

# The 30° Rule

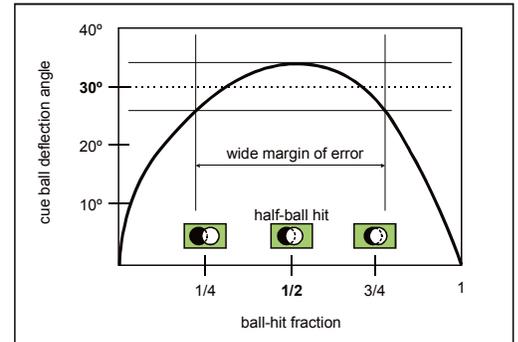
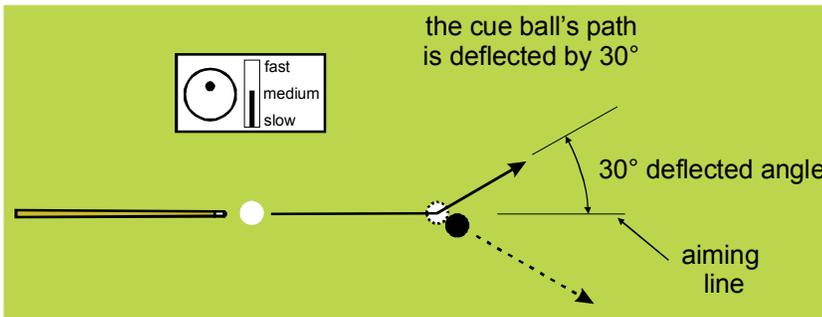
by Dr. Dave, from the book: "The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards"

[billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu)

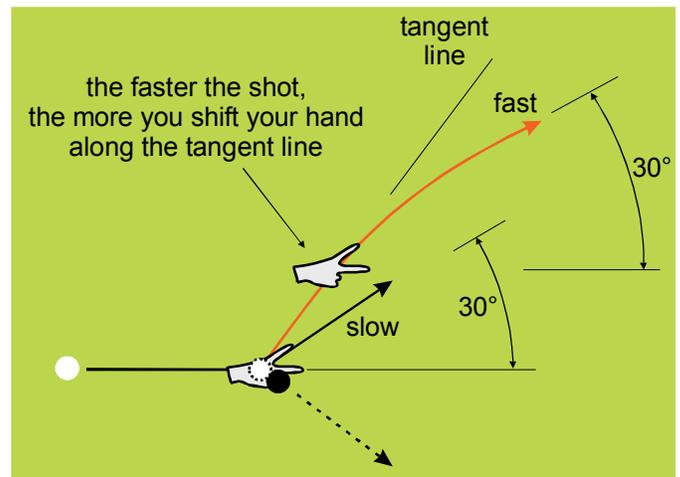
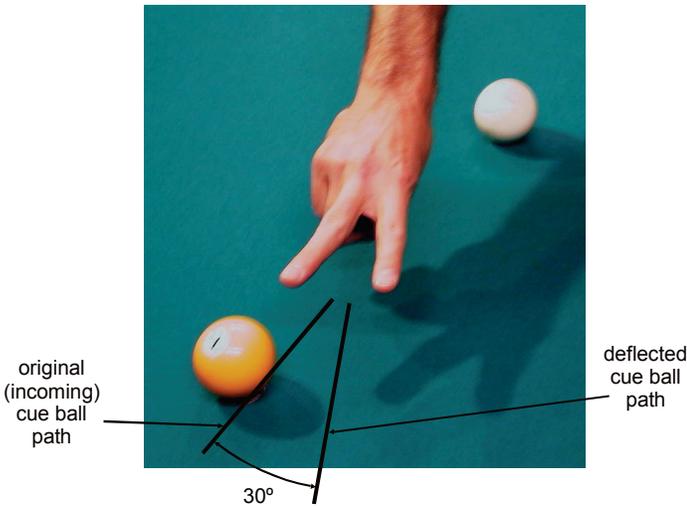
*If you let one finger stay,  
The other finger points the way.  
Peace.*

If you don't know the 30° rule yet, learning it can truly transform your game. The 30° rule helps you predict the path of the cue ball after impact with an object ball. This is a very important skill to have for helping you prevent scratches, plan break-up and avoidance shots, and execute carom and billiards shots. It is also critical in being able to play precision position ... the skill that separates the great players from the good ones.

**When the cue ball is rolling when it hits the object ball, and when the cut angle is between a 1/4-ball and 3/4-ball hit, the cue ball's path will be deflected by approximately 30°.**



You can use a relaxed but firm peace sign (V-sign) to visualize and apply the 30° rule:



For more information, see the [April-July '04 and Feb-June '05 instructional articles](#) and the following video demonstrations on the website:

 normal video	<a href="#">NV B.66 – The 30-degree rule, from VEPS I</a> <a href="#">NV B.75 – 30-degree rule natural-angle examples, from VEPS III</a>	 normal video
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