



ARCHERY LANGUAGE

Archery, like any sport has a vocabulary all its own, with many terms defined in a unique manner. This is necessary so archers can communicate with each other very succinctly and precisely.

The following is a list of the common archery terms and there meanings:

ARROW LENGTH	The term used to describe the length of the arrow shaft, measured from the nock groove to the end of the arrow shaft but not including the point.
ANCHOR POINT	The term used to describe the placing of the drawing hand against the face when at full draw.
AIMING	The term given to act of aiming the bow
ALUMINIUM ARROWS	Arrow constructed of aluminum tube. Easton is the principle manufacturer of aluminium arrows. Sizes are identified with 4 numbers, which are etched onto each shaft. The first 2 numbers indicate the approx outside diameter in 64 th of an inch. The second 2 numbers indicate the shaft wall thickness in thousandths of an inch. Example 1816 is approx 18/64" in diameter with a .016" or 16 thousandth of a wall thickness
AMO	Archery Manufacturers Organization (based in the USA) which sets manufacturing standards for archery equipment.
ARCHERS PARADOX	The name given to the side-to-side bending motion of an arrow as it leaves a recurve or longbow.
ARCHERY AUSTRALIA Inc or AA	The national archery association of Australia
RGB	The Regional Governing Bodies of the sport in Australia, ArcheryNSW, ArcheryACT, Archery Victoria, Archery Society of Tasmania, Archery SA, Archery Society of WA, North Queensland Archery Association and South Queensland Archery Association.
ARM GUARD	Protection worn on the forearm designed to protect the arm from the bowstring
ARROW REST	A device mounted on the bow window just above the bow shelf designed to support the arrow during drawing, holding and the shot
AXLE TO AXLE LENGTH	This refers to the length of a compound bow which is measured between the axles e.g. 42"
BACK TENSION	The rotation of the shoulder unit and scapular (shoulder blades) to draw and release the bow.
BACK OF BOW	The side of the bow away from the archer when the bow is drawn
BELLY OF BOW	The side of the bow facing the archer when the bow is drawn
BERGER BUTTON	The generic name given to a Plunger Buttons, named after the inventor of the Plunger Button Vic Berger in the early 1960's.
BLANK SHAFT TEST	A method of bow tuning where unfletched and fletched arrows are shot, adjustment are made by comparing the positions of the fletched and unfletched arrows, generally only used on recurve archers.
BOUNCER	An arrow rebounding from the target butt when shot.

BOW ARM	The arm, which hold the bow										
BOW HAND	The hand which holds the bow										
BOW LENGTH	Indicates the length of recurve or longbow measured from tip to tip along the bow when unstrung, this measurement is usually marked on the bow by the manufacturer e.g. 68"										
BOW SIGHT	The device fitted to the bow enabling the archer to aim at the target.										
BOW SLING	A piece of leather or string which attached to the bow and fits around the wrist during shooting. It allows the archer to keep a relaxed grip and helps prevent the bow from falling to the ground after release										
BOW STRAND	A device used safely to support the bow when not in use										
BOW STRING	The string of the bow usually made of Dacron or a non stretch material										
BOW STRINGER	A device used to string and unstring recurve bows and longbows with safety.										
BOW (DRAW) WEIGHT	For recurve bows, this refers to the amount of energy measured in pounds which is created when the bow is drawn back. The weight marked on a bow is determined by drawing the bow 28". This weight will vary from the weight marked on the bow if the bow is drawn more or less than 28 inches. Drawing more then 28" will increase the bow draw weight and drawing less than 28" will give a lower than marked draw weight. The only method that can be used to accurately check a bows draw weight is by using a scale. With many recurve bows the weight is adjustable by about 5lb to 8 lb this weight adjustment features is used to fine tune arrows. Ideally you should set up the bow so the weight is set in the mid weight adjustment setting, then adjust up and down until you achieve correct arrow tuning. If a scale is not available you can estimate the draw weight by taking the marked bow weight and divide it by 20. Multiply the answer by the number of inches the draw length differs from 28". Next subtract (for under 28") or add (if greater then 28") the calculated amount from the marked bow weight. EXAMPLE 1 <table><tr><td>Marked Weight 42lb @ 28"</td><td>Marked Weight 42lb @ 28"</td></tr><tr><td>Draw length 29 1/2"</td><td>Draw length 27 1/4"</td></tr><tr><td>42lb divided by 20 equals 2.1lb</td><td>42lb divided by 20 equals 2.1lb</td></tr><tr><td>2.1lb times 1.5 equals 3.15lb</td><td>2.1lb times 75 equals 1.57lb</td></tr><tr><td>42lb plus 3.15lb equals 45.15lb</td><td>42lb minus 1.57lb equals 40.43lb</td></tr></table> For compound bows the draw weight is the maximum weight achieved during the draw, the point where the maximum weight is achieved is called the "Peak". When the wheels (cams) roll over reduce holding weigh this is called "Let off", when maximum let off is achieved you are at the full draw position. Compound draw weight is adjustable by screwing the limb both in to increase and out to decrease bow weight, compounds usually have a 10lb to 15lb weight adjustment range. Because of the large amount of adjustment available to compound bows the only way to determine bow weight of a compound is to use a bow scale.	Marked Weight 42lb @ 28"	Marked Weight 42lb @ 28"	Draw length 29 1/2"	Draw length 27 1/4"	42lb divided by 20 equals 2.1lb	42lb divided by 20 equals 2.1lb	2.1lb times 1.5 equals 3.15lb	2.1lb times 75 equals 1.57lb	42lb plus 3.15lb equals 45.15lb	42lb minus 1.57lb equals 40.43lb
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BOW WINDOW	The cut off of the bow handle which Is usually cut on or past center to allow clearance of the arrow										
BOWMAN	The name given to an archer										
BOWYER	The name given to a person who makes bows										
BRACE	To string the bow										

