

Ahoy, shipmates! September 19 is **Talk Like A Pirate Day!** Here be a glossary of useful piratical words to help you celebrate the day good an' proper.

Ahoy:	Hey! Used to hail a ship or a person.
Aloft:	up high on a mast.
Avast:	Stop! Possibly from the Portuguese word 'bastante' or the Spanish 'basta' which means 'enough,' or from the Dutch 'houd vast,' meaning 'hold fast.'
Bilge:	the lowest part of the inside of a ship's hull. Dirty, stagnant water collects there.
Booty:	stolen treasure.
Buccaneer:	a pirate. The earliest pirates of the Caribbean were French woodsmen who preserved meat by curing it slowly over a smoky fire so it would last a long time (this was before refrigerators). This process—to smoke and cure meat—was called 'boucaner' and these pirates called themselves meat-curers—"boucaniers."
Cutlass:	a short sword with a wide, flat and slightly curved blade.
Fathom:	depth measurement of six feet. When a grown sailor spreads his arms, from fingertip to fingertip is a fathom.
Flagon:	a vessel for holding your favorite beverage, usually with a handle and spout.
Grog:	rum diluted with water. On long voyages, sailors might contract scurvy, a disease caused by a lack of Vitamin C. Ship's doctors eventually realized there is lots of Vitamin C in lemons, so they'd make sure everybody drank their lemon juice by adding it to the grog. Blackbeard Teach liked his with a little gunpowder mixed in.
Jolly Roger	the black pirate flag with skull & crossed bones.
Keelhaul:	punishment where a sailor is tied to a rope and dragged (hauled) along the barnacle-encrusted bottom (keel) of a ship. Ouch!
Landlubber:	land-lover, someone not used to life onboard a ship.
League:	three miles. 'From Ushant to Scilly 'tis 35 leagues.' How many miles is it from Ushant to Scilly?
Lily-livered:	faint-hearted, lacking courage.
Maroon	to leave a sailor behind on a desert island.
Matey:	a shipmate or messmate—someone who sails or eats with you.
Pieces of eight:	money. Spain minted bars of silver that could be cut into 8 smaller pieces.
Ratlines:	Ropes that are crisscrossed horizontally and vertically, forming a ladder to go aloft.
Shiver me timbers!:	An oath, an exclamation of surprise. Long John Silver said this a lot in Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Treasure Island</i> .
Swashbuckler:	A flashy swordsman. A buckler is a kind of shield, and swordsmen of old would strike their shields to make a lot of noise.
and...	
Adieu:	how the French say 'good-bye.'