

pirate dictionary

Aft	The rear of the ship.
Ahoy!	Hello!
Arrrgh!	Arrrgh!
Black Spot	To "place the Black Spot" on another pirate is to sentence him to death, to warn him he is marked for death, or to accuse him of a serious crime before the other pirates.
Blimey!	An exclamation of surprise.
Booty	Plunder, Loot.
Bow	The front of the ship.
Brazen squid	A cutting pirate insult for a shipmate who is insolent, audacious, and loud.
Brig	A jail or prison on board a U.S. Navy or Coast Guard vessel. Not really pirate-speak, but it's got a piratical ring to it!
Buccaneer	A general term for the Caribbean pirates.
Cap'n	Short for "captain."
Crow's Nest	A small platform, sometimes enclosed, near the top of a mast, where a lookout could have a better view when watching for sails or for land.
Davy Jones' locker	The bottom of the sea.
Deadlights	Eyes. "Use yer deadlights, matey!"
Feed the fish	What you do when you are thrown into the sea, dead or alive.
Galley	The ship's kitchen.
Godspeed!	Goodbye, good luck!
Grub	Food.
Hands	The crew of a ship; sailors.
Jolly Roger	The pirates' skull-and-crossbones flag. It was an invitation to surrender, with the implication that those who surrendered would be treated well. A red flag indicated "no quarter."
Landlubber or just lubber	A non-sailor.
Lookout	Someone posted to keep watch on the horizon for other ships or signs of land.
Maroon	A common punishment for violation of a pirate ship's articles, or offending her crew. The victim was left on a deserted coast (or, island) with few supplies. That way, no one could say that the unlucky pirate had actually been killed by his former brethren.
Me	A piratical way to say "my."
Me hearties	Typical way for a pirate leader to address his crew.

Matey	A piratical way to address someone in a cheerful, if not necessarily friendly, fashion.
Pillage	To raid, rob, and sack a target ashore.
Pirate	A seagoing robber and murderer.
Poop Deck	The highest deck at the aft end of a large ship. Smaller ships don't have a poop; the highest part aft is the quarterdeck.
Port	The left side of the ship when you are facing toward her prow.
Prow	The "nose" of the ship.
Sail ho!	"I see a ship!" The sail, of course, is the first part of a ship visible over the horizon.
Scallywagg	A good-for-nothing rascal.
Scurvy	(1) A deficiency disease caused by lack of vitamin C, often afflicting sailors; (2) A derogatory adjective for an epithet, as in "Ye scurvy dogs!"
Sea dog	An experienced seaman.
Shanty	A sea song – also spelled "chantey."
Shark bait	(1) Your foes, who are about to feed the fish (q.v.). (2) A worthless or lazy sailor; a lubber who is no use aboard ship.
Shiver me timbers!	An expression of surprise or strong emotion.
Spyglass	A telescope.
Starboard	The right side of the ship when you are facing toward her prow.
Walk the plank	A piratical execution. The victim, usually blindfolded or with bound hands or both, is forced to walk along a plank laid over the ship's side, to fall into the water below. Except this seems to be a total invention; it first appeared in 19th-century fiction, long after the great days of piracy.
Ye	A piratical way to say "you."
Yo-ho-ho	A very piratical thing to say, whether it actually means anything or not.

