

Hammers

This worksheet is about hammers that you use to hit nails.



What you will learn

When you have finished this worksheet, you should be able to:

- Hammer a nail correctly.
- Pull out a nail correctly.

Note

There is also a **Nails** Worksheet that gives more information about ways to place, position and drive nails to make strong joints.

Things you need before you start

Materials

You will need some scrap timber and nails to work on.

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Tools or equipment

A hammer

Nails

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Course resources

Course video. Video player

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Introduction

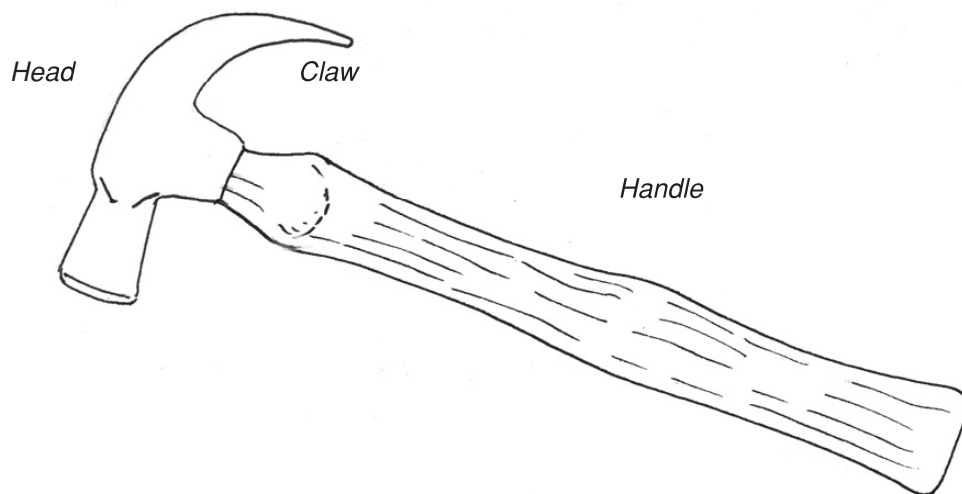
Hammers are one of the most important tools for building things.

They are used to hit and drive things.

Hammers are made in many shapes, sizes and weights.

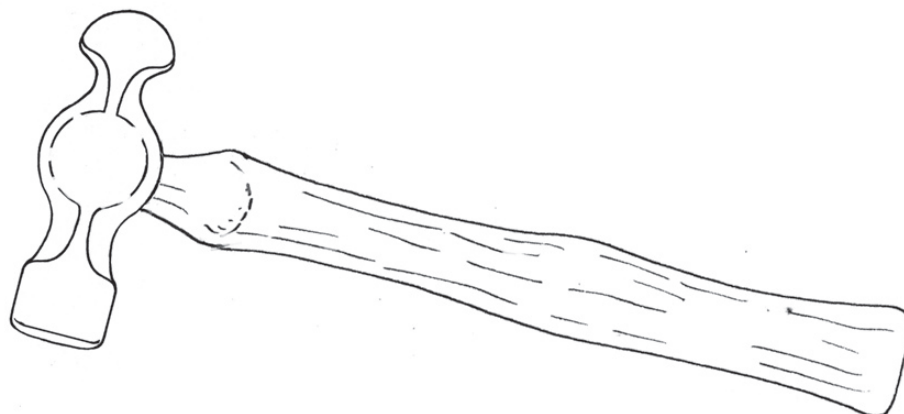
What is a Hammer?

It is a hitting tool with a steel head and a wooden or metal handle.



This is a picture of a claw-hammer — the best hammer for construction work.

Hammers also come in a variety of shapes and sizes for different jobs. For example, a light engineer's hammer for metal work, or a big heavy hammer for breaking rocks.



Ball-peen hammer (for metal work)

What is a hammer used for?

A hammer is used to:

- attach one piece of timber to another with nails.
- remove nails from timber, using the claw
- adjust the position of timber pieces.

Follow these steps to use a hammer properly.

