LANGUAGE OF THE SEA

INTRODUCTION
Step aboard a sailing ship and it seems that the sailors speak a different language! Indeed, sailors have their own vocabulary that makes little sense to the landsmen.

THE CHALLENGE
Since you are going to play the character of a sailor, you must learn to talk like one. Aboard a sailing ship sailors say:

“Aye” = “yes.”
“Aye, Aye” = “yes, I understood your orders” and “yes, I will carry them out.”
“Avast!” = “freeze!”
“That’s well.” = “that’s enough, stop.”
“Carry on” = what an officer or mate says when they want you to follow an order that you have been given.
“All hands” = All the sailors that work on the boat
“up behind” = drop the line that you are holding
“Sir” = the term of respect you use every time you speak to the Captain.
“ Mate” = the name of the person in charge of the crew
“Mr.” = the term of respect you use before the last name of a mate or officer.

To practice, divide into groups or crews. Select someone to be the “mate.” This person should always be called Mr. (his/her last name). Select someone else to be the Captain (the teacher might be a good choice) and remember that when you speak to him the last word you say must always be “Sir.” Now, for a period of time (an hour, a day, a week) all crews should speak like sailors. They should always say “aye” instead of yes, “avast” or “that’s well” instead of stop, and so forth. Plan a way of keeping track of mistakes and at the end of the time period, reward the best crew.