



This illustration shows the boat in relation to the wind and the setting of the sails. Note the position of the sails and boom when on port and starboard tack.

When tacking we change direction by passing the bow of the boat through the eye of the wind by the use of the rudder. However, if the boat ceases forward movement at this point the boat is said to be in irons or stays. (Does not pay off on either tack).

When gibing we change direction by passing the stern of the boat through the wind. At this point the boat is said to be running and it is possible to change tack by simply swinging the boom from one side to the other.