
Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all past articles are available online at billiards.colostate.edu. Reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website.

Do you think you know a lot about pool? Well, here's your chance to prove it. I recently created and posted a set of Pool Quizzes to test how much you really know. The quizzes, which test how well you know the game's terminology, pool physics principles, and rules, can be found on the [Instructor and Student resource page](#) at billiards.colostate.edu. They are also described and demonstrated in online video [NV J.92](#). In this article, I summarize all important highlights from the video.

The first quiz tests your knowledge of pool terminology. **Image 1** shows the first 5 questions of the quiz, which includes 50 questions total. The quiz is available as a PDF file that you can print or view on a computer or tablet. You can grade yourself using the provided answer key (also a PDF file). Alternatively, you can take the quiz online on any device with automatic scoring. If you want to study up before taking the quiz, visit the linked [Terminology resource page](#) which includes a video that defines and demonstrates all important terms. You can also look up any term or phrase you don't know in the linked [billiards glossary](#).

Pool Terminology Quiz

from billiards.colostate.edu

PLEASE CIRCLE THE LETTER FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

1. What is another name for “pool?”
 - a. snooker
 - b. pocket billiards
 - c. 3-cushion billiards
 - d. black ball
 - e. rotation
2. What is under the playing-surface cloth of a good-quality pool table?
 - a. slate
 - b. marble
 - c. hard wood
 - d. phenolic
 - e. ceramic
3. The standard regulation pro tournament pool table size is:
 - a. 6 ft
 - b. 7 ft
 - c. 8 ft
 - d. 9 ft
 - e. 10 ft
4. The spot on the table where the top ball of an 8-ball rack is placed is called the:
 - a. blind spot
 - b. ghost ball spot
 - c. tangent line spot
 - d. head spot
 - e. foot spot
5. The part of the playing surface above head string is called the:
 - a. foot area
 - b. diamond zone
 - c. kitchen
 - d. living area
 - e. den

Image 1 Pool Terminology Quiz

The second quiz tests your knowledge of pool physics principles. **Image 2** shows the first 5 questions of the quiz, which includes 50 questions total. Again, you can use the PDF file, or you can take the quiz online. If you want to study up for this quiz, visit the linked [Pool Physics resource page](#). The most useful resources are the [CB control tutorial](#), the [sidespin tutorial](#), and the [squirt/swerve/throw effects page](#). Be sure to watch the linked “Everything You Need to Know About CB Control” ([NV J.27](#)) and the “Everything You Need to Know About Sidespin” videos ([NV J.29](#)). Also watch the other videos and read through the list of effects on the squirt/swerve/throw effects page. These resources cover all important pool physics principals. In a follow-up video, I will demonstrate the answers to all questions on the pool physics quiz with shots at a pool table, so be sure to subscribe to my YouTube Channel so you don't miss it.

Pool Physics Quiz

from billiards.colostate.edu

PLEASE CIRCLE THE LETTER FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

TERMINOLOGY:

CB: cue ball, **OB:** object ball

CIT: cut-induced throw, **SIT:** spin-induced throw

1. What is the cut angle for a ½-ball hit?
 - a. 0°
 - b. 30°
 - c. 45°
 - d. 60°
 - e. 90°
2. What does stun mean?
 - a. spinning in place
 - b. hit a frozen ball
 - c. hit a ball frozen to a cushion
 - d. sliding with no topspin or backspin
 - e. rolling with natural topspin
3. For a stop shot (where the CB stops dead after hitting the OB), what must be true?
 - a. The CB must have stun when it hits the OB, and the CB stops dead for any cut angle.
 - b. The CB must have stun when it hits the OB, and the shot must be straight.
 - c. The CB must have backspin when it hits the OB, and the CB stops dead for any cut angle.
 - d. The CB must have backspin when it hits the OB, and the shot must be straight.
4. Which of the following conditions guarantee draw?
 - a. hitting the CB below center
 - b. hitting the CB with fast speed with any tip position
 - c. the CB having stun when it reaches the OB
 - d. the CB having bottom or back spin when it reaches the OB
 - e. the CB having topspin when it reaches the OB
5. To draw the CB a largest possible distance on a long straight shot, what combination of things is required?
 - a. slow shot speed, a center-ball hit, and slow/non-slick cloth
 - b. slow shot speed, a low tip position, and fast/slick cloth
 - c. fast shot speed, a center-ball hit, and slow/non-slick cloth
 - d. fast shot speed, a low tip position, and slow/non-slick cloth
 - e. fast shot speed, a low tip position, and fast/slick cloth