BRACE HEIGHT	Term used to describe the measurement between the bow handle (grip) and the string measured at right angle, also called Fistmele
BRACER	An old term used to describe an armguard
BULGE POINT	A type of point that is larger in diameter then the arrow shaft. It is designed to prevent arrow wear and to allow easier removal of the arrow from the target butt.
BUTT	Describes the material or backing used to stop an arrow upon which a target face is attached. Also can be called buttress, boss or matt.
CABLE	Made of either metal or non stretch string material used on compound bows
CAM	The eccentric wheels (cams) used on compound bows that provide the mechanical operation of a compound bow.
CANT	Tilting the bow left or right from the vertical when at full draw
CARBON FIBRE	A modern material used in bow limbs and arrows shafts
CAST	The term used fairly loosely, which could mean the speed imparted to the arrow, the distance at which the bow will shoot or the degree of flatness of the arrows trajectory.
CENTER SHOT	The term used to describe setting up the arrow so it is positioned in the true center of the bow (recurve) or the "Limb Balanced Centre" of a compound bow. Adjustable arrow rests and plungers buttons are used to adjust center shot
CLOUT	Competition where archers shoot arrows into the air attempting to score using a target laid on the ground. Also an old English word for "cloth", small white flag or circular target for long distance shooting.
COMPOSITE BOW	A bow made of more then one material such as wood, fiberglass and metal.
COMPOUND BOW	A modern style of bow incorporating the use of wheels or cams
CREEPING	Allowing the arrow to move forward while at full draw and before release.
CREST	Identifying marks or pattern on the arrow, usually positioned in front of the fethes.
DEAD RELEASE	The term used to describe a release without any motion. Usually occurs when the interphalangeal joints of the fingers gripping the bowstring extend due to the kinetic energy of the bow instead of any muscular reaction
DEFLEX	Describes the design of a bow handle with a forward grip.
DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING or DOS	The person responsible for the conduct of a competition or shoot
DRAW	The process of moving the bowstring with a nocked arrow from brace height to the archer's anchor point on the face
DRAW WEIGHT	The weight measured in pounds required to draw a bow. For recurve and longbows the measurement used is 28" e.g 36lb @28". The bow weight of compound bows is the maximum weight achieved when drawing the bow, this position will vary depending upon draw length and cam/wheel design
DRAWING ARM	The arm used to draw the bow
DRAWING HAND	The hand used to draw the bow
DOMINATE EYE	The master eye used for aiming.
DRIFT	The movement of an arrow while in flight due to crosswinds
DYNAMIC SPINE	Dynamic spine (also called Column Load) describes the amount an arrow bends when the string is first released and the bow's stored energy is applied to the arrow. The amount the arrow bends is determined by a number of factors and can be varied using these factors. Factors that will affect dynamic spine are – shaft length, shaft weight and diameter, point weight, weight of nock and weight of fletches. There is no defined formula for hanging or varying dynamic spine, it's a hit and miss operation due to a large number of variable.
ACE ARROW	A brand of arrows manufactured by Easton Aluminium being made of aluminium and carbon fiber
X10 ARROW	All Easton X10 shafts are made from one size of aluminium core tube. The

