



## A few definitions

**Q.** Can you give me some definitions of bowling terms I have been reading about in articles? I know this might be simplistic for some, but I am fairly new to the sport, and knowing what they are talking about would really help my understanding—things like the heads, breakpoint, deck, and kickbacks.

**A.** **Heads** – the very front of the lane where the ball lands just after you release it. The oil on the heads can dry out, and this makes the ball want to hook early. So when they say, *get the ball through the heads*, this means to try and eliminate the early hook. Or when they say, *the ball goes through the heads cleanly*, they mean this ball tends to slide through the heads better than others.

**Breakpoint** – the point at which the ball starts to turn in toward the pocket.

et. This happens at about 40 to 45 feet down the lane. The breakpoint depends on how far down the lane the oil is distributed. It also depends on the oil pattern used, like how narrow or how wide it is placed as well as how long.

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If you bowl on new Brunswick bowling lanes, they have four long dark boards just a ways out from the pins. These are located close to most breakpoints. Not all lanes have these dark boards.

**Deck** – the pin deck where the pins sit. This usually references whether the pin deck is dry, which is preferable, or whether oil has carried down to the deck, which causes sliding pins and weak carry from lack of traction between the ball and the deck.

It also is used to describe if the decks are lively or soft. Lively decks mean the pins seem to bounce more, giving greater carry. On soft decks, the pins seem to just stop short when they fall over and not jump around.

This also is the meaning of lively or soft sideboards or kickbacks, which are the walls on both sides of the deck on which the pins sit.

If you have any more questions, there is a Web site to go to with hundreds of bowling terms explained. Just Google *glossary of bowling terms*. The first site that comes up is very good.

To ask a question, write [askbob@clearwire.net](mailto:askbob@clearwire.net).

## Who reads BOWL Magazine?



Nicola Brown, a member of the Mixed Nuts league at Crofton Bowling Centre, reads *BOWL Magazine*. That's who!