FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

The Hooked Life — Crochet

Study guide by FlashFeed

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flashfeedlearningapp.com

The Hooked Life — Crochet: study guide

An intermediate crocheter's companion: the surprising history, the vocabulary, the materials, and the stitches that level you up — plus famous faces behind the hook, fun facts, and the glorious slang of the stash. Zero judgment about your yarn pile.

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In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 11

Lesson 1: A Surprising History

Part 1: Where Crochet Came From · Part 2: The Lace That Saved a Nation · Part 3: War, Hippies & YouTube

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Match crochet's three competing origin theories to the region and claim each makes.
- Explain the documentation-gap theory of crochet's late appearance and cite its earliest printed pattern and royal paper trail.
- Explain how Irish crochet lace arose during the Great Famine and why it suited relief work better than needle lace.
- Identify the people and terms that turned Irish crochet lace into an export industry.
- Trace crochet's modern history from wartime thrift through the granny-square era to its internet revival.

Part 1: Where Crochet Came From

Crochet is that rare craft with no clear birthplace and no inventor to thank. The trail is faint, the theories are colorful, and the first hard evidence is surprisingly recent. Here's what we actually know.

Nobody knows where crochet came from

Knitting can show its receipts — there's knitted textile evidence stretching back to ancient Egypt. Crochet can't. Crocheted fabric doesn't appear in the historical record until the **early 19th century**, which feels impossibly late for such a simple, universal technique. The likeliest explanation isn't that nobody hooked yarn before then; it's that the ancestor techniques were recorded under other names — *nalbinding*, *tambour embroidery*, *shepherd's knitting* — or never written down at all. So crochet's "missing centuries" are probably a documentation gap, not an absence. It's the craft equivalent of a folk song everyone knew but nobody wrote down.

Three theories three continents

With no paper trail, historians offer three competing origin stories, and they span the globe. The **Arabia theory** holds that crochet developed in the Arab world and traveled trade routes to Tibet and Spain. The **South America theory** points to Indigenous tribes using crochet-like techniques in ceremonial dress. The strongest contender is the **Asia / tambour theory**: *tambour* embroidery, practiced in India and China, used a small hook to pull working thread through fabric in a chain of loops — mechanically almost identical to a crochet chain, and crochet's most plausible direct ancestor. Lift tambour off the backing fabric and work it in the air, and you've essentially invented crochet.

The first printed pattern

The fog clears in **1823**, when a Dutch magazine called *Penélopé* published detailed instructions for making crocheted purses — the earliest known crochet pattern in print. It's a small thing, a purse, but it

marks the moment crochet became *transmissible*: once a technique is written down, it can spread without a teacher in the room. And spread it did — printed patterns rippled across Europe, and by the mid-1800s crochet was firmly established as both a thrifty household skill and a decorative art.

Crochet means hook

The name is the least mysterious part. **"Crochet" comes straight from the French *croche* / *crochet*, meaning "hook"** — fitting for a craft defined by its single tool. The word predates the printed patterns by centuries.

A royal paper trail

Here's the tantalizing early clue: the phrase **"croude et crochetz"** appears in the expense accounts of **Mary, Queen of Scots** in the 16th century. It's not a pattern or a finished piece, just a line in a ledger — but it suggests hooked work was part of royal fashion two-and-a-half centuries before crochet "officially" shows up. Combine the French name in Mary's court records with the 1823 Dutch purses, and you get crochet's strange shape as a history: an old, old technique with a surprisingly young paper trail.

Part 2: The Lace That Saved a Nation

Crochet's most remarkable chapter is also its most moving — a story of beauty born of desperation, where a hook and a ball of cotton thread became a tool of survival.

Irish crochet lace

During the **Great Famine (1845–1852)**, Ireland was in crisis, and the existing luxury craft — hand-worked needle lace — was far too slow and expensive to be a livelihood for the starving. The answer was **Irish crochet lace**: a technique that mimics the dense, raised motifs of Venetian needle lace but is worked with nothing more than a hook and fine cotton thread. It was faster to learn, faster to make, and required almost no equipment — which made it the perfect relief-work craft. Distinctive raised roses, leaves, and shamrocks were each crocheted separately, then joined by a fine net of chain-and-picot mesh.

