

Hi. Today I'm going to tell you about sailboats. I chose this theme because sailboats are one of my favorite things. I have been on our sailboat every year ever since I was in my mother's belly. When I'm older, I'm going to build my own sailboat with my father's plans and it's going to be awesome.

First I'm going to tell you something about history and development of boats. It started in prehistory, when prehistoric people threw a stick in the water and it floated, while the stone didn't. When they learned about floating of wood, they started to hollow it to make canoes and tie logs together to make rafts. Over time, the boats developed very fast. They used buoyancy to adjust boats, so they could carry heavier cargo. They became bigger and faster and sailed longer distances. At first they navigated with sticks, then paddles, until Chinese invented the first rudder. Back then, sails were just some old canvases, tied on a log. When steamships were invented in 19<sup>th</sup> century, it also affected the development of sailboats – wooden masts were replaced by hollow masts made of steel, after World War 2 by aluminum masts and at the end of the 90's by masts, made of carbon fibers. Similar material development happened to pulleys and ropes. Nowadays we can find many types of boats for various purposes – ocean liners, ferries, fishing boats, other steamboats, sailboats, small boats, canoes, kayaks...But I am here to talk about sailboats.

Sailboat is a boat propelled by sails. It's driven by power of the wind that catches in the sails and pushes the boat forward. In case of calm (no wind) the sails aren't much of a use, so most boats have small engines.

We can divide sailboats to a few different types. The most common type is the sloop. It features 1 mast and 2 sails (mainsail and headsail). Mainsail is attached to the mast and the boom. The boom is swinging across the boat because of the wind and is very dangerous to get hit in the head with it. The hull stretches from the stern to the bow. On the deck, there are mostly ropes, pulleys, windows, a tiller and some sits for the navigator, and maybe a compass and some other accessories. Below deck, in the cabin, almost every sloop has a saloon (it includes a table, some sits, closets, etc.), a toilet, a kitchen, a captain's desk and two bedrooms (one in the front and one in the back). The lowest point of a sloop is a keel – it's loaded with heavy metals, so the boat doesn't overturn.

Some other types of boats are a rig sloop, a cutter, a catboat, a schooner, a dinghy and more, but they have a similar structure as a sloop.

Probably many of you think that sailing is easy and anyone can do it, but it actually takes skills and practice. The hardest part is how to adjust sails according to the wind. If the wind is blowing from the sides, you simply put them on the other side and the boat moves forward. If it blows from behind, you must zigzag all the time; you flow a little bit to the left, then a little bit to the right, and then left again, and eventually you move forward. There is other option, but it's more complicated. You can use a spinnaker – it's kind of a sail, which is adjusted in the front of the boat. When the wind blows from the front, you can only move with the engine.

Boats in general contributed to the development of trading, discovering new places etc. Today, they are used mostly for transportation. Sailboats aren't that important in the economy, but are used for traveling, adventure and relaxation. And I think that's very important. Thank you for listening!

## SAILBOAT – *handout*;

### WORD STUDY

**Mast** - A tall vertical spar, sometimes sectioned, that rises from the keel or deck of a sailing vessel to support the sails and the standing and running rigging.

**Sloop** - A single-masted, fore-and-aft-rigged sailing boat with a short standing bowsprit or none at all and a single headsail set from the forestay.

**Hull** - The frame or body of a ship, exclusive of masts, engines, or superstructure.

### EXERCISE

1. Recognize the boat parts and write their names:

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

2. Complete:

a) At first they navigated with \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_, until Chinese invented the first \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Some of the rooms in the cabin are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### SOURCES

- Hana Proškova, *Jadranje po morju*, 1971, Maribor: Obzorja

- Charles Wing, *How boats things work: an illustrated guide*, 2007, Camden: International Marine/McGraw-Hill

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sailboat>