

The Little Pirate

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Pirate Speak

Insights that will help you break the pirate code!

Addled	to be mad or insane, maybe just plain stupid
Ahoy	hello
Avast	hold fast, stop and pay attention
Begad	By God!
Bilge	nonsense or foolish talk taken from the lowest part of the ship inside the hull along the keel, how low can you go?
Bilge sucking	uncomplimentary expression
Blaggard	an insult
Booty	loot
Buccaneer	Caribbean pirates
Bucko	'me bucko' "My Friend"
Bung hole	food was stored in wooden casks the stopper in the barrel was called the bung. Pirate food was bad so being called a Bung Hole wasn't a compliment.
Buoy	to lift
C: Si, si	a Spanish pirate term for 'yes!'
Cap'n	short for captain
Cat-o' nine tails	or cat for whip made of nine leather straps used for flogging. It will smarten you up!
Chase	ship being pursued
Cockswain	the Cap'n's attendant, one who would do the rowing.
Corsair	a romantic term for Pirate
Cutlass	a curved sword

Crows nest	the platform near the top of the mast, a position to look out.
Dance the Hempen Jig	to hang from a noose made of hemp
Davy Jones Locker	the bottom of the sea
Dead men tell no tales	leave no survivors
Doubloon	a Spanish Gold coin
Doldrums	not really going anywhere
Feed the fish	when you are thrown overboard
Freebooter	a pirate is one who seeks to live free by plundering others.
Gangway	'get out of my way'
Go on Account	to become a pirate
Godspeed	good bye and good luck
Grog	an alcoholic drink, pirates prefer rum.
Hornswaggle	to cheat or defraud, to act like a pirate
I: Aye	'yes'
Jolly Roger	the Pirates Skull and crossbones flag, an invitation to surrender
Kiss the gunner's daughter	punishment, to be bent over a cannon and flogged
Lad, lass, lassie	someone younger than you
Landlubber	'Lubber" an old English term for being big, slow, and clumsy, not very skilled, as if they said: "I bet you were no better on land."
List	to tilt to one side
Letters of Marque	papers used by a national government entitling a private sea going vessel to raid enemy commerce
Maroon	to be abandoned and deserted. A convenient way for pirates to get rid of someone without actually killing them.
Me Hearties	a way a Cap'n would address his crew

Matey	a cheerful and friendly pirate address
Over a barrel	bent over the canon and forced to receive the punishment of the 'cat-o- nine tails'
Picaroon	a Spanish term of derision meaning a rascal.
Piece of Eight	a Spanish silver coin that could be cut into eight pieces
Pillage	to raid, rob and sack
Pirate	a seagoing robber and murderer
Port	a sea port
R: Arrrrrr	Glee
Rum	a traditional pirate drink
Sail ho!	'I see a ship'
Scuppers	spaces on the edge of a ship's deck to allow water to drain back into the sea
Scurvy	a disease caused by the lack of vitamin C, a bad sickness and a derogatory term, 'ye scurvy dogs'
Sink me	surprise
Shark bait	your foes are about to 'feed the fish', or a worthless and lazy sailor, a 'lubber'
Ship shape	a well organized ship, under control, finished or complete
Shiver Me Timbers	shock or disbelief, perhaps from the shock of running the ship into a reef, or from being hit with a cannon ball.
Yo-ho-ho	a pirate thing to say

Chapter Two: A Pirate Meets His Own Needs

The Little Pirate in You

(art of the Boucan knife)

Hank was in love with the ship life at Ahoy! He felt so alive with his new found identity as a pirate. And now he was part of a high seas fraternity, a band of Buccaneers who called themselves the Brethren of the Coast. These Buckos quickly learned to trust no one and to savage, self protect and to meet their own need in their own ways. And there was a good reason these pirates were called Buccaneers, you see, that knife they kept near their heart was called a "boucan". The Indians from Hispaniola had learned to cut down a cutlass, a long shank that was difficult to wield. Alas they had a quick strike weapon they could use to hack and to slash with to meet their own needs, and they could hide it under their blouse. Think about it, are there things that describe you, that reinforce your identity? This Boucan knife helped define these Buccaneers, they were proud of their Boucans!