The woman who invented the style

The style is generally credited to **Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière**, who adapted needle-lace designs for the hook and published the **first book of Irish Crochet patterns in 1846**. Crucially, she made the technique *teachable*. **Ursuline nuns** taught it in convents from around 1845, and it spread across the country through charity schools and famine-relief programs. Within a few years it had grown from a convent skill into a cottage industry: by **1851, roughly 16,000 women** were working in Irish crochet lace.

Lace you could eat

This was economics as much as artistry. The finished pieces — **collars, cuffs, and trimmings** — were marketed to wealthy buyers across Europe, sending cash back into devastated communities. In the most striking detail of the whole story, the crochet motifs were sometimes used as **currency at local markets, traded directly for food**. A worker could, quite literally, crochet her family's next meal. Beauty, born of necessity, exchanged for survival.

Queen Victoria makes it a craze

The final twist turned a relief craft into an international luxury. When **Queen Victoria** championed Irish lace at a London arts exposition, fashionable demand exploded, and Irish crochet became a genuine export industry. Across Europe the lace was known as **"Point d'Irlande"** — Irish Point — a chic French name for a craft invented to outrun a famine. The plain, sturdy hooks crocheters used during this period earned a name of their own: **"famine hooks."** It's a perfect, bittersweet snapshot of the craft — a humble tool, a desperate beginning, and a finished product elegant enough for a queen.

Part 3: War, Hippies & YouTube

From thrifty wartime necessity to tie-dye counterculture to a full-blown internet revival, crochet's modern history is a story of the craft refusing to go out of style for long.

Crochet goes to war

Crochet kept growing through the late 1800s and early 1900s, settling in as a dependable household skill. By **World War II** it had become an important home craft for stretching scarce resources — part of the make-do-and-mend ethos, where yarn was unraveled, saved, and reworked into something new. Crochet has always been good in a crisis: minimal equipment, maximum resourcefulness.

Granny squares and the counterculture

Crochet's flashiest 20th-century moment came in the **1960s and '70s**, when it wrapped itself around the hippie movement. This was the golden age of the **granny square**: ponchos, fringed vests, vests with *more* fringe, and bedspreads in every shade of harvest gold and avocado green. Macramé wall hangings shared the wall space. The granny square's appeal was practical as well as groovy — it's portable, it uses up scrap yarn, and squares can be made one at a time and joined later, making it the ultimate take-anywhere project. If it had fringe and color, somebody crocheted it.

Ravelry changed everything

The craft's modern engine arrived online. **Ravelry**, launched in **2007**, is best described as the Wikipedia-meets-social-network of fiber arts: a colossal pattern database (much of it free), a project tracker, a stash organizer, and a forum for every conceivable subtopic. It gave a scattered, mostly offline community a single home — and made finding, sharing, and selling patterns effortless. It now counts **over 9 million members**, and it's hard to overstate how much that connectivity fueled what came next.

The great crochet revival

After decades of being dismissed as a "grandma hobby," crochet came roaring back in the **2010s and 2020s** — and the numbers are striking. The count of people who crochet has jumped by **over 200%** in recent decades, and the demographic flipped: **over 73% of crocheters are now between 18 and 34.** The accelerant was video. **YouTube** turned out to be the best free crochet school ever built — search any stitch plus "tutorial" and you'll get a dozen walkthroughs — while **#crochettok** and Instagram pushed new patterns viral overnight. Crochet didn't just survive the algorithm; it learned to ride it, finding a young, global, wildly enthusiastic audience that treats a hook and a skein as both a creative outlet and a flex.

Key concepts

Mary, Queen of Scots

- One of three women whose names run through crochet's early history — and by far the earliest of them.
- This 16th-century royal's household expense accounts hold crochet's oldest paper trail, though not a single pattern — just a line in a ledger.
- The words 'croude et crochetz' appear in her court accounts, pairing a French term for 'hook' with royal fashion 250 years before crochet officially existed.

Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière

- This designer is generally credited with inventing crochet's most famous lace style during Ireland's famine years.
- She adapted dense needle-lace motifs so they could be worked with just a hook and fine cotton thread.
- In 1846 she published the very first book of Irish Crochet patterns, making the technique teachable and spreading it far beyond the convents.

Queen Victoria

- A reigning monarch whose personal endorsement turned a humble relief craft into an international luxury.
- She championed Irish lace at a London arts exposition, and fashionable demand promptly exploded across Europe.
- Thanks to