

Your first sail

Clothing and parts of the boat



The only special clothing you will need to sail one of our Hansa 2.3 or Hansa 303 boats is a lifejacket or buoyancy aid, which we can provide. If you can swim, a buoyancy aid should be sufficient, but if you can't, or you are feeling nervous you may prefer the extra support of a lifejacket.

Waterproofs: Generally these are not needed. On windier days there can be splashes and you may get some water in the bottom of the boat. So if you don't want to get a bit wet, some lightweight waterproofs are good, and will also keep you dry if there is a shower.

It is always colder on the water! And on a sunny day, the reflection on the water can be dazzling or cause sunburn. A hat for warmth or for protection from the sun is a good idea.

TOP TIP

Hansas have a heavy keel for extra stability and safety. They are designed to be harder to capsize than a conventional dinghy, making them perfect for beginners and less mobile sailors. No need for wetsuits.



Parts of the boat: The boat is driven by the sails- the mainsail and the smaller jib in front. The sails are attached to the masts. The mainsail is stretched out by the boom (the pole at the bottom of the sail).

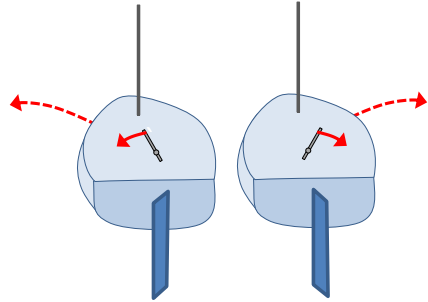
The mainsail and the jib are pulled in and out by two ropes called 'sheets'- they are the mainsheet and the jib sheet. The sheets are secured to the boat by cleats which grip the rope.

The boat is steered by the rudder- the board at the back of the boat, connected by ropes to a joystick between the seats.

Five Rules for your first sail

1 Steering the boat

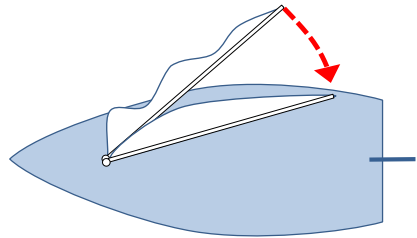
To change direction push the joystick in the direction you want the boat to sail. Left to go left, right to go right.



*Steering-
left to go left, right to go right*

2 If the sail is flapping

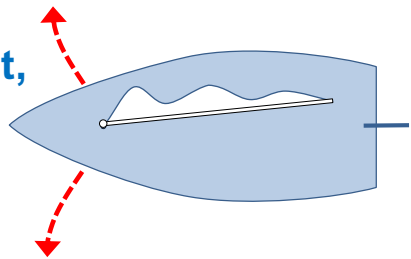
Pull the mainsheet in (the main rope that controls the sail). Pull it just far enough until the sail stops flapping.



*Flappy sail is an unhappy sail.
Pull the mainsheet (rope) in!*

3 If the sail is pulled tight, and is still flapping

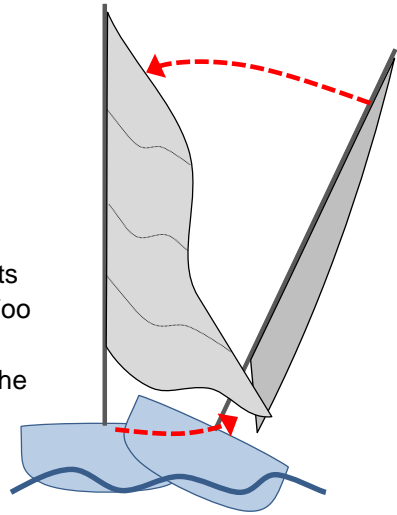
Turn the boat to the left or right, until the sail stops flapping.



Still flapping? Turn left or right

4 If the boat leans over too far

Let out the mainsheet until the sail starts flapping. The boat will come upright. "Too far" means when you are not comfortable, or if water is coming into the boat!

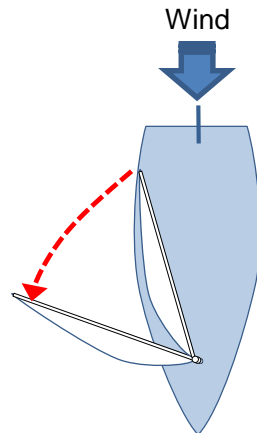


*Leaning too far?
Let go of the mainsheet*



5 When the wind is coming from behind you

Let the sail out, up to 90 degrees to catch more wind, like a parachute.



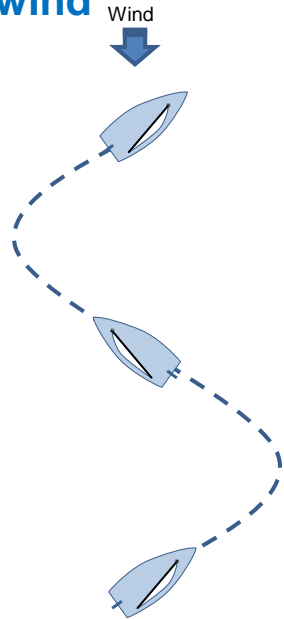
*Wind behind you-
let the sail out*

Tacking- sailing towards the wind

Sailing boats can't sail directly into the wind- the sail flaps and the boat stops. Boats can sail at an angle of about 45 degrees to where the wind is coming from. The sail needs to be tight in, almost along the centre of the boat.

Turning the boat towards the wind, until the wind is on the opposite side of the boat, is called tacking. The wind will be on alternating sides of the boat, with the boat turning about 90 degrees to the wind.

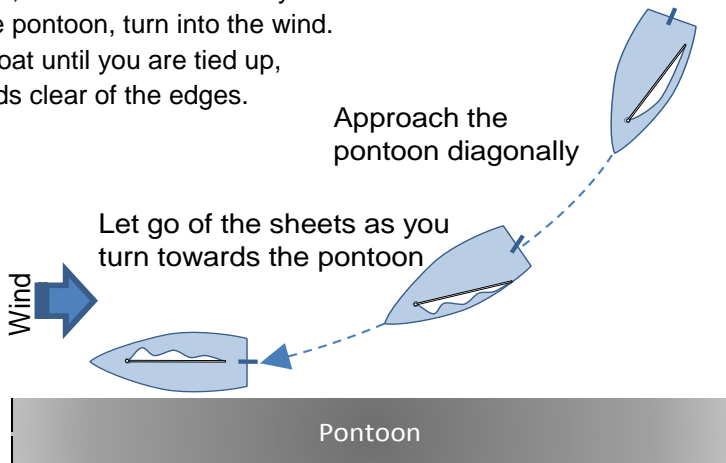
The boat follows a zig-zag course towards the wind. The sail will start to flap as the boat turns towards the wind, then the sail will swing across to the other side of the boat.



Tacking- boats sail towards the wind in a series of zigzags

Returning to the pontoon

To slow down, sail into the wind. As you approach the pontoon, turn into the wind. Stay in the boat until you are tied up, keeping hands clear of the edges.



Well done, you have finished your first sail!

*Extracted from **Introduction to Sailing**, produced by Tideway Sailability. Booklet available in the clubhouse. E-book version available for download from www.tidewaysailability.org.uk/learntosail*