

How to Teach a Child to Tie Shoes

Instructions

Difficulty: Challenging

Things you will need:

- shoes
- laces
- patience
- practice
- Children's Clothes
- Shoelaces
- Stickers

Step1

Wait until your child is ready. Most children develop the dexterity needed to tie shoelaces between the ages of 4 and 6. Girls are often ready to learn slightly earlier than boys.

Step2

Make sure your child knows right from left before you try to teach him how to tie shoes.

Step3

Choose one method of lace tying, and teach it consistently. Make sure that everyone who may be trying to help your child learn this skill is offering the same method. Otherwise, he may get confused.

Step4

Make up a game or poem to help your child remember the necessary steps.

Step5

Make sure that you and your child are side by side rather than opposite each other when you demonstrate. That way he'll be able to copy your movements rather than mirror them.

Step6

Give your child lots of praise when he gets it right.

Using an old shoe, make a lace of half one color and half another. I tied a couple of short laces (one patterned and one white) together. Do the other old shoe the same way. One is for you to use to demonstrate tying and the other is for your child to use and follow along.

Use one colored lace and a white lace. It really helps with visually distinguishing when it comes to the loop, fold-over part. You can also make a "big shoe" using cardboard, punch holes and use real laces, using the 2 different colors for practicing lacing and tying.

Tips & Warnings

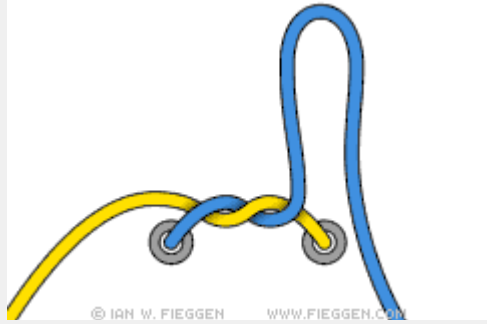
- To help your child differentiate left from right, try putting a sticker on one hand or tying a piece of yarn around one wrist.
- One easy method of shoe tying is to have your child make two loops, then tie them together in a simple knot. This is easier than bow tying and just as effective.
- If your child is left-handed and you aren't, try to find an adult "lefty" to help teach him this skill.
- Be sure to teach your children how to do this, even though alternatives are available. Velcro shoes and elastic "no lace" laces may be fun for your kids, but they'll have to learn how to tie their shoes eventually, and basic knot and bow tying is a good skill to know.

Standard Shoelace Knot

Sometimes referred to as an "Around The Tree Shoelace Knot"

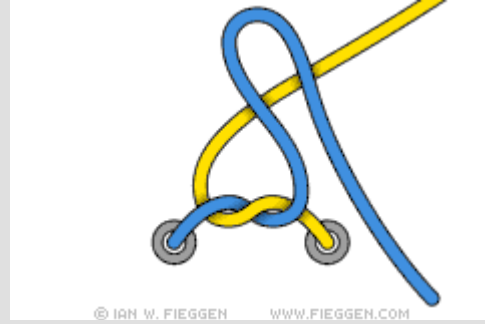
Of all the shoelace tying techniques shown to me by others, this is by far the most common: Make a loop with one end, wrap the other end around it and pull a loop through. This is how I was first taught to tie my shoelaces when I was young.

Step 1:



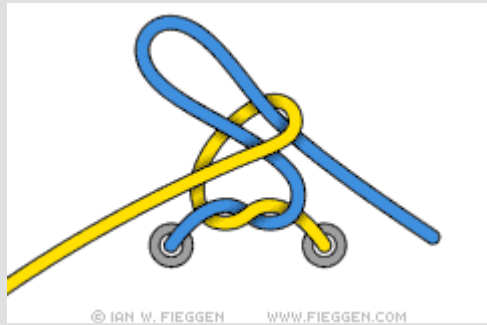
Tie a **Starting Knot** as shown, then make the right (blue) end into a "loop" by simply doubling it back onto itself.

Step 2:



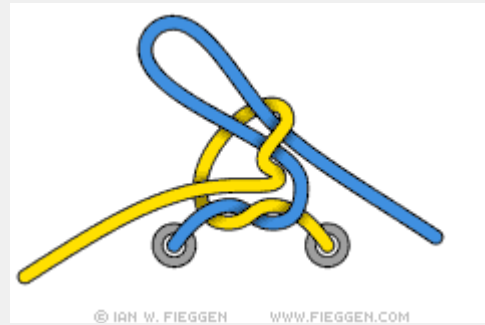
Take the left (yellow) end and pass it around to the right, going **behind** the right loop.