	aluminium tube is identified the same as an aluminium shaft e.g. 906 (9/64" in diameter and .006" in wall thickness). The shaft
ECCENTRIC WHEEL	The wheel or cam used on compound bows
END	A term used to describe the number of arrows shot before the score is recorded, an end is usually made up of 6 or 3 arrows
FACE	The printed coloured paper or cloth attached to the butt for scoring
FIELD CAPTAIN	The old name for a person in charge of an archery tournament, the modern term is Director of Shooting (DOS)
FIELD OF PLAY	The designated shooting area.
FINGER SLING	A piece of leather or string with loops at each end and is designed to fit around the archer's thumb and index finger during shooting. It allows the archer to keep a relaxed grip and helps prevent the bow from falling to the ground after release
FINGER TAB	A device usually made of leather worn on the fingers for protection
FISTMELE	Old term used to describe the measurement between the bow handle (grip) and the string measured at right angle, also called Brace Height
FITA	The international archery federation, Federation Internationale De Tir a L'Arc
FLETCHING	The term used to describe the vanes (plastic or feather) placed on the rear of the arrow to stabilize the arrow in flight
FLIGHT SHOOTING	An archery event where the object is to obtain the greatest distance from an arrow
FLINCH	An undesired and sudden motion of the bow arm and or drawing hand prior to or at release. Usually created by a loss of concentration or the anticipation of the shot
FLU-FLU	A special arrow with large or spiraled fletching designed to increase the drag coefficient in order to shorten the distance the arrow can travel
FOLLOW THROUGH	The act of holding the release position until the arrow has struck the target
FORCED DRAW CURVE	A graph showing the increase in bow weight as the bow is draw to full draw
GAP SHOOTING	An aiming technique whereby the archer (not using a sight) estimates the distance (gap) between a selected point and the target.
GOLD	The name for the center of an archery target
GOLD SHYNESS	The term used to describe the archers inability to aim on the centre of the target. Usually caused by a lack of confidence or fear of performing poorly a common problem experienced in archery. The major cause is the archer's inability to release while aimed and the constant movement of the archers focus from aiming to release and back again thought the aim/release process.
GRIP	The position on the bow handle where the bow is held or the term used to describe holding the bow.
GROUND QUIVER	A quiver used to hold arrows and sometime the bow which sits on the ground.
GROUPING	The proximity of the end of arrows in the target after they have been shot
HANDLE	The middle section of a bow also can be called the riser
HANGING ARROW	An arrow, which has not penetrated the butt but held by the target face, the arrow hanging across the target.
HEEL	Placing excessive pressure low on the bow grip buy the palm or lower part of the thumb muscle.
HELICAL	The term used to describe the spiral method of attaching fetches to an arrow, helical fletching is intended to increase the arrows rotation (spin) when in flight.
HIT	The term which describes an arrow which has embedded into one of the scoring areas of a target face
HOLDING	The pause between drawing and release where the aiming process takes place.
INDEX FLETCH	This term replaces the older term "cock fletch". For recurve and longbows the feather or vane at right angle to the groove in the

