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Golf – how to get started?

By Frank Peter

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Golf anybody?

By Frank J. Peter, editor at LearnAboutGolf.com

Golf is a great game: sometimes rewarding, often frustrating but highly addictive. Getting started in it is actually not so difficult, and hopefully this article can help you avoid some of the common pitfalls.

The very first steps.

The biggest mistake by people wanting to start in golf is to rush out and buy a brand new set of shiny and expensive golf clubs. While they are nice to look at you should keep in mind that today's golf equipment comes in great varieties to cater for different golfing types and abilities. Since you're just starting out you do not know which set fits you best. Just imagine the envious looks you get at the driving range when you come with your \$2000 set, and the subsequent laughter when you try and just 'hack away' – not worth the embarrassment! Once you spend a few hundred or even thousand \$\$ on a set that doesn't suit your style you're stuck with it or you have to sell it to somebody else at a loss. If you feel you want your own clubs get a half set. This generally comprises five irons and perhaps two woods and a putter. Usually the irons are the odd numbers 3,5,7,9 and wedge. These clubs are more than enough to get you started.

A better alternative: most Driving Ranges will have clubs for hire, so you can try out a few different ones. You can also borrow one or two clubs from a friend. The shortest iron (nine iron) or a wedge are the best clubs to start, practicing with it will give you the feeling of hitting the ball in the air and should be fairly straight forward.

Where to get golf clubs?

Most Pro shops and driving ranges sell second hand clubs. They will also be able to offer you advice and let you try some clubs out. Alternatively, nearly all driving ranges will have clubs for hire if you want to have a go without committing to a set until you get the hang of it. Or ask other people at the driving range, you will soon find out that many have another set of clubs at home because they made the exact same mistakes I mentioned above. Make sure you try before you buy, if they fit (and only if they fit!) you can often get them for a steal. Make use of these opportunities, and also take a look at our website 'LearnAboutGolf.com' as to how to choose a club. I again stress that you need to have a basic understanding on which club suits you reasonably well before you buy. DO NOT buy expensive brands at this stage.

Golf – how to get started?

"I want to play, I want to play!"

As hard as it will be to contain yourself, don't even contemplate going anywhere near a golf course. Golf is technically quite demanding, and without at least some basic training you'll end up with a lot of frustration. You've seen the top players on TV loosing their cool in frustration, imagine how you will feel if not even a single shot goes where you want it to. Besides, the other people having to wait for you will also not be happy.

As a beginner at the great game of golf, start off at a driving range, take at least four or five lessons, learn the fundamentals, progress to a 9 hole course and eventually venture out into the great unknown of an 18 hole golf course. Believe me, it will be a lot more fun for you and those around you if you follow this path.

Where to get lessons?

You will meet plenty of people at the range who will teach you the 'innermost secrets' of golf. Fact is

that most of them have started playing not long before you. So the answer to the above question is: go to a Professional. As you have seen on TV, even the world's top players have a coach. Tiger Woods, probably the best golfer the world, still takes lessons. Certified Golf Professionals are the only people qualified to teach you how to play the game. Lessons from a Pro will cost you money but will be the best investment you'll ever make. Taking the advise from the 'know-it-all' people at the range will likely screw-up your game at the very early stage, and it will take a long time to correct the faults later.

The two places to get golf lessons are at driving ranges and golf clubs. You don't have to be a member of a club to get a lesson from the Pro. You bring in money, so they will be glad to help. The usual cost is about \$25–40 per 45 min, but you will get reductions for a block booking. If you are a bit on the budget see if they do group bookings, those are also cheaper than individual lessons.

What else to do?

Books and videos can be invaluable in learning the basics. To build a sound golf swing you will need the three fundamentals: Grip, Stance and Posture. There are some very good books and videos on the market that will help you to establish the three fundamentals. And watch the Pro's on the TV, or better still video them and play back in slow motion, you'll learn a lot this way. Don't get blinded by too much science, you're still a beginner. Stick to Grip, Stance and Posture and you'll be on your way. Take a look at the golf tips and golf lessons on our website `LearnAboutGolf.com' for some advice as well.

Summary

1. Don't waste your money on expensive clubs until you have reached a basic level of competency.
2. Don't go near a Golf Course, again until you have reached a basic level.
3. Get lessons from a qualified professional.
4. Learn the three fundamentals
5. Watch the Pro's.
6. Practice.
7. Learn the rules of golf and the basic golf etiquette .

I hope that this article has been of some help to avoid costly mistakes many people made, including myself. Follow the above basics and you are on your way to all the fun (and frustration) golf can offer. Enjoy!

Frank Peter is the webmaster of [learnaboutgolf.com](http://www.learnaboutgolf.com) where he offers valuable tips for beginners and intermediates in Golf. To find more advice, lessons and resources to help you succeed in your game, visit: <http://www.learnaboutgolf.com>

Getting Started With Golf Training

By Michele Oberton

If you are interested in golf training, there are a variety of teaching options to get you started. From the internet to the video store and even the classroom, there is no shortage on available lessons. Depending on the type of golf training that you ultimately select, prices can be quite affordable. Professional golf training, however, will be more costly.

If you would like to hire an instructor to help you learn to play golf, consider a professional instructor or someone who has a lot of past experience in golf training. The first thing that you will learn is the difference between clubs and the names of each. At first, golf training may seem intimidating because there are so many clubs and they are each used for a different situation. But, after a few golf training lessons, you will be able to recognize the clubs and their intended use in a snap.

It may be a good idea to learn to play golf on a beginner level before hiring an instructor. Become familiar with the clubs by purchasing an instruction book or video. These type of manuals offer an introduction to the different clubs, how to grip them properly and even the proper way to swing. By reading closely, or watching an instructional video, you will enter into golf training with more confidence. Rather than starting from scratch, your instructor will notice that you will likely learn to play golf a lot faster than absolute beginner students.

If you aren't comfortable starting on your own, there is nothing wrong with entering golf training as a beginner. After all, that's what the training is for. For practice purposes, it is a good idea to have access to a full set of golf clubs during the times that golf training isn't being given and you would still like to practice. Your instructor may or may not ask that you practice but, if they do, it will help you to be better prepared for future golf training lessons.

When selecting a golf training instructor, you may even have the option to learning to play at a golf course. Many golf training instructors work one-on-one with students while others offer instruction to a group of students, which is similar to any other type of class. Online instruction is for anyone who doesn't want to leave home or doesn't have the time to attend regular classes, but this type of golf training does not provide an actual hands-on teaching technique.

For more information about golf training, click the link to visit our website at

. We have some great free articles and resources about golf training.

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