

TENNIS STUDY GUIDE

Net: A net, standing three feet high, divides the court into two halves. The ball must be hit over the net on each shot.

Baseline: The line running parallel to the net that marks the boundary on the length of the court.

Sidelines: The two lines that run perpendicular to the net and mark the boundary on the width of the court. The sidelines vary for singles and doubles play.

Doubles alleys: The additional area on the sides of the court used in doubles play.

Service line: The line running parallel to the net that marks the end of the two service boxes.

Service box: The area in which a serve must land for play to continue.

Center line: The line running perpendicular to the net that divides the two service boxes.

Center mark: Line dividing the service area into two halves.

ace: A serve that the returner doesn't even touch with her racquet. An ace wins the point immediately for the server.

backhand: The side of your body that you usually don't do business on. For example, if you're right-handed, your backhand side is the left side of your body.

seline: The line, parallel to the net, which defines the outer-most edge of the court.

center line: The line in the direct center of the baseline. You must stand to either side of the baseline when you serve.

drop shot: A very soft shot hit just barely over the net. You hit drop shots to get your opponent up to the net.

foot fault: You commit a foot fault when your foot (or any other part of your body, for that matter) touches the baseline or center line during your serve. You automatically lose the service attempt when you foot fault.

forehand: The side of your body that you perform most tasks on. For example, if you're right-handed, the right side of your body is your forehand side.

Grand Slam: Winning the U.S. Open, Australian Open, French Open, and Wimbledon all in one year.

grip: The way you hold your racquet. You can choose from three standard grips in tennis: the eastern, continental, and western grips.

ground strokes: Your basic forehand and backhand strokes

lob: A shot that you hit with any stroke high and deep into your opponent's court. You typically use a lob to get the ball past an opponent when she stands at the net.

net post: The two very hard metal posts that hold up the net. (You'll find out exactly how hard they are if you ever run into one.) If your shot hits one of the netposts during play and bounces in your opponent's court, the shot is good.

overhead: A shot you hit over your head during play, either on the fly, or after the ball bounces. The overhead is also known as a *smash*.

passing shot: A forehand or backhand you hit past an opponent when she stands at the net.

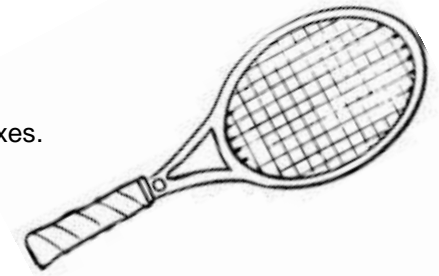
seed: A player's rank in a tournament.

serve: A stroke, made from over your head, which you use to start each point.

sideline: The lines on the court, perpendicular to the net, which define the widest margins of the court.

spin: Hitting the ball in such a way that when it bounces, it does some funny things that your opponent doesn't expect.

volley: A shot that you hit before the ball bounces, usually at the net.



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