This lesson also uses handouts #1, 2, and 3.

Lesson 1
Gun Safety / Marksmanship

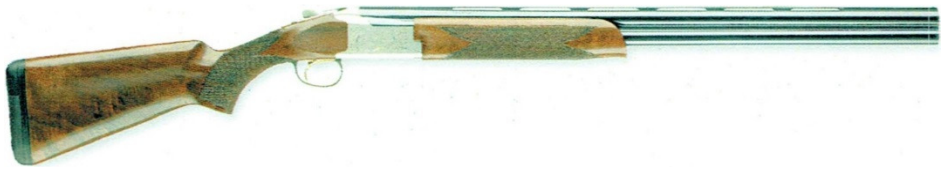
Introduction to Shooting Sports, Firearms and Handling

Shooting and the shooting sports are some of the most popular recreation activities in America.
Shooting is a lifetime sport. You can learn to shoot at a very young age and continue to enjoy shooting until you are very old. You do not have to be big, strong, fast, or a star athlete to shoot and learn to be a good shooter.
Girls enjoy shooting as much as boys. Shooting is a safe sport and fun for everyone. During .the next six weeks your instructors will be working with you to help you become a good, safe shooter.

You will learn the following things during this program:

1. General gun knowledge – that is the knowledge of different types of guns and ammunition.
2. Rules for proper gun handling.
3. Rules for safe hunting.
4. Parts of guns.
5. How to aim a gun.
6. How to shoot in the prone position.
7. Rules for firing our gun on a rifle range.
8. Finally, you will fire the BB guns at targets and have shooting matches.

Knowledge of Guns and Ammunition



Shotguns
This is a shotgun. The most dangerous part of this gun, and any gun, is the end of the barrel, called the "muzzle". Remember these rules:

- Always keep the muzzle end of your gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Shotguns are some of the most popular sporting guns today. Shotguns are used in hunting and for clay target shooting in the sports of trap and skeet.

The reason they are called shotguns is that they shoot small round pellets called shot.

The shotgun barrel is smooth on the inside. The barrel is called smoothbore.

A shotgun is used for shooting sports and hunting where you shoot at moving targets at close range. A shotgun can do a lot of damage and is dangerous if mishandled.

Some of the different **types of shotguns** that are in use today include:

- Pump Action
- Break Action
- Semi-Automatic
- Single and Double Barrel
- Over and Under

See Shotgun Nomenclature Chart (Handout #1) for examples of the first 3 types in this list.

Before you take a shotgun into the field, you must know how your gun works.

Shotgun Gauges
Shotguns use different sizes of ammunition or shells. Each size is called a *gauge*. Popular shotgun gauges are 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410.

Shotgun Chokes
A choke on a shotgun controls how fast and how wide the shot will spread once it leaves the end of the barrel. Some of the different types of chokes in use today include:

- Open
- Modified
- Improved
- Improved Cylinder
- Full

See Know Your Gun and Ammo (Handout #2) for examples of gauges and chokes.

Whether you are shooting from close or far away, will determine the type of choke you will use.
Some shotguns have an adjustable choke on the end of the barrel. While some have fixed chokes that cannot be changed.

Shotgun Sights
Because a shotgun is shooting hundreds of shotgun pellets (shot), sights are not necessary.
Your aim is necessary when throwing the one stone, but not necessary when throwing a handful of stones. Therefore, you point a shotgun rather than aim it.

Damascus Barrels
Shotgun barrels were once made by welding twisted wire together. These were called Damascus barrels.
Today's barrels are solid steel. Be sure that your barrel is solid steel.
Damascus barrels are not safe and should not be used.

See Know Your Gun and Ammo (Handout #2) to see a graphic of a Damascus Barrel.

Make sure all shotgun barrels are free of dirt. Do not shoot a gun if the barrel is clogged. An obstruction in a shotgun barrel will cause the barrel to shatter.

Shotgun Ammunition;
Shotgun pellets come in different sizes. Each size is numbered. The largest is Size 000 Buck Shot. The smallest size is Size 12.

The reason shot sizes are different is because the shotgun is used for hunting different kind s of game. The shotgun is used to hunt deer in some states. It is al so used to break clay targets. You need large size shot pellet s when hunting, but you only need small pellets to break clay targets.

