

# Putting

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Did you ever realize that with par golf, putting is about 50 per cent of your score?

Good putting, like anything else in golf, takes practice. Hence, to be fair with your game, about half of your practice time should be spent on the putting green.

Almost every golfer should be able to putt well, yet few can. Putting is merely the simple procedure of hitting a stationary target with a moving object. You don't have to be a skeet shooter to be able to putt. But the average golfer makes a real problem out of putting, mainly by not following the fundamentals.

First, line up your putt. Notice the roll of the green as well as its speed, as determined by the length and the grain of the grass.

Now that you know the aim of your putt and the power you are going to apply, you are ready to take your stance. Take a position bending over the ball so as to be looking straight down at it. Play the ball off the left toe. Your palms should be directly opposed to one each other on the grip, and your hands should be close to the body, with the left elbow held out to point at the hole.

Bend your knees slightly to give you a spring and keep you from becoming too rigid. Do not hold the putter so tensely as to prevent a smooth, easy stroke. Once you have acquired this position, hold it through the complete stroke—until the ball has either dropped in the cup or stopped rolling.

Another thing to make sure of is the position of the putter blade. Keep it square with the desired line of putt. Bring the club back, and then, holding steady all the time, let it drop with its own force. The amount of backswing determines the force of the shot, as the putter should merely be dropped—not



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swung or forced—in the same arc as it was raised.

Make sure that you hit the ball parallel to the ground. Do not hit down on it or lift it. The stroke is merely a pattern of hand and arm action to control the path of the club. Finally, as in all good strokes in sports, follow through completely on a straight line.

Don't be afraid of hitting your ball. That's the idea in putting. A putt that's short of the hole never has a chance to go in. Be careful of going too far past, especially on a downhill putt, but always play for a hole-in-one when you're on the green.