



TOOLS - KNIFE

Type

Fixed blade knives are preferable over folding knives. Folding blades present a chance of accident when folding the blade and have a weak point at the hinge making them more likely to break. Folding knives also hold dirt and consequently potentially water both of which will damage the folding mechanism. Size of the knife should be considered. Knives with smaller blades, smaller handles and even rounded blade ends are available and may be a sensible choice for children.

Usage

For whittling, carving and cutting.

Key parts

Blade or cutting edge, tang (inside handle), handle & hand guard, spine and point.

Skills supported

Improved fine and gross motor skills, spatial awareness, crossing of centre line,

How to use it safely

- These are tools not toys
- No glove on tool hand; well-fitting glove on non-knife hand (if this is what you choose to do – if it doesn't fit properly then it's safer to not use one)
- Maintain safe distance - Always use tools at a distance of arms' length and one tool's length away from other people. The 'Circle of Safety'.
- Establish expected behaviour - Anyone misusing a tool intentionally can be required to put down the tool and step away, until they are ready to join in appropriately.
- Ensure proper demonstration and supervision (example knife talk on next page).
- Keep blade facing away from you on the outside of your body, keeping wood between you and the knife.
- Keep in pocket or designated place.
- Sheath immediately after use – may require adults to do this depending on age or ability.

Passing

Holding sheathed part, offer handle to person.

Placing

Put the tool down on ground or surface with handle facing backwards or return it to its designated place.

Walking

When walking, place blade in sheath (hearing a click) place in pocket or walk holding sheath.

Cleaning

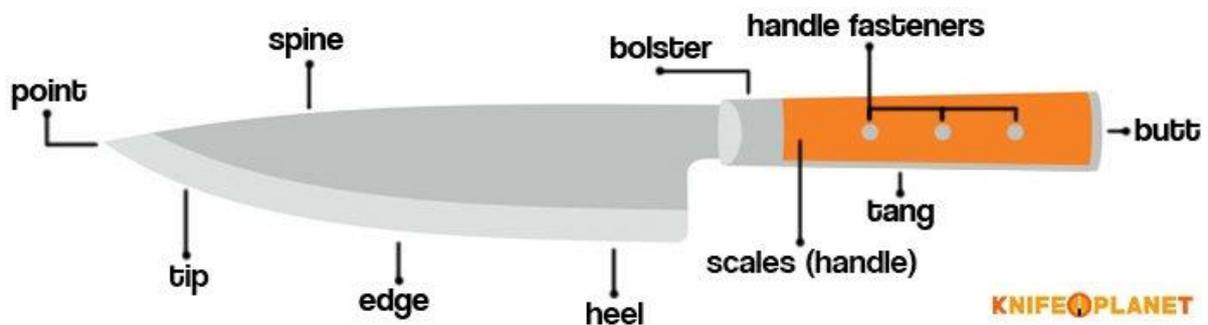
On site, use a dry paint brush to brush off sawdust etc. Use cloth and gun oil/WD40/sewing machine oil to ensure all dirt and moisture is off the blade. Use long stick with cloth to wipe out any debris inside the sheath.

Maintenance

Sharpen using sharpening stone after each session.

Storing

Store with protective sheath/cover on, in a large water-proof and airtight container.



Example Tool Talk for a Knife:

This is a knife.

This is the handle, and this is the sheath.

When I am using my knife, I take it out of the sheath like this.

This is the blade, and this is the cutting edge.

When I am not using my knife, I put it back in the sheath like this.

I stand with my knife like this and I walk with my knife like this.

I pass my knife like this.

When I am using my knife, I use it two arms and a tool length away from everyone (circle of safety)

I use it for cutting string, whittling, carving and I use it to the side of my body and away from me.

And when I am using my knife, I have a glove on my helper hand.

When I am not using my knife, I place the knife on the group with the handle facing out and the blade facing in.

And when I am finished with my knife, I put it back in the toolbox or designated area.