	nock of the arrow, usually a different colour. The index fletch points out from the bow and allows for a clean path for the arrow past the bow upon release. For compound bows depending upon the style of arrow rest being used the index fletch points either up or down to when the arrow sits on the arrow rest.
INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING	The term used to describe a shooting method without the aid of a sighting device
JIG	FLETCHING - A tool used for making or repairing fletches on an arrow. STRING – A device used for making bowstrings
KISSER BUTTON	Small attachment on the string usually felt by the lips at full draw and made of plastic, helps with consistency in draw and elevation. Used only on recurve bows and never used on compound bows.
LET DOWN	The act of slowly releasing tension at full draw without releasing the arrow
LET OFF	The term used to describe the reduction in weight when a compound bows is drawn past the peak weight and the cam/wheel turn over
LIMBS	The flexible upper and lower parts of the bow which bend when the bow is drawn
LONG BOW	A old style simply bow with straight limbs
LOOSE	The English term used to describe the release
MASS WEIGHT	The physical weight of the bow
NOCK	The plastic attachment on the rear of the arrow which allows the arrow to be attached to the string
NOCK TAPER	The taper at the rear of some arrows which is at 11 ⁰ designed to allow the nocks to be glued onto the shaft
NOCKING POINT	The position on the string where the arrow locates usually identified with 2 small attachments
OPEN STANCE	Standing position where you open you body to the target when at full draw.
OVERBOWED	An archer shooting a bow, which is too heavy in draw weight for their ability.
OVERDRAWN or OVERDRAW	Overdrawn - Term used to describe drawing a bow past the usual draw length position, drawing the bow too far back and making excessive face contact. Overdraw - An attachment fitted with an arrow rest or a particular type of arrow rest that allows the archer to shoot shorter arrows giving greater arrow speed.
OVERSTRUNG	A bow with a brace height which is too high.
PAPER TEST	A method of bow tuning where arrows are shot through paper adjustments are made by reviewing the teat patterns, commonly used for tuning compound bows.
PASS THROUGH	The term used to describe an arrow passing through a target butt. These usually happen when the butt is worn and does not have enough material to stop an arrow.
PARABOLIC	The term used to describe the flight path of an arrow or the curve shape of fletches.
PEAK WEIGHT	The maximum weight achieved when drawing a compound bow
PEEKING	An undesired movement of the archer's head at the time of release in an attempt to follow the arrow trajectory to the target
PEEP SIGHT	Rear sight fitted into the bowstring and used with compound bows.
PERFECT END	Shooting 6 arrows in the 10 ring, an "All Gold" is six arrows in the gold (10 and 9 scoring zones).
PILE	A term used to describe the point of the arrow, usually refers to a target point
PINCH	The undesired action of squeezing the arrow nock tightly between the fingers during draw of at full draw causing the arrow to move (fall) off the arrow rest

PIVOT POINT	The pivot point is the deepest part of the bow grip where the bow shot be positioned when shooting and allows the bow to pivot against your bow hand
PLUCKING	Undesired forced sideways motion of the drawing hand and arm from the face upon release as a result of little or no tension
POINT OF AIM	A method of aiming where you use the arrow point and at full draw line up with a mark on the ground or a position on or near the target to aim.
POWDER TEST	A test carried out using spray powder to check for arrow clearance. The powder is sprayed on the arrow or bow window and arrow rest (or both), as the arrow is shot if there is any problem with clearance a mark will show in the powder. Appropriate adjustments can then be made.
POWER STROKE	This is a term used for compound bows and the refers to the bow string forward movement.
PULL	The term used to describe drawing the bow
QUIVER	From the French word "Cuivre" a container for holding arrows. Usually worn around the waist.
REBOUND	An arrow which does not penetrate the target face or butt and bounces off the target
RECURVE BOW	A bow made manufactured so the limbs bend toward the target to increase power when the bow is released
REFLEX	Describes the design of a bow handle with a rear grip.
RELEASE	The act of releasing (letting go) the bow string when at full draw and allowing the arrow to fly toward the target
RELEASE AID	A mechanical device for releasing the string, used with compound bows
RISER	The middle section of a bow also can be called the handle
ROUND	The term use to designate the number of arrows to be shot at specific distances at specific target face.
SCATTER	Arrows distributed unevenly over a large portion of the target face and / or ground
SCOPE SIGHT	The magnified sight used for compound bows.
SELF BOW	A bow made entirely of one piece of wood, as opposed to a composite (laminated) bow made from laminating various pieces of material.
SERVING	The protective thread wrapped (bound) around the bowstring at the tips and in the center where the arrow is nocked to protect from wear.
SHAFT	The body of the arrow upon which the nock, fletching and point are attached.
SHOOTING GLOVE	A three finger protective device used to protect the fingers from the bowstring instead of a finger tab.
SHOOTING LINE	The line straddled by the archers when shooting.
SIGHT LEVEL	The bubble level used in conjunction with the scope sight for compound bows.
SIGHT WINDOW	The cut out section (usually past center) of the bow handle (riser) which has the arrow rest fitted and allows for clearance for the arrow.
SPINE	The amount of bend (deflection) of an arrow measured in thousands of an inch when it is depressed by a 2 pound (880gr) weight at its center.
SQUARE STANCE	Standing position where the archers feet, hips and shoulders are square to the target when at full draw
STABILIZER	Rod / s protruding from the handle (riser) usually with weights attached. Designed to reduce torque, absorb shock and provide balance upon release.
STACKING	For recurve and longbows this is the disproportionate increase in bow weight during the last few inches of the draw.
STATIC SPINE	Describes a method of categorizing the stiffness of arrow shafts. Static spine is measured using a spine meter and determines the amount of deflection (bend) a shaft has when suspended between 2 points and then has an 880gram weight (approx 2 pound) hung from the center. The measurement is taken in thousandths of an inch. Some arrow shafts like ACE and X10 use this measurement to identify the shaft size e.g.: ACE 670 indicates that the arrow has

