

Speak Pirate!

Many famous pirates were from Devon and Cornwall, meaning that they would have had rural West Country accents. Blackbeard himself was from Bristol, which is also the setting for much of [Treasure Island](#). Traditional pirates used lots of nautical terms, which can be found using online pirate dictionaries and translators. Here are some of the key words and phrases:

- Accord = agreement
- Ahoy = hello
- All hands on deck = emergency
- Arrr = agreed
- Avast = stop
- Aye = yes
- Batten down the hatches = prepare for a storm
- Bilge rat = the lowest form of life
- Blaggard = a person who cannot be trusted
- Booty = stolen goods
- Brig = ship prison
- Buccaneer = pirate
- Cat'o'nine tails = a whip made of knotted rope
- Cutlass = a curved sword
- Cutthroat = pirate
- Davy Jones' Locker = the bottom of the sea
- Deep = ocean
- Hearties = friends
- Hornswaggle = cheat
- Jolly Roger = pirate flag (skull and crossbones)
- Land ahoy = land spotted
- Landlubber = a land dweller
- Marooned = left alone on a deserted island
- Matey = buddy
- Me = my
- Mutiny = when the crew rebels
- Pieces of eight = old silver coins from Spain
- Pirate = robber of the sea
- Plunder = to steal
- Salt = a seasoned sailor
- Savvy = understand
- Scourge = troublemaker
- Scurvy = a disease from lack of vitamin C
- Scuttle = sink the ship
- Sea dog = experienced sailor
- Sea legs = sailing without being seasick
- Set sail = head out to sea
- Shanty = sea songs
- Shark bait = a dying sailor
- Shipmate = fellow sailor
- Shipshape = good condition
- Shiver me timbers = crikey
- Swab = clean
- Swashbuckler = pirate
- Walk the plank = a way to dispose of enemies
- Weigh anchor = raise the anchor
- Ye = you