side. (With the wind athwart the beam a vessel is "reaching".)
9. Wind abaft the beam, port side.
10. Wind abaft the beam, starboard side. (With wind abaft the beam the vessel is sailing "large" or "free".)
11. Wind on the port quarter.
12. Wind on the starboard quarter.

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