

## Glossary of Commonly Used Terms

In this section there is a list of commonly used terms in archery.

<b>Archer</b>	The person shooting.
<b>Anchor</b>	This is the position of the hand under your chin when the bow is drawn. Also known as the reference point.
<b>Arrow Plate</b>	Often used on longbows, it is a protective plate just above the handle of the bow on the side the arrow passes in flight.
<b>Arrow Shelf</b>	A flat area in the bow window just above the handle to rest the arrow on when at full draw.
<b>Arrow Rest</b>	A purpose made platform for the arrow to sit on during full draw. The rest on most bows can be changed.
<b>Back of the bow</b>	The surface of the bow which is the opposite side from the string.
<b>Bare Bow</b>	A class or type of shooting that does not allow sights to be used.
<b>Belly of the bow</b>	This is the surface on the bow which is the same side as the string.
<b>Best Gold</b>	At some tournaments a prize is given for the nearest arrow to the centre of the gold on a previously announced end.
<b>Blunt</b>	An arrow which has no point, instead it has a pile usually bulb shaped.
<b>Boss</b>	This is usually straw, but can be made of foam, it holds the target face and stops the arrows.
<b>Bouncer</b>	This is an arrow that has hit the boss and rebounded. Under GNAS rules, no score is given, but a substitute arrow can be shot. Under FITA rules, a substitute arrow cannot be used, but if the indent can be clearly identified, then a score can be given provided that all of the other arrow holes are clearly marked.
<b>Bow Arm</b>	This is the arm that the bow is held with (not the string).
<b>Bow Sling</b>	This is a strap which stops the bow from jumping out of your hand on a relaxed grip.
<b>Bow Weight</b>	The amount of poundage needed to draw the bow to the full arrow length.
<b>Bow Window</b>	This is a cut out section on the riser. It is where the arrow rest is located; the button is also in this area. It is handed for left or right. There is no window on a longbow.
<b>Brace</b>	This is the action to tension the bow so that the string can be attached.

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<b>Bracer</b>	This is a protection shield worn on your bow forearm to stop the string from slapping. It can be made from several materials such as leather, plastic etc.
<b>Bracing Height</b>	This is the distance between the bow and the string. It is measured at the nocking point.
<b>Butt</b>	An old word for target or range. Today the word boss is more commonly used.
<b>Cast</b>	This term is used to describe the speed that a bow gives to the arrow.
<b>Clicker</b>	This is a device on the side of the bow to help archers achieve full draw every time. It rests on the side of the arrow and when the arrow is pulled past a certain point, that you decide, the device hits the side of the bow causing a 'click.'
<b>Clout Shooting</b>	This is a type of archery where you shoot at a short flag on the ground at a set distance. Ladies shoot from 140 yards whilst men shoot from 180 yards.
<b>Cock Fletching or Feather</b>	This fletching is usually a different colour to the other two. The cock feather is always pointing away from the bow window and this way the arrow fletchings will or should not hit the bow when you loose the arrow.
<b>Creeping</b>	The term used when the string moves slightly forward on full draw before you loose the arrow.
<b>Crest</b>	Markings on an arrow to identify the owner to stop any confusion at the target.
<b>Dominant Eye</b>	This is your most dominant eye or your leading eye. Your instructor will advise how to assess this.
<b>Draw length</b>	The length of an arrow that an archer can draw.
<b>Draw Weight</b>	Measured in pounds the amount of force required to pull the bow to full length.
<b>End</b>	This is the amount of arrows shot by an archer before going to the boss to retrieve their arrows. An arrow is usually 3 or 6 arrows depending on the shooting you are doing.
<b>Fast</b>	This is shouted in an emergency to stop archers shooting immediately.
<b>Field Archery</b>	This is a round or a shoot where the archers walk around the targets: they can be at different lengths or sizes.
<b>Field Captain</b>	This is the person controlling all the shooting.
<b>Field Pile</b>	This is an arrow point used only for field archery, usually less pointed than a target pile.
<b>FITA</b>	Federation Internationale de Tir a L'arc - The international governing body for archery.
<b>Fletcher</b>	This is a person who makes arrows. It could also mean a person who puts the fletchings on an arrow.

