



## Talking in the 19th Hole

### WEEKLY TRAINING 9

**THE SHORT PUTTS.** Some putts are more important than others, and the most important are those within a 3- to the 7-foot range - short putts. Statistics show that the most crucial distance on the putt is 5 feet.

In short putts, the objective is to put the ball into the hole, so it is necessary to reach it. Another strategy on short putts is to focus on the line. Direction is crucial.

Some key elements for more consistency on the line and holing short putts are:

- Make contact with the sweet spot.
- Make contact with the square face and in line with the target.
- Accelerates the head of the club through impact.
- Commitment to the line.
- Hole the ball firmly in the hole. By hitting short putts firmly, the ball is not at the mercy of the slope, the grass, or the shape of the hole.
- Choose a target after the hole. This is necessary for better execution.

Other essential considerations in short putts are:

- If you have doubts about the break, hit the center.
- Do not force the stroke; roll the ball.
- Keep your eyes down and your head still.

Drills to hole short putts:

- Commit yourself. Visualize the line and commit to it.



- 3 of 3. Holes 3 one-foot balls. Then holes three 2-foot balls. Finish by holes three 3-foot (one yard) balls. Do the exercise of the following positions:
  - Straight putt uphill.
  - Straight putt downhill.
  - Putt with the break from left to right.
  - Putt with the break from right to left.
  - Uphill putt with the break from left to right.
  - Uphill putt with the break from right to left.
  - Downhill putt with the break from left to right.
  - Downhill putt with the break from right to left.



- Score a goal. With two tees, form a goal on the path to the hole, slightly larger than the size of the ball. Score and hole. This drill helps to hit with the square face and the ball to start on the correct line.



- Square face with the stick. Place a stick parallel to the target line on the outside or inside of the face of the putter. Place the face of the putter perpendicular to the stick. This exercise trains the eyes to square the face.



- Putt between sticks. Place two sticks or clubs parallel to the target line, slightly greater distance from the putter's head. Putt without touching the sticks with the putter.



- Stick and guide tees. Place two tees outside the heel and the putter's toe (facilitates contact with sweet spot). Place a stick parallel to the target line inside or outside the putter's head (facilitates straight trajectory). Place a tee in the putter's path on the backswing, approximately at or before the right foot (facilitates the acceleration of the putter forward). Putt without touching the tees and keeping the head of the putter parallel to the stick.



- Practice with a ball circling the hole.



- The spiral. Place five balls around the hole in the shape of a spiral. Starting at 2 feet and ending at 6 feet. Hole the five balls in a row. If you fail one, start over. Vary the direction of the spiral and the starting point. This game focuses on the most critical distances in the putt and involves the pressure of having to start if you miss.



- The diamond / the four cardinal points. Place a tee and a ball on each of the four sides of the hole at a distance of one yard. Put the balls in. Do the same exercise at 2 yards.



- Pelz's short putt drill. Place a tee on each of the four sides of the hole, at 3 feet (one yard), 4 feet, and 5 feet. Putt one ball from each row of tees for a total of 12 putts. Repeat the cycle twice for a total of

36 putts. Next, make three one-yard putts with your eyes closed. If you miss one of these, repeat a cycle of 12 putts. Then try three one-yard putts with the eyes closed.



- The exit ticket. Place a tee on each of the four sides of the hole, at 3 feet (one yard) and 4 feet. You can use the driver to place the tees, one at each end of the grip. Use a ball; the goal is to get it from each tee. To finish the class or training, it is necessary to put the eight balls in a row without failing. It can be requested 2 or 3 times, depending on the level of the players.



- The Mickelson challenge. Form a circle around the hole with ten balls at a distance of one yard (3 feet). Put the ten balls in. The next levels are at 4, 5, and 6 feet (2 yards).



- Tiger's challenge. Make 100 putts in a row. Place two tees within a yard (3 feet) of the hole slightly more than the putter's head. Hit 100 putts in a row.



- The Gary Player challenge. Make 100 putts in a row of 2 feet. If you miss a putt, start from scratch. The drill meets 3 points: get used to seeing the ball go into the hole, overcome the fear of missing a short putt and channel the shot. NOTE: In the exercise, you can also make 25 or 50 putts.



- 10 putts in a row. Hit 10 balls in a row for one yard. The objective is to hole all ten balls.



- 20 putts in a row. Hit 20 balls in a row for one yard. The objective is to hole all 20 balls.



- Listen to the hole. Putt the ball and listen for the sound of the ball in the hole cup, head down.



- Hit the tee. Place a tee at the back of the hole, in line with the ball. Putt and hit the tee with the ball.



- Short version ladder. Set a coin or tee at a yard, a yard and a half, and 2 yards. Putt four balls from each point. The challenge is to get the four balls from each point.



- Fill the hole. Put balls into the hole by hand to determine how many balls will fit. Remove the balls and put them within a yard or two. Putt them until the hole is filled.



- 2-yard putt with a left-to-right break. The challenge is:
  - Level 1: Hole 2 balls in a row.
  - Level 2: Hole 3 in a row.
  - Level 3: Hole 4 in a row.
  - Level X: Hole 7 in a row.



- 2-yard putt with a right-to-left break. The challenge is:
  - Level 1: Hole 2 in a row.
  - Level 2: Hole 3 in a row.



- Level 3: Hole 4 in a row.
- Level X: Hole 7 in a row.



- Putt 2 yards downhill and fast. The challenge is:
  - Level 1: Hole 2 in a row.
  - Level 2: Hole 3 in a row.
  - Level 3: Hole 4 in a row.
  - Level X: Hole 7 in a row.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5k\\_RVlnQc&list=PLsYr1uC75ERgr9-eVQB96ruainhvLDSaV&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5k_RVlnQc&list=PLsYr1uC75ERgr9-eVQB96ruainhvLDSaV&index=5)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8M8AqywfSE&list=PLsYr1uC75ERgr9-eVQB96ruainhvLDSaV&index=6>

Holing short putts will make you a better player. **FORE.**

Note: If you are subscribed to [www.handy.golf](http://www.handy.golf), you receive the file with all the images of the exercises.

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