



Naval Vocabulary

The following terms are common vocabulary for ships, including aircraft carriers like the USS Midway. Midway instructors will use these terms when appropriate during your visit. You might find it fun and interesting to teach them ahead of time to your students.

1. SHIP - a very large, ocean-going vessel.
Midway is called a **ship**, not a boat, because of its size.
2. SHE – pronoun used to refer to a ship.
Midway was built in 1944-1945. **She** served our nation until 1992.
3. DECKS - the “floors” of a ship.
A tall building has many floors. Midway has many **decks**.
4. BULKHEAD - wall
Each room, or space, on the ship has bulkheads surrounding it. The **bulkheads** separate the space from other spaces.
5. OVERHEAD - ceiling
Overheads on ships are like the ceilings in a room or a building.
6. HATCH - a door in the floor or deck.
A sailor goes through **hatches** when he moves from one deck to another.
7. FORWARD - toward the front of the ship
AFT - toward the back of the ship
You walk **forward** if you are walking toward the front of the ship. If you turn around and walk toward the back, you will be walking **aft**.
8. PORT - the left side of the ship as you face forward.
STARBOARD - the right side of the ship as you face forward.
When sailors talk about the left side of the ship, they say “**port**”.
When they talk about the right side, they say, “**starboard**”.