



Terminology

A to K

Addressing the Target: The archer's stance straddling the shooting line prior to shooting the arrow.

Aim: Visually lining up a sight pin to the centre of the target; if a sight is not used, visual placement of the tip of the arrow on a specific point while shooting at a target over a given distance.

Anchor Point: The fixed position of the bowstring hand on the jaw or cheek while holding or aiming. .

Arm Guard: Device worn on forearm and wrist areas of the bow arm to protect the arm from impact.

Arrow Rest: Device mounted just above the arrow shelf on the bow on which the arrow rests during draw, hold and release.

Back: The side of the bow limb away from the string.

Bare Bow: Method of shooting which does not use a bow sight.

Belly: Side of the bow facing the archer.

Bow Arm: The arm in which the bow is held.

Bow Hand: The hand in which the bow is held.

Brace/String Height: Distance between the pivot point of the bow and the string.

Bracing: Process of stringing the bow in preparation for shooting, by placing the bowstring loops into position in the notches of the bow.

Bull's Eye: The centre of the target or that part of the target face with the highest scoring value.

Butt: A mound of straw on which the target face is placed.

Cast: the amount of limb movement throughout the draw cycle.

Clout: Shooting at a relatively long distance at a large target lying, or painted, flat on the ground.

Cock Feather: The feather at right angle to the slit in the nock of the arrow and usually a different colour from the remaining feathers.

Composite Bow: Bow composed of two or more materials, such as wood and fibreglass.

Compound Bow: Bow invented by H.W. Allen in 1966, designed with an eccentric pulley system to maximize pull weight poundage at mid-draw and minimize stacking at full draw.

Creeping: Undesired forward motion of the bowstring from the anchor point immediately prior to release.

Draw: The process of moving the bowstring with nocked arrow from brace height to the archer's anchor point on the face.

Drift: Deviation in the flight of an arrow due to wind.

End: A set number of arrows which are shot before going to the target (typically 3, 5, or 6) to score and retrieve them.

Finger Tab: Leather device worn to prevent blistering on the surface of the three drawing fingers.

Fletching: The stabilizing feathers attached to an arrow between the nock and crest. See vane.

Follow-Through: The act of holding the release position until the arrow has struck the target.

Grip/Handle: The centre portion of the bow where the hand exerts pressure during the draw.

Grouping: The arrangement of the end of arrows on the target face after they have been shot.

Hanging Arrow: An arrow that does not penetrate the target, but dangles from its point.

Hit: An arrow which embeds itself within one of the scoring areas on the target face.

Holding: The act of maintaining the bow and arrow in a stable position at full draw prior to release.

Kick: When the bow shoots with a jar to the bow hand.



Terminology

L to Z

- Let Down:** Releasing tension after drawing without releasing the arrow.
- Limbs:** The energy-storing parts of the bow located above and below the riser.
- Longbow:** A long, relatively straight bow that preceded the recurve bow in many cultures.
- Longrod:** Forward facing stabiliser for shock & balance.
- Nock:** Device on the end of the arrow opposite the point, made with a groove for holding the arrow to the bowstring when placed in position for shooting.
- Nocking:** The technique of placing the arrow on the bowstring in preparation for shooting.
- Nocking Point:** The position on the string where the arrow is placed. Typically marked by the nock locator.
- Notch:** The slits at the ends of the bow for the string.
- Overdraw:** Drawing the arrow beyond the face of the bow or drawing the bow to its point of maximum stress on the limbs.
- Peeking:** Undesired motion of the archer's head at time of release in an attempt to follow the arrow trajectory into the target.
- Plucking:** Undesired lateral motion of the string hand and arm away from the bowstring at time of release.
- Point/Pile:** The tip of the arrow that pierces the target. Classifications include: target; field; broadhead; and blunt.
- Pressure Point:** Place on the arrow plate against which the arrow lies and exerts pressure when the arrow is released. It can be cushioned or spring loaded.
- Quiver:** Any device designed to hold arrows not being shot.
- Rebound:** An arrow that bounces off the target face.
- Recurve Bow:** Bow manufactured so the ends of the limbs deflect toward the back of the bow to increase leverage when the bow is braced.
- Release:** The act of putting the arrow into flight due to a release of pressure on the bowstring.
- Riser:** The areas of the bow just above and below the grip.
- Round:** Term used to designate the number of arrows to be shot at specific distances at specific target faces or targets.
- Serving:** Protective thread wrapped around the bowstring where the arrow is nocked.
- Shaft:** The body of the arrow upon which the nock, fletching, and point are mounted, and the crest is printed.
- Shooting Line:** The line straddled by archers during shooting which indicates a specific distance from the target in target archery.
- Sight/Bowsight:** Adjustable device attached to the bow which facilitates the aiming process for the archer.
- Skirt/Petticoat:** The outermost perimeter of the target face outside the scoring area.
- Spine:** The measured deflection of an arrow when depressed by a two-pound weight at its centre.
- Stabilizer:** Weighted device added to the riser of the bow and designed to reduce torque and absorb shock upon release.
- Tackle:** Equipment used by an archer.
- Target Face:** The scoring area of the target.
- Tiller:** Device for holding the bow at draw and to inspect the curvature.
- T-Square:** Device used to measure brace height and locate the nocking point on the bowstring.
- Trajectory:** The parabolic flight pattern of an arrow following release.
- Tuning:** Adjustment of arrow rest, pressure point, string height and nocking height to improve arrow flight; includes determination of correct spine.
- Vane:** A term used most commonly when fletching is made of plastic or rubber instead of feathers.
- Weigh/Draw Weight:** The bow manufacturer's determined number of pounds required to draw each bow's string at a given draw length.