See Know Your Gun and Ammo (Handout #2) to see the various sizes of shot, ranging from size 12 to size 000 Buckshot.

Shotgun shells also have different power. Magnum shells are powerful shotgun shells. These shells will fire the shot pellets further than the regular shot shell. Shotguns can also fire a single projectile called a slug. A Slug is a large piece of lead that may be copper encased or held in a sabot that is in the shape of a ball or bullet. Slugs are used mainly to hunt large game.

Shotgun shells have five major components:

- Case
- Primer
- Powder
- Shot
- Wad

See Shotgun Nomenclature Chart (Handout #1) for a completed graphic of shell components. You are only required to know the 5 listed here.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

As you can see by the different size of these shotgun shells, it would be dangerous if a .410 shell were placed in a 20 gauge gun, or a 20 gauge shell in a 12 gauge gun. The shell could fall into the barrel and become lodged there. The shooter could possibly make a mistake by placing the correct size shell in the gun and firing the gun with the barrel clogged by the other shell. This is the reason why you never carry two different size shotgun shells in your pocket while shooting or hunting. Carry only the same gauge shells as your gun will shoot.

See Know Your Gun and Ammo (Handout #2) for a graphic of 20 gauge shell in a 12 gauge barrel.

Rifles

The major difference between rifles and shotguns is found in the barrel. The rifle barrel has grooves cut into the inside of the barrel. These grooves are called rifling. The rifling causes the bullet to spin as it passes through the barrel. However, it should be noted that some shotguns may have rifled barrels for shooting slugs in sabots.

See Know Your Gun and Ammo (Handout #2) for a graphic a rifled and smooth barrel (upper left corner).

Rifles only shoot one bullet, at a time, where shotguns shoot many pellets. The rifles and bullets, like shotguns and shot shells, come in different sizes. These sizes are called calibers. Calibers run from .17 up to as large as .50 caliber or larger. The caliber of rifle and bullet you use will depend on what type of shooting you are doing. Twenty-two caliber is ideal for target shooting, .30-06 is a popular caliber for deer hunting.

Like shotguns, rifles come in different sizes and models. Here are some examples:

- Bolt action
- Lever action
- Pump
- Semi-automatic

See Rifle Nomenclature Chart (Handout #3) for examples of each type of rifle in this list.

Rifle Ammunition

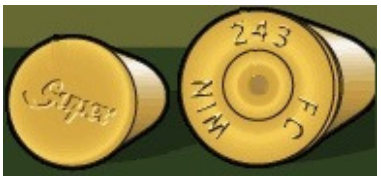
Rife ammunition comes in different sizes. The larger the shell, the more powerful it is.

There are two major types of rifle ammunition: Rimfire and Centerfire.

In rimfire shells, the primer is built into the case.

Rifle bullets can travel long distances. For example, a .22 caliber rifle can fire the bullet more than one mile. A .30-06 caliber rifle can fire the bullet more than three miles. It is important that you know what is beyond your target. A bullet can travel and hit a person, a house, a car or a building a mile away or more.

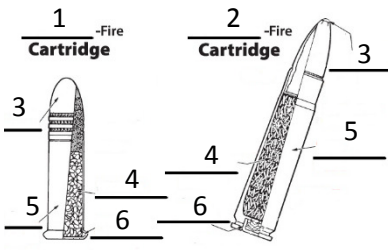
1 **2**



1. _____
2. _____

Rifle ammunition has four major components:

- Case
- Powder
- Bullet
- Primer



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

"Always be sure of your target and what is behind that target."

Pneumatic Guns

Pneumatic guns, whether spring air, single-pump or multi-pump pneumatic use air to fire pellets and BBs. Most of these guns use a pump to put air into a chamber. The air is stored in the chamber until the gun is fired. The air that is released forces the BB or pellet out of the barrel.

Pneumatic guns can fire these BBs and pellets at different speeds. The speed or velocity can depend upon how many times the gun is pumped and how much air is stored in the gun's air chamber.

C02 and Pre-charged Pneumatic Guns

A C02 gun or pre-charged pneumatic gun uses liquid gas (carbon dioxide) or compressed air that is stored in a metal bottle or reservoir. Some C02 guns use a single-use, disposable bottle. When the bottle is placed in a C02 gun, the seal on top of the bottle is punctured. This lets the liquid tum to a gas. When the trigger of the C02 gun is pulled, a set amount of gas is released from the bottle into the gun. This gas pushes the BB or pellet out of the gun barrel.

