

Corrections to USPS *Sail Book*, 2009

p. 31, question 2:

Answer a) is supposed to be the correct answer, but a better and more obviously correct answer would be “helps to correct for weather helm.”

p. 86, par. 16:

“The wind velocity at the masthead can be much greater than the velocity at deck level, requiring that the sail be set at different angles of attack along its height”. This statement is wrong, since the goal of correct sail trim is to have the sail at the SAME angle of attack, e.g. the correct angle of attack for laminar air flow; see, for example, p. 84, Fig. 10-3.

Here is an alternative, correct, wording:

“The wind velocity at the masthead can be much greater than the velocity at deck level, requiring that the sail twist off different amounts along its height to maintain the same angle of attack.”

p. 86, par 17:

“The change in apparent wind direction with height above the water determines the best angle of attack on that section of the sail.” This statement is wrong since the best angle of attack does not change with wind direction or speed.

Here is an alternative, correct, wording:

“The change in apparent wind direction with height above the water determines the amount of sail twist required to maintain the same angle of attack.”

p. 109, question 8:

The correct answer is supposed to be d. I think the question would be better if it read: “Except when running and broad reaching, the”, because somewhere between a beam reach and a deep broad reach the telltales became irrelevant, since the sail shifts from what some (e.g. the U.S. Sailing Association’s *Basic Keelboat* book) call “pull” mode to “push” mode.

p. 118, question 18:

Answer c is supposed to be the correct answer, based on par. 15. This is an OK answer only if the boat had just backed off from a close haul and assuming the wind is not picking up and you want to de-power the mainsail. I don’t think this is a good question.