	a deflection of 670 thousandths of an inch. To standardize these measurements aluminium and carbon shafts are measured with the 2 points of contact 28" apart. For wood shafts the 2 contact points are 26" apart.
STRING FINGERS	The fingers of the drawing hand used to hold and release the string
STRING LENGTH	For recurve bows and longbows the length of a bow string is determined by subtracting 3" from the marked bow length e.g. a 66" bow requires a 63" string, of course this will vary with bow design.
STRING NOTCH	The grooves at the end of the limb of recurve bow and longbow where the string attaches
TACKLE	The term used to describe archery equipment
TARGET FACE	The coloured paper or cloth placed on a target butt and used for scoring
TARGET PANIC	The term used to describe the archers inability to come to full draw and aim on the centre of the target. Usually caused by a lack of confidence or fear of performing poorly a common problem experienced in archery and results in uncontrolled release of the arrow. The major cause is the archer's inability to release while aimed and the constant movement of the archers focus from aiming to release and back again thought the aim/release process.
TIP	Another name for a point of the arrow
TORQUE	The undesired twisting of the bow and / or bowstring during any part of the shooting process. Torque is created by the archer exerting excessive or undesired forces onto the bow handle or bow string usually at full draw.
TOXOPHOLITE	From the Greek, one who practices archery and is interested in all its aspects, including its history
TRAJECTORY	The parabolic flight pattern of an arrow following release
TUNING	The process of setting up the equipment for maximum performance and accuracy.
UNDERSTRUNG	A bow with a bowstring too long which results in a low brace height and reduced efficiency and possible causing damage to the bow.
VALLEY	Term used for compound bows and is the part of the draw where the bow weight is reduced (let off).
VANE	The name for plastic or synthetic fletches.
WALK BACK TEST	A bow-tuning test where arrows are shot at various distance and the pattern of arrows provides an indication as to adjustments that need to be made.
BOW WEIGHT MARKINGS	The weight marking on a bow provide an indication as to the draw weight of a bow. The weight of a bow for recurve and longbows is measured 28" from the back of the bow. Some Asian manufacturers measure the weight of bows using a measurement of 26" from the pivot point. Compound bows are marked based on the peak weight which with most bows is adjustable. To better catalog and control stock, some manufacturers group bows in predetermined weight ranges e.g. a bow marked 35lb could be as heavy as 38lb or as light as 33lb.
WHEEL TIMING	A term used for compound bows to describe the balance between the wheel / cams. Ideally the wheels/cams should rotate (be in time) the same during the draw and most critically at full-draw. If the wheels/cams are out of time at full-draw the will cause an up and down motion on the nock of the arrow upon release. Difficulty will also be experienced holding the sight steady when at full draw.
YAW	Unstable action of the arrow during its flight