Some C02 guns designed for competition use a larger refillable cylinder that will hold enough C02 to practice and finish an entire match. Following the manufacturer's directions, the cylinder can be refilled and re-installed into the gun. A valve in the cylinder is depressed by a pin which allows the C02 gas to energize the gun.

Pre-charged pneumatic guns store compressed air, as their propellant, in a removable cylinder or built-in reservoir. Following the manufacturer's directions, these bottles or built-in reservoirs can also be re-filled.

BBs and Pellets

This is the ammunition of air guns, C02 guns, and pneumatic guns.

Daisy's AVANTI Champion (formerly known as Daisy Model 499)
This is our gun. We will actually use this gun in our classes.
This gun is a spring air BB gun.
We can shoot this gun indoors.
This gun, like the rifles and shotguns, must be treated with care and respect. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

This is how the gun works:

- Put gun on safe.
- Cock the gun by pulling the lever forward until it clicks.
- Bring the lever back into position.
- Load a BB into the barrel.
- Aim at your target.
- Take gun off safe.
- Squeeze the trigger to fire.

Rules of Proper Gun Handling

Now let's check the basic rules for proper gunmanship.

Rule 1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. We covered this at the start of the class. Remember, before you check to see if the gun is loaded, point that muzzle in a safe direction.

Rule 2. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

Rule 3. Treat every gun as if it were loaded. (Ask the class what this means.) Always check to see if the gun is loaded. Take no one's word. Always check the gun yourself. "I didn't know the gun was loaded," is no excuse for an accident.

Rule 4. Only load or cock a gun when you are shooting. Never carry a loaded or cocked gun into your car, home, camp, or public place. When you are finished hunting or shooting, unload your gun. If possible, put your gun in a gun case. Store it in a gun cabinet. Never carry a gun into a public place. When storing your gun, even for a few minutes, make sure your ammunition is locked in a separate strong box or cabinet.

Rule 5. Check your target and beyond your target. Be sure you know your companions are well clear of the target before you shoot. Check behind and beyond your target to be certain you have a safe backstop and that no person or property could be endangered. If you are hunting, you must know what the legal game animals look like.

Rule 6. Anyone shooting should wear shooting glasses. Anyone near a shooter should wear shooting glasses and should be standing behind the shooter. While shooting glasses may not prevent all possible injuries they do provide an added measure of safety. Wearing shooting glasses and ear protection is an excellent lifelong habit.

Rule 7. Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun. Why not? You can't control the direction of the muzzle if you stumble or fall. You should safely lay the gun down or hand it to a companion while you climb or jump over anything. How many of you have seen people break this rule? This rule is one of the most neglected rules in proper gun handling. Make sure you do not break this rule!

Rule 8. Avoid ricochet. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water. Ammunition can ricochet off of the surface of water just like a skipped rock does.

Rule 9. Keep your muzzle, barrel, and action free of obstructions. You must be sure your gun is in good working condition. If something breaks on your gun, do not try to fix it yourself, take it to a gunsmith. After each use of your gun, clean the gun, and oil it. Do not over oil. A few drops of oil will do. Don't allow the muzzle to come in contact with the ground. Make sure your barrel is free of mud, snow, and dirt while in use. Check all new guns for excess grease. Be sure to clean a new gun before using it for the first time.

Rule 10. Guns not in use should always be unloaded. Keeping guns unloaded when not in use is important to your safety and the safety of others. When you are finished shooting, put the trigger safety in the "ON" position and unload the gun. Store guns so that they are inaccessible to untrained shooters and store ammunition separately from the gun.

Rule 11. Respect people's property. Remember, often you are shooting or hunting on someone else's land. Leave all gates as you found them. If they were closed, close them. If they were open, leave them open. Ask permission to use others' land. Thank farmers and others when you finish hunting. Offer to share your game animals with the land owner. Do not be upset if you are refused use of someone's land. There is a good reason why they said, "NO ".

These are the basic rules for safe gun handling and gunmanship.

- Use good manners in the field and on the range.
- Know your gun and ammunition and know how a gun works before you shoot it.

Each of you should learn these rules and know the importance of each.