

Plain Hunt

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	1	4	3	6	5
2	4	1	6	3	5
4	2	6	1	5	3
4	6	2	5	1	3
6	4	5	2	3	1
6	5	4	3	2	1
5	6	3	4	1	2
5	3	6	1	4	2
3	5	1	6	2	4
3	1	5	2	6	4
1	3	2	5	4	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Welcome!

To master plain hunting, you have to beat your brain's built in programming, and replace it with a new ringing program. In other words, you have to overcome your instincts. This is very difficult. – indeed, it's arguably the most difficult step in learning to ring.

Counting your places versus knowing the numbers

Every tower captain has always said “don't learn the numbers, count your places”, yet for generations everyone has learnt the numbers. Why?

Counting your places is only any good if you actually are in that place: many learners confidently count up to 5 and back down again, and their bell is nowhere near the position they are so confidently counting. You will only learn what ringing in that place feels like by changing to it. The most reliable way at first of ensuring you really are ringing in second place in the second row, is to ring over bell 2!

Ultimately, however, you must switch over to counting your places, because those are always the same, but which bells you ring over will change as you ring to different methods.

Speeding up and slowing down

When hunting up, you ring more slowly; when hunting down you ring more quickly. Sounds simple – but it isn't!

In most things in life, we do things more quickly by working harder, pushing harder etc. Ringing is the opposite – pull less hard, the bell drops and rings more quickly. Pull harder, the bell goes up further and rings more slowly.

This is the first instinct you have to overcome: **less pull = faster; more pull=slower.**

Taut Rope

To remain in control of your bell you must ring with a taut rope. If you're making it swing more or less to adjust its speed, you must obviously also adjust your position on the rope. Most beginning ringers are terrified of letting go of the rope, so hang on for grim death, never adjusting their position on the tail end. Ringing plain hunt on 5 on a typical ring, you will need to adjust your rope position by 2-3" between hunting up or down.

This is the second instinct you have to overcome: **move your hands on the rope.**

Ropesight

Everyone dreams of “getting ropesight” – and when you’ve got it, it helps a lot. So what is it?

Ropesight is being able to pick the one bell you’re following out of all the others. This will be the bell that is pulled just before yours: so if you’re a long way out, ropesight won’t help. All ropesight can do is confirm you’re in the right place, and help you fine tune things a bit. Pulling the correct amount is key.

So if you’re in about the right place, how do you pick out that bell that’s just before you? The key is that as you pull the rope, it stops going up and starts coming down. In that split second, the rope is still – but all the other ropes are moving rapidly. So what you’re looking for is the rope that is still just before yours. The trouble is that the human brain, just like all other animals’, is programmed to look for things that move, since they represent danger.

This is the third instinct you have to overcome: **look for the still rope.**

Keep going!

A common problem as you try to learn ropesight is to stop ringing while trying to spot which bell to ring over. This is always disastrous. In the time you take to look round all 5 other ropes, you’re at least 2 places late, usually more. If in doubt, ring anyway and start looking for the next bell, and forget about the one you didn’t spot. The rhythm of hunting down or up should tell you approximately where to ring next, so ring there. (S)He who hesitates is lost!

This is the fourth instinct you have to overcome: **if in doubt, don’t stop!**

Further Reading

I very strongly recommend The Bellringer's Early Companion by Steve Coleman, covering:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| * Handling Help | * Plain Hunt | * Ringing Up |
| * Leading | * Ringing Down | * Difficult Bells |
| * Trebling | * Tenor Behind | * Listening & Striking |
| * Ringing Knots | * A Trip Upstairs | * The Very Beginning |
| * Ropes & Splicing | * Feeling Low | * Belfry Maintenance |
| * Weddings & Funerals | * Being a New Band | * Giving a Talk |
| * Method Dancing | * and much else besides | |

£14.95 each. (Post free, UK & Surface Mail. Air mail extra.)

from Sue Coleman, 46 Byfords Road, Huntley, Glos. GL19 3EL

or telephone 01452 831197 or see <http://www.ringingbooks.freeserve.co.uk> or try the bookstall at any Guild event.

Exercise 1: Fill in the table for plain hunt doubles

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Exercise 2: Hunting up vs. Hunting down

Consider the first two rows.

How many bells ring after 4 rings in the first row, until it rings in the second row?

Is 4 hunting down or up? _____

How many bells ring after 3 rings in the first row, until it rings in the second row?

Is 3 hunting down or up? _____

If you're mathematically inclined, think of the percentage difference; if not, just note the difference is big!

Tutor notes for theory session

Introduction

- Students to briefly say who they are and where they come from and what they are looking to learn on the course.
- Encourage the asking of questions.
- Briefly explain the format of the theory sessions.
- There will be the opportunity of further theory sessions on a one-to-one ad-hoc basis throughout the day.

Domestic Arrangements

- Lunch arrangements

Standing Behind

- Encourage students to stand behind at every opportunity. This will only assist them in making progress on the course.
- Benefits of the course will be felt in 6 months time.

Aims of the day

- Ringing Speed (Up, Down)
- Ringing by places
- Ropesight
- Covering