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<b>Fletching(s)</b>	These are the vanes or flights used on an arrow to help make it more stable during flight. They used to be made from feathers, but more commonly today they are plastic. They can be straight or curved.
<b>Flight shooting</b>	This is a type of shooting where you go for the greater distance only, person who goes the furthest wins.
<b>Flu-flu or Fru-fru</b>	This is a type of arrow with a full length feather fletching fixed in a spiral working from the centre of the arrow towards the arrow fletchings. Its main purpose is to slow the arrow down and so the arrow will not travel great distances. Originally designed by bowmen for practice, you still have the same power from your bow, but less far to walk to retrieve your arrows should you miss!
<b>Footed arrow</b>	A wooden arrow with the first few inches made of a stronger wood than the rest of the arrow. This in turn will help the arrow to take more shock on impact.
<b>GNAS</b>	Grand National Archery Society - the national governing body for UK.
<b>GMB</b>	Grand Master Bowman - the highest title awarded to an archer.
<b>Ground quiver</b>	This is a stand placed in the ground that keeps your spare arrows in whilst shooting. It can also be used as a bow stand.
<b>Hanger</b>	This is an arrow that has not penetrated the target face, but hangs from the boss.
<b>Heeling</b>	This is when your bow hand applies pressure low on the bow grip.
<b>Lady/Lord Paramount</b>	This is the traditional name given to the person who presents awards and prizes at competitions.
<b>Line Cutter</b>	This is a term used when an arrow shaft breaks the line dividing the colour on the target face. When this happens, the higher score is given.
<b>Loose</b>	The term given to releasing the bow string when at full draw.
<b>Longbow</b>	The traditional type of bow used for many years and still used today.
<b>MB</b>	Master Bowman - one standard below GMB
<b>Nock</b>	Several meanings for this: Groove in the end of an arrow where the bowstring fits. Slots in the end of the bow line where the string is attached to the bow When you put an arrow onto the string to shoot, you 'nock it.'
<b>Nocking point</b>	This is the place on the bowstring where the arrow is attached. Usually identified with a small round metal clip on the bow string. There can be one or two rings.
<b>Over-bowed</b>	A term used when the bow weight is more than the archer can handle.
<b>Perfect end</b>	Used when all arrows of one end score gold.
<b>Petticoat</b>	This is the outside of the target. It has no score value.

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<b>Pile</b>	This is the front tip of the arrow, the point mostly made from metal.
<b>Pinching</b>	This is when you grip the nock of the arrow between your bow fingers when drawing. It tends to cause the arrow to come away from the arrow rest.
<b>Pinhole</b>	This is the exact centre of the target; most target faces have a small cross there.
<b>Popinjay</b>	This is a type of shooting where a target of an artificial bird is placed on a pole. Archers shoot at it with blunt arrows. Points are given for which part of the target is hit.
<b>Pressure button or button</b>	This is a spring loaded plunger used in fine tuning your bow. It goes through a hole in your arrow rest and helps to correct the arrow upon release.
<b>Reference point</b>	This is the position of the hand under your chin when the bow is drawn. Also known as the anchor point.
<b>Quiver</b>	Used to keep your arrows in whilst shooting. Can be on your waist, back or on the ground.
<b>Recurve</b>	This is a type of bow used a lot on tournaments. It is shorter than a longbow. It is called a recurve because of the way the end of the limbs curve back on themselves adding to the power.
<b>Release Aid</b>	This is a mechanical device used to hold the bow string. Mostly used with compound bows instead of a tab or glove.
<b>Riser</b>	This is the centre section of the bow where the hand grip is.
<b>Round</b>	This is the formal standard of shooting a set number of arrows at set distances. The round is then subdivided into ends eg 4 ends could make a round.
<b>Serving</b>	This is a protective whipping around the centre nocking area and the loops to attach the string to the bow. Usually a different colour to the main bow string. It is a lot harder wearing than the string.
<b>Sheaf of arrows</b>	This is 24 arrows.
<b>Shooting line</b>	This is the line you stand astride whilst shooting, but must not cross for any reason until all clear is given, verbal, whistle, or a series of lights similar to traffic lights.
<b>Sighters</b>	At the beginning of a shoot you are allowed a set number of arrows to adjust sights etc. No score is given for these arrows.
<b>Spine</b>	The measure of flexibility for an arrow.
<b>Stabilisers</b>	Rods and weights that can be fitted to the bow. Helps with balance, torque and vibration whilst shooting.
<b>Tab</b>	A piece of leather used on your bow fingers to protect from damage from the bow string.

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<b>Take down bow</b>	Used to describe a bow that can have the limbs removed. If you use a takedown and need or want to change the draw weight, you only have to change the limbs, not the whole bow.
<b>Target Captain</b>	This is the person in charge at the target end, especially when recording scores. If you have any problems with the target, see the target captain.
<b>Target stand</b>	This is the stand that holds the boss.
<b>Tiller</b>	This is a process used during manufacture to balance the limbs so that they shoot correctly when the arrow is not in the vertical centre of the bow.
<b>Toxophilite</b>	An archer or somebody who loves the sport.
<b>Vane</b>	Another name for a fletching.
<b>Waiting line</b>	This is a line behind the shooting line that all other archers should stand whilst waiting to shoot. It is also a safety zone for the current shooter.
<b>Weight in hand</b>	The weight of the bow, not drawn weight or bow weight.