[Image 2](#) Pool Physics Quiz

The third quiz tests your knowledge and application of the official rules of pool. Again, you can use the PDF version, or you can take it online (see **Image 3**). There is also an Excel spreadsheet with automatic scoring if you prefer that. You need to watch shot videos as you take the quiz, where you answer fair or foul after each shot. There are 100 shots total to judge. Everything you need to take the quiz, including the shot videos can be found on the [Pool Rules Quiz resource page](#). Feel free to pause the videos, and rewind as necessary, as you answer the questions. All answers are available in a PDF file answer key and in video demonstrations. There is also a collection of instructional videos covering various situations that you might want to study up on before or after the quiz. And if you want to learn more, the linked resource pages offer many more videos and additional useful information. All pool players should be familiar with the official rules of pool and be able to score high on the pool rules quiz.

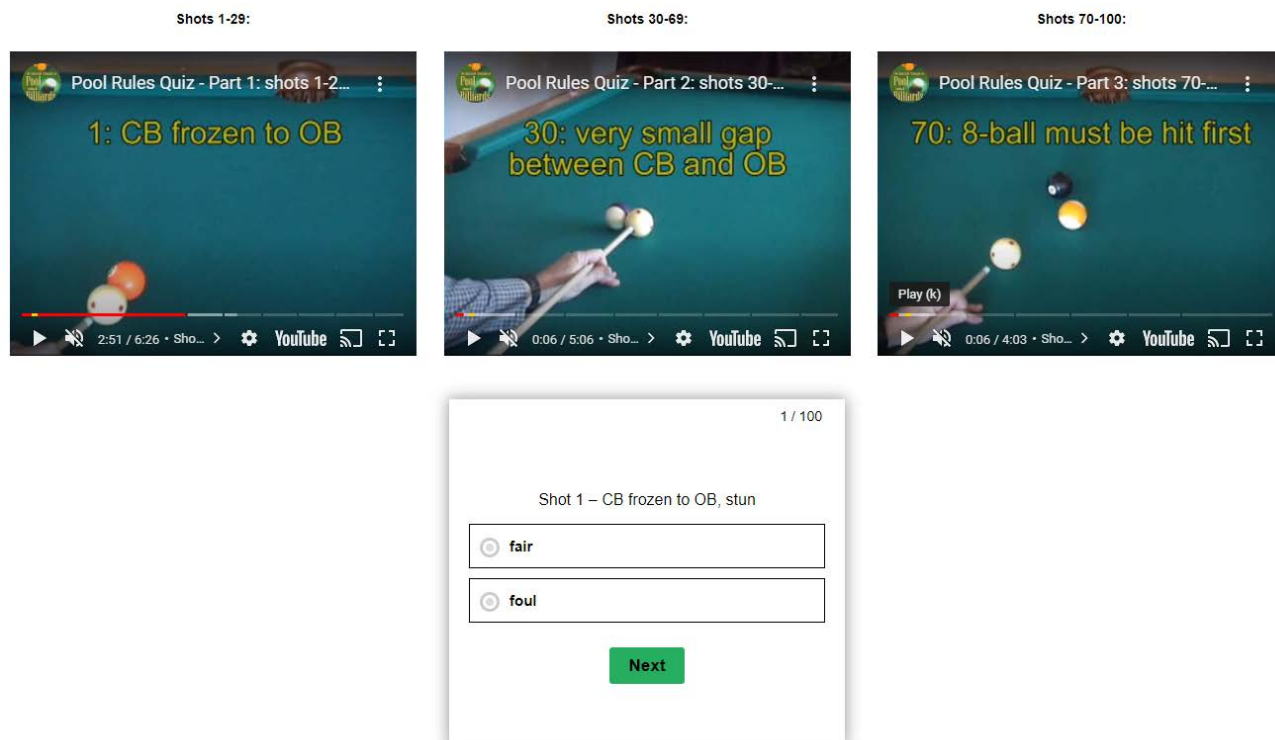


Image 3 Pool Rules Quiz

The pool quiz resource page also has a link to the [Billiard University \(BU\) Playing-Ability Exams](#) that you can use to test and rate how well you play. The first BU Exam tests important fundamental pool skills. All the documents you need to take and score the Exams are freely available on the BU website, including tools for automatic scoring. The score you get on the first Exam places you into the appropriate version of the 2nd Exam that tests how well you apply pool skills in various game situations. Your combined score on BU Exams I and II can be used to estimate your player rating. And the BU Rating Comparison table (see **Image 4**) shows how BU Scores correlate with FargoRatings, common league handicaps, and other player rating systems. You can also get a pool diploma from the Billiard University if you score high enough. Give the Exams a try to see how you stack up against many others who have already gotten their pool diplomas. There are many useful resources on the BU website for learning more about the Exams and the diploma process. Be sure to check out the videos showing Shane VanBoening taking BU Exams I and II. Also watch the videos for the best performances to date on all the Exams. See how close you come to the top scores by Belarus pro Margaret Fefilova and German pro Tobias Bongers, who won the last BU Exam Challenge. Their scores won't be easy to beat, but a perfect score of 100 is possible.