Never use the hammer if

- the handle is split or cracked
- the head is loose

Step 1

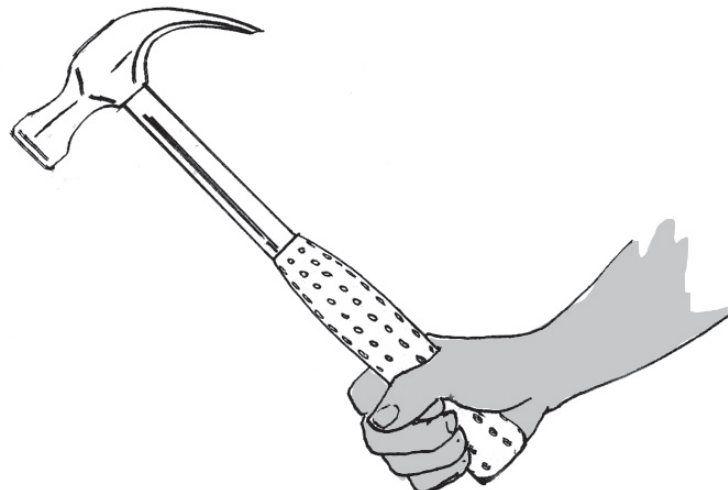
Grip the hammer's handle firmly near the end. You can use your right hand or your left hand

Hold the hammer with your wrist straight.

Look at the object you are hitting.

Strike — move your *elbow* — not your *wrist* or *shoulder*.

Do not try to hit too hard — you are more likely to miss or damage things.



Step 2 to drive a nail

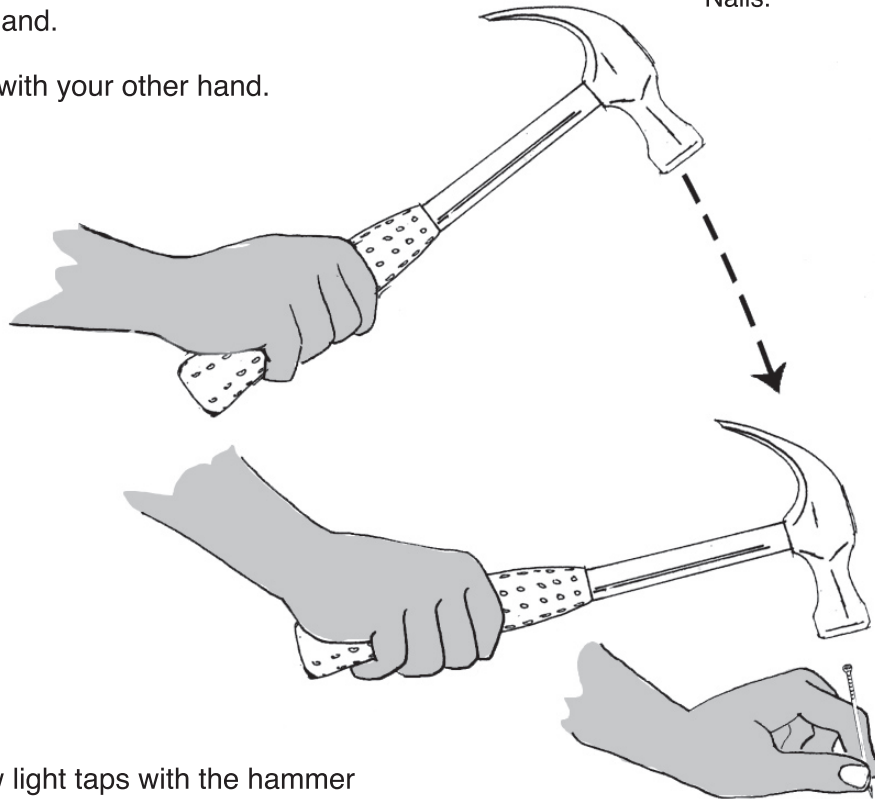
Place the nail point on the timber

Hold the nail lightly between your thumb and forefinger of one hand.