God help you if you were of Spanish origin and just happen to be in the vicinity of Hank and his mateys, if they found you they would pull their Boucans on you and turn you into shark bait. Hank quickly transformed himself into a real sea dog; he had quickly learned the art of tying sails, swabbing and running a ship shape sea schooner. He had caught a vision for his life as that of a pirate and as a bonus he received a position and power that made him feel very important. With this position came with prestige and a name that would make him great, this was his ambition, and Hank would aspire to the rank of Cap'n, shoot fire, with this title he could have his own fleet someday!

One would never call young Hank a "slack off" a term developed from a lead weight that was swung from a line from off the ship to measure the depth. No, Hank was always an "all out or not at all" kind of 'cockswain' and this way of behavin met his needs because it caused him to advance in rank and responsibility. I think the word 'cocky' came from this term, and this attitude is a way for a young man to get his needs met.

Pirates are known for their partying and wild living. Hank would yell out to his mates "Bucko" and say let's party. Some think the original Bar-be-Que came from these Bucaneers who would take their long knives (Boucan) and cut meat that was smoking on the fire pit. They loved to eat this smoked meat and can't you just see them walking around with some smoted tenderloin hanging from their boucan?

Hank was always the first to crack open the keg and get the spiced rum to flow. Hank was no bloak, he knew that liquor was an effective tool that could open lots of things. He used it to open up their yappers and once their yappers were yapping, he would know the secrets on his ship. He also found that pirates would sell their souls for spiced rum, so he used these so called spirits to get what he wanted out of his men. Being known as a partying Cap'n didn't hurt his image either, everyone wanted to be with him and loved the stores he told. They were all impressed to laugh at his jokes; there were consequences for being a sore sport. Ever hear of walking the plank?

Hank made friends everywhere by splicing the main brace and he discovered that when they pulled into port if he wanted to know the news on the street all he had to do was get them to down the rum down the old hatch and the rumors and secrets flowed into his lap. Soon Hank was appointed Vice Admiral and enjoyed the parties that would follow a good day of plundering.

For a year or so Hank served alongside Cap'n Mansfelt, one day Mansfelt was given orders to attack the Dutch settlement of Curacao, but, a pirate meets his own needs in his own way while out at sea, so "a vote was taken" and the decision was made that because Curacao was not rich enough they would go to Providence instead. The Spanish people of Providence were in siesta mode and surrendered all their forts quickly.

This success only reinforced the pirate's independent attitude and reminded them that pirates don't really have bosses they just meet what they think are their own needs in their own way. To cut to the chase, a pirate does what he wants. To heck with orders from any leader, and this was Hank's challenge he knew he was a pirate with an independent streak, leading other pirates who were as independent as he. Why did he even think for a minute that he could lead pirates? How arrogant is that? The Old King James calls a person who lives independently like this a "sinner". In reality there are only two types of people in the world, Saints and Sinners. Guess what saints do?

James 4

¹From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

²Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

⁵Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

⁶But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

⁹Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

A pirate has a pirate heart, and pirate behaviors flow out of a pirate identity. A little Pirate history will show that "Peg-Leg" played the victim, he made that limp work for him. Can you see him grab a man by the beard with one hand, and the other gripping his boucan while he says: "you took my life, now you owe me your life". Talk about control, it is the pirate way. Can you picture old "Hook Hand" intimidate a man with his hook and get what he wants? Remember "Patch Eye" and see how he used that single eye to focus on what he wanted. He too knew how to get his needs met in his own way and nothing would stop him.

William Ernest Henley a British poet seemed to understand the heart of a pirate when he penned Invictus:

INVICTUS

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.*

*It matters not how straight the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

A Pirate meets his own need in his own ways.