BU Rating Comparisons

| BU Score | Player Level | ABCD Rating | Alt ABCD | Fargo Rate | RDS Level | ARS (AZ) | APA 8-ball* | APA 9-ball* | BCAPL, VNEA 8-ball* | BCAPL 9-ball* |
|----------|--------------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 185-200 | world class pro | A++ / AAAA | Master | > 770 | 16 | 10-2 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| 175-184 | semipro / pro | A+ / AAA | Master | 730-769 | 15 | 10-1 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| 165-174 | upper shortstop | A / AA | Master | 690-729 | 14 | 10, 10-1 | 7 | 9 | 9, 10 | 9, 10 |
| 155-164 | lower shortstop | A- / A | Master | 650-689 | 13 | 9, 10 | 7 | 9 | 9, 10 | 9, 10 |
| 140-154 | upper advanced | B+ | AA | 600-649 | 12 | 8, 9 | 7 | 9 | 8, 9 | 8, 9 |
| 125-139 | mid advanced | B | AA, A | 550-599 | 11 | 7, 8 | 6, 7 | 8, 9 | 8, 9 | 6, 7 |
| 110-124 | lower advanced | B- | A | 500-549 | 10 | 7, 8 | 6 | 7, 8 | 7, 8 | 4, 5 |
| 95-109 | upper intermediate | C+ | B | 450-499 | 9 | 6, 7 | 5, 6 | 6, 7 | 7, 8 | 2, 3 |
| 70-94 | mid intermediate | C | B, C | 400-449 | 8 | 5, 6 | 4, 5 | 5, 6 | 6, 7 | 1, 0, 1 |
| 55-69 | lower intermediate | C- | C | 350-399 | 7 | 5, 6 | 4 | 4, 5 | 5, 6 | -2, -3 |
| 40-54 | upper beginner | D+ | C | 300-349 | 6 | 4, 5 | 3, 4 | 3, 4 | 4, 5 | -4, -5 |
| 30-39 | mid beginner | D | C | 250-299 | 5 | 3, 4 | 3, 4 | 2, 3 | 4, 5 | -6, -7 |
| 20-29 | lower beginner | D- | D | 200-249 | 4 | 2, 3 | 2, 3 | 1, 2 | 3, 4 | -8, -9 |
| 0-19 | novice | D-- | D | 0-200 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | -10 |

* These ratings can vary quite a lot among leagues and regions depending on the level of competition.

BilliardUniversity.org

Image 3 BU Rating Comparison Table

Have fun with the quizzes and exams, and good luck with your game from Dr. Dave!



[NV J.27](#) – CUE BALL CONTROL ... Everything You Need to Know

[NV J.29](#) – SIDESPIN ... Everything You Need to Know

[NV J.92](#) – Test Your POOL KNOWLEDGE ... Take Dr. Dave's Pool QUIZZES and EXAMS

PS:

- I know other authors and I tend to use lots of terminology, and I know not all readers are totally familiar with these terms. If you ever come across a word or phrase you do not fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is a PBI Advanced Instructor, Dean of the Billiard University, and author of the book: [The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#) and numerous instructional DVD series, all available at: DrDaveBilliards.com.