



PERSONAL LESSONS

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THE BASICS OF SHOT SHAPING

Learning how to manoeuvre the ball through the air in different ways is definitely an advanced technique. But hitting these shots certainly isn't rocket science.

There are two contributing factors that dictate the flight of a golf ball – the alignment of clubface at impact and the path the clubhead swings into and through impact.

Being able to draw or fade the ball intentionally can not only help you escape from trouble, but you can also improve your strategy by manipulating the ball flight to suit a certain fairway shape or pin position.

There are four important factors you must always remember when setting up to hit a draw, hook, fade or slice. They are:

1. Don't change from your normal swing technique.
2. Don't change your grip.
3. Always align the club open or closed (depending on the shot required) before taking your grip.
4. Aim the clubface where you want the ball to finish, and your feet on the line where you want the ball to start.

THE DRAW OR HOOK SHOT

To hit the ball with a right to left ball flight (for right-handers) set the club behind the ball and aligned at your proposed target.

Now take your grip and set your

body line aiming right of the target (pics 1 & 2). The amount of right-to-left ball flight is dictated by how far you aim your body to right of the target.

If you are trying to hit a draw or hook shot out of trouble, you need to aim your body and feet along the line you wish to start the ball on (pic 3).

You must remember also to take into account that draw or hooks shots make the ball run a lot further than normal so you need to be aware of this for club selection and course strategy.

THE FADE OR SLICE SHOT

The same rules apply for the fade or slice as they do for the draw or hook.

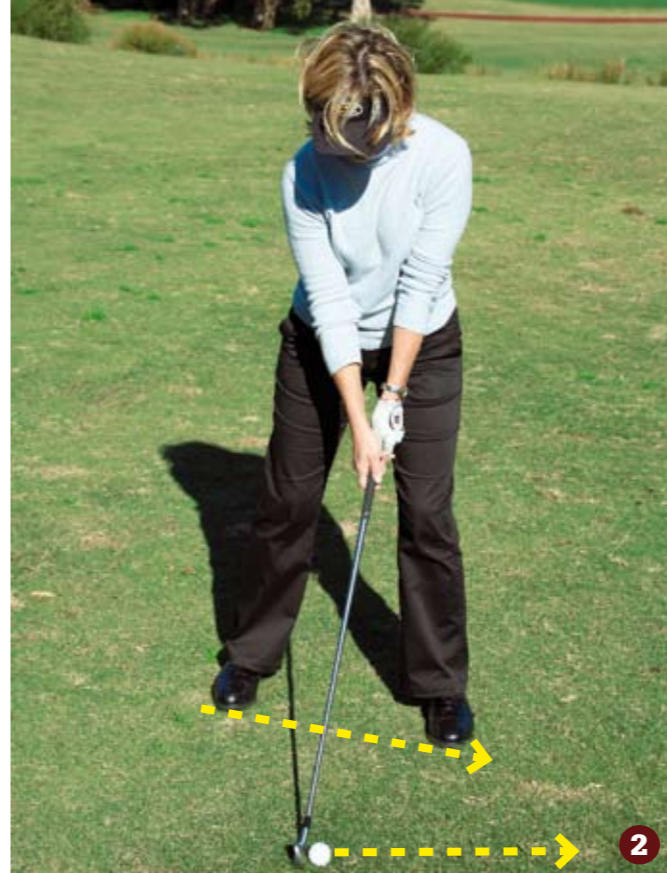
To hit the ball with a left to right ball flight, position the club behind the ball and make sure it is aligned to your eventual target.

Now take your grip and set your body line aiming left of the target (pics 4 & 5). Note how my hands are front of the ball. This will encourage you stay ahead of the ball through impact, which is important for this shot.

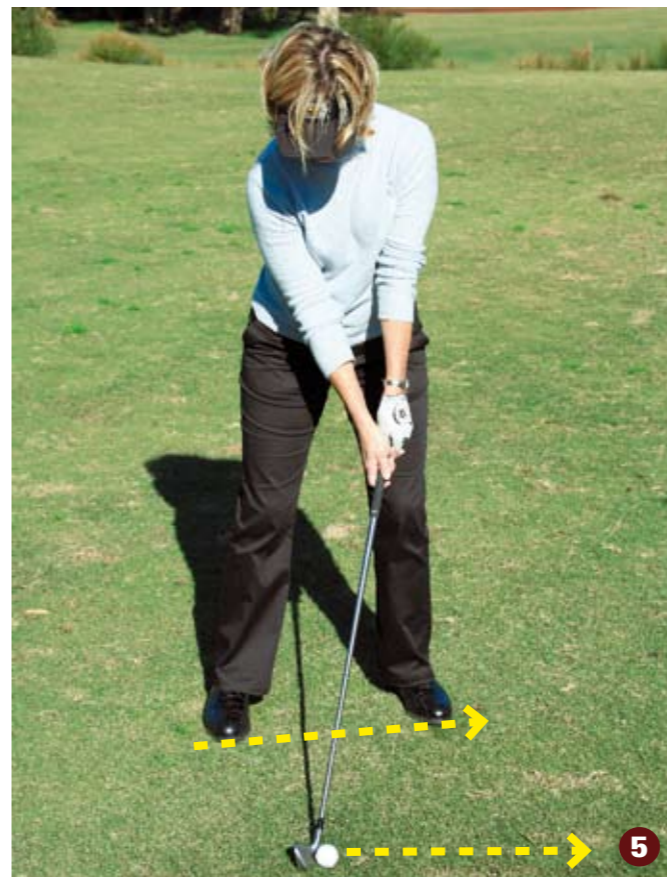
If you are trying to fade or slice the ball out of trouble, again align your body to the ball flight's starting point (pic 6).

Lisa Newling is a teaching professional at Royal Sydney GC, Sydney. She is available for lessons and can be contacted by calling (02) 9371 4333.

THE DRAW OR HOOK



THE FADE OR SLICE



10-19 HANDICAP

Learning how to move the ball on different
You are capable of good scores but inconsistency

flight paths will help you escape trouble and become a more aggressive shot-maker.
stops you playing to your potential. You need to identify and solve swing faults.