

Using woodworking tools

What students will learn

When they have finished this session on woodworking tools, students should be able to:

- Identify basic woodworking tools.
- Choose the best tool for a job.
- Correctly use basic tools for simple jobs.

Things you need before you start

Information

Find out what tools are normally used in the area where these students live.

- What are they commonly used for?
- What tools are available to you?

Think about:

- Marking tools — rules, tapes, squares, pencils
- Cutting tools — saws, chisels
- Drilling tools
- Hammers
- Clamps, vices.

Materials

You will need

- Timber for students to work with. Scrap or salvaged timber may be OK.
- Work-benches, tables or saw-horses for students to work on.

Tools or equipment

Students will need the tools listed on each worksheet:

For example, there are worksheets on:

- rules, tapes and squares
- hammers, including nails to practise with
- handsaws
- chisels
- hand drills and brace & bit.

Use whatever is available. You do not need the exact type, size, shape or model shown in the worksheet.

Course resources

You will need a video player to play the Course Video. This shows a variety of tools and the correct way to use them.

Note for Tutor

Most of the information and material about woodworking tools is given on a set of worksheets that you can choose to match the tools you use locally.

Copies of the worksheets are included in your manual here as well as in the Student Workbook.

You need to work through each worksheet with the students, talking about the tools and showing the students how to use them. The worksheets are not designed to be used by the students learning on their own.

Check that students have their workbooks and the appropriate worksheets.

Read through these notes on how to introduce the subject, and how to use the worksheets.

Worksheet activities

The activities in the worksheets should help students to gain a basic skill in using the tools.

Make sure you give them time to have lots of practice with each tool.

If you wish, you can link activities together and then link them to activities in the later worksheets for joining timber. For example, you could link the worksheets on using saws and chisels to the worksheets on making butt and lap joints.

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Introduction to woodworking tools

Before starting the worksheets — talk to the students about:

- the kinds of woodworking tools that they might use:
- what kind of jobs could they do
- hand tools and power tools. (this course is only about hand tools.)
- what types of jobs can be done with hand tools
- why do you need to use them the right way ?

Work with the students through each worksheet

For each tool, the worksheet shows:

- what it is used for
- the important parts and features
- how it is used for simple jobs
- safety tips

Talk generally about the tool

- What does it do? (for example a hammer “drives” or hits things)
- What is it used for?
- Why is it important to use it correctly (talk about safe use and danger and damage)

Show and explain

- show examples of each tool. Get different types, sizes and models if you can.
- explain the parts of the tool and how they work.
- explain any ideas that students find difficult. (For example, angles and degrees, cutting with or across the grain, keeping everything as accurate as possible.)
- explain and show each step:
 - how to adjust
 - how to hold
 - how to use each tool correctly
- explain the dangers and show the safe ways to use each tool.

Student activity

Students use the tools and do the activities on the worksheets

For example:

- measure gaps and sizes, mark timber to size
- saw square and at angles
- drill holes, cut shapes.

Add or change activities if it will help to make it more relevant for the students.

Watch each student using the tools, give them feedback and demonstrate again if you need to.

Students should have the chance to practise until they have some basic skill developing. Sawing two pieces of timber or knocking in one nail is NOT enough!

Practise with a variety of sizes and types where they are available.

Where possible, get students to work in small groups of 2 or 3 people.

Encourage students to

- talk about what they are doing
- help each other to use the tools the right way
- check the others are doing things safely.

Check students activity work and give feedback on how they have done.