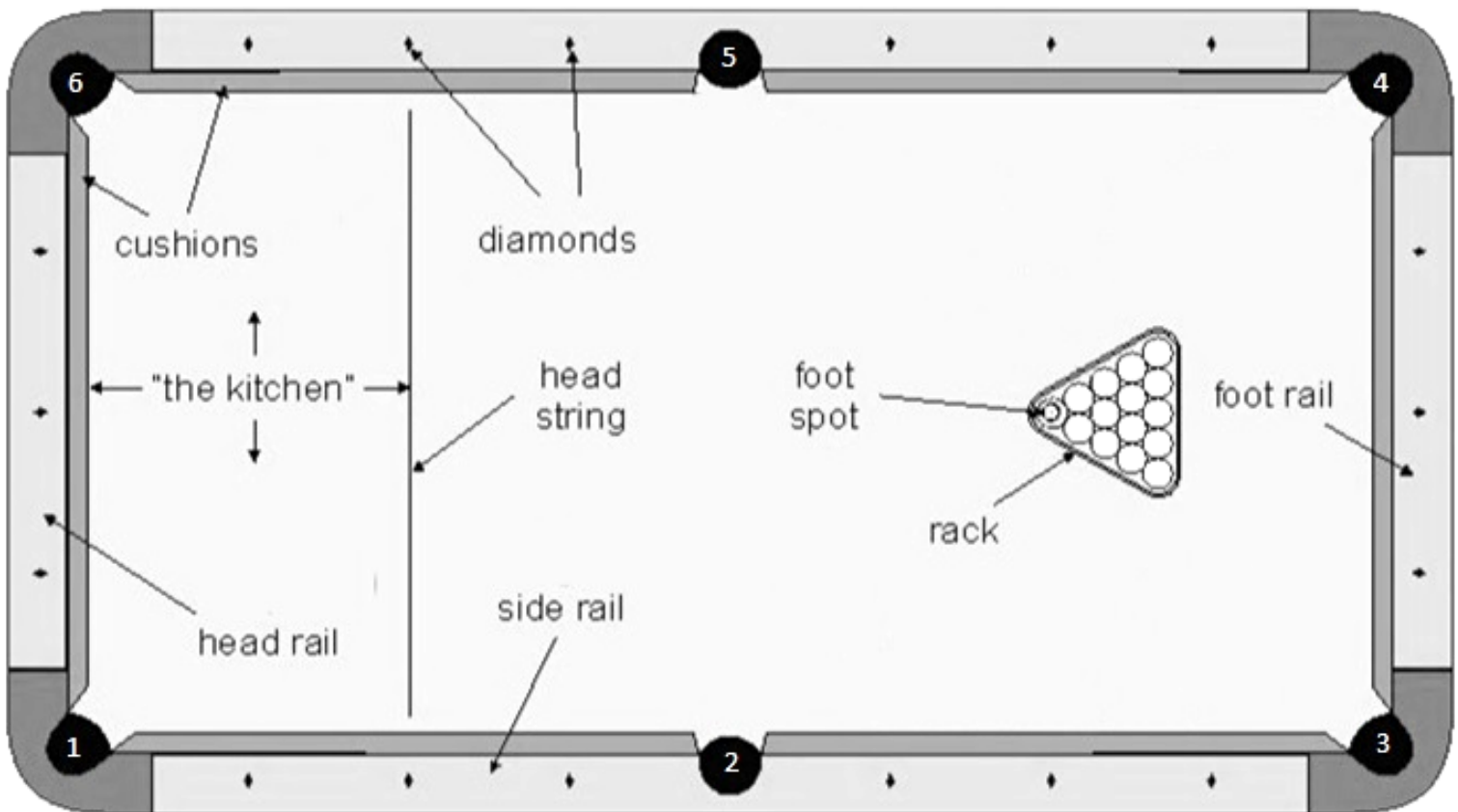


Basic Lesson 1: Talkin' Good; Lookin' Good; Holding the Cue

Lesson 1a - How to Talk a Good Game



Billiards vs. Pool: upper class gentlemen vs low down bums.

*"Why sure I'm a **billiard** player, certainly mighty proud I say...,
(But), I say that any boob, can take and shove a ball in a pocket...
That game with the fifteen numbered balls is a devil's tool!"*

How to Talk a Good Game (continued)

Actions You Can Take:

The B's: Break. Bank. Bridge. Billiard (or Carom).

Shots: Stop, Follow, Draw. English.

Bad Things: Fouls (no rail, wrong pocket), Scratch (ball-in-hand), Miscue.

How The Balls Are Arranged: Combination. Cripple. Frozen.

Hooked or Snookered.

Where the cue ball ends up: Position, Leave, Shape.

Lesson 1b - How to Look Like You Know What You Are Doing

When Watching

1. Stay out of the shooters line of sight
2. **Don't** - crowd the shooter - make noises - talk to someone shooting
 - especially don't offer advice on technique or shot selection
3. A "Good Shot" is made – Professionals ("butts") vs Us (no "butts")

When Shooting

1. Fold the cover like pro
2. Wear a glove (\$6-\$12, or free)
3. Have your own cue (can be cheap, but should have some flash)
4. Chalk before EVERY shot, on the SIDES of the tip. How? (waste, ferrule)
5. Don't chalk over the table (messy), do leave it right side up (messy)
6. Identify balls and pockets by their numbers
7. Get low, stroke long & smooth, stay down!
 - (you'll still miss, but you'll be stylin')
8. When you miss, shake your head slightly and mutter
 - "Too much damn English"
 - even if you didn't use any, ...
 - even if you don't know what English is.

When Holding The Cue: Bridge & Grip

THE most damaging error in holding your cue? A *shaky* bridge.
You will NEVER shoot well if you don't have a solid base for your cue.

BRIDGE

1. Open bridge: simplest, yet used by many pros. Spread fingers, swing to right. Variations for stiff hands: fist & thumb; fist only; rakes; rail.
2. Closed bridge – favored for power shots and big English.
3. Rail bridges: 3-10" away – cue ON rail + 2 fingers is THE most stable.
 - a. 0-3" away – use thumb & forefinger, hit center axis to prevent curve.
4. Over balls - toughest shot. Raise open bridge +, ++, +++, center axis.
5. Rake – hold off-angle, grip palm down, forearm level, aim from chin, short stroke.
6. Short Bridge (6") is best at first. Minimize errors, don't magnify them.
7. Very long bridge – if you must, use a short stroke. But,
"the (mechanical) bridge is your friend"

GRIP

1. Your "grip" is on the butt of cue. (Your "bridge" is on shaft of cue.)
2. "Grip" implies "strong", like gripping a baseball bat – but **NOT** with a pool cue. Hold it softly, gently. Cradle the cue, leaving space between the cue and your palm.
3. A level cue stroke: Forward = all fingers in contact; back = 2 or 3 fingers in contact.
4. Wrist vertical, not cocked in or out.
5. Thumb alongside cue, not on top.
6. Stay loose & relaxed - do not strangle the cue as you hit the cue ball. (Luggage and walking examples.)
7. Place your hand so your forearm is vertical at impact (with that 6" bridge length). Note how grip position changes with bridge length. (Demo)

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PRACTICE

1. Get a partner, "grab your butt", and set up a 6" bridge
 - a. Your partner checks that your forearm is vertical when your cue tip is on the cue. Memorize your default grip location on the butt of your cue. (Remember that it will change if your bridge length changes.)
2. Your partner checks your form on each of these items, one by one:
GRIP #s 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.