Hold the hammer with your other hand.

Note

Find out more information about good ways to place nails in the worksheet on Nails.



Step 3

Give the nail a few light taps with the hammer

This will “start” the nail in the timber — it will stand up by itself

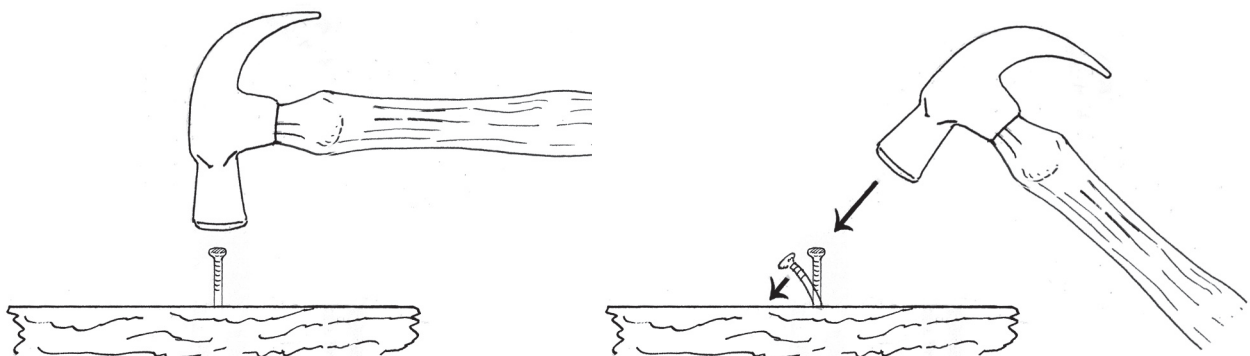
Step 4

Check the nail is in the correct place and is going at the angle you want.

Move your fingers out of the way!

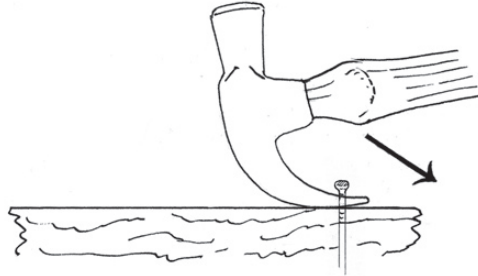
Hit the nail squarely on the head with the centre of the hammer head. If the nail moves away from the angle you want — or it bends over — you are not hitting it squarely. Adjust your arm movement

Keep hitting until the nail is in completely.

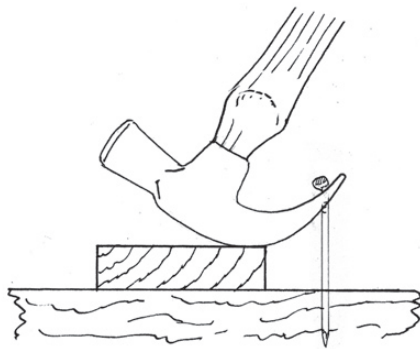


To pull out a nail

Place the V part of the hammer between the piece of wood and the head of the nail. This part of the head is called the “claw”.



Rock the hammer the handle towards you as it slowly pulls the nail out of the timber. Put a piece of scrap timber under the hammer head if you are pulling a very long nail.



Safety tips for hammers

- Think — if the hammer slips — where will it go ?
- Keep your fingers out of the way once you have a nail started
- Check there is no-one else who may be hit when you swing your hammer
- Never try to hit nails too hard — you are likely to miss the nail — or bend it
- Do not use a hammer with a damaged handle or a loose head
- Do not hit one hammer with another hammer

Activity

1. Find out what hammers you have available.
2. Practise holding the hammer correctly and swinging with your elbow.
3. Mark a point on a piece of scrap timber. Practise hitting that point with the hammer until you feel you have the swinging movement correct
4. Start a nail in a piece of timber and drive it in.
5. Try driving different nails and at different angles.
6. Keep practising!

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