Step 3:



Continue the left (yellow) end **around** the right loop to end up in front.

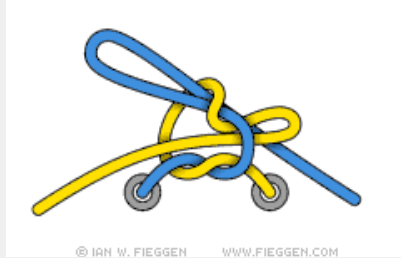
Step 4:



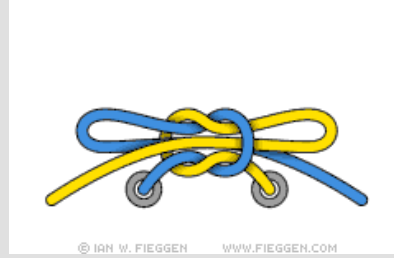
Start to feed the left (yellow) lace into the "hole" that has just been made.

Step 5:

Step 6:



With the left (yellow) lace now through the "hole", grab hold of both loops and start to pull the knot tight.

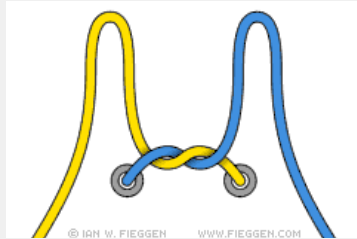


Continue pulling on the loops until the knot is firmly tied.

Two Loop Shoelace Knot

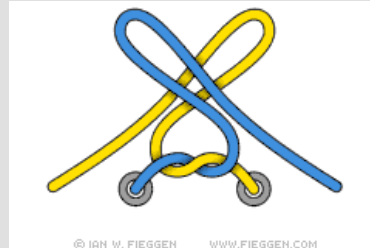
Also referred to as a "Bunny Ears" shoelace knot (due to its two loops): Make a loop with both ends, then simply tie a knot with them. It's often tied incorrectly, resulting in an un-balanced [Granny Knot](#).

Step 1:



Tie a [Starting Knot](#) as shown, then make both ends into "loops" by simply doubling them back onto themselves. People often refer to these as "Bunny Ears".

Step 2:



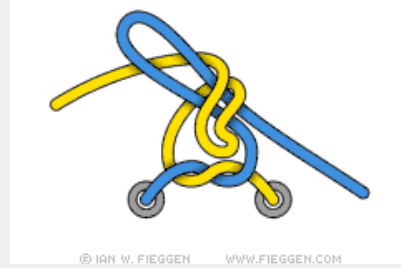
Cross the two loops over each other so that the right (blue) loop ends up in front and the left (yellow) loop ends up behind. The yellow loop is now the right loop.

Step 3:

Step 4:

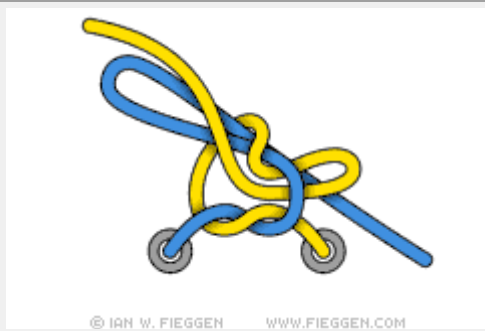


Begin to wrap the right (yellow) loop around the left (blue) loop to end up in front.



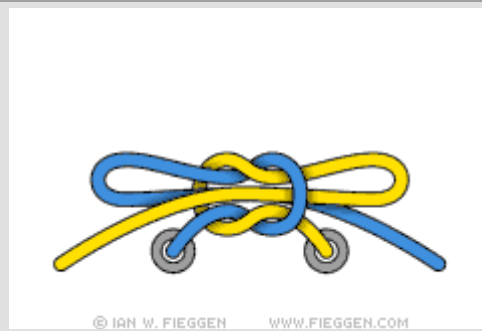
Start to feed the right (yellow) loop into the "hole" that has just been made. This is really the same as if you were tying a regular shoelace knot, except that you are working with a loop instead of a loose end.

Step 5:



With the right (yellow) loop now through the "hole", grab hold of both loops and start to pull the knot tight.

Step 6:



Notice that the loose end of the right (yellow) loop drops back down to the front left, making the finished knot exactly the same as if you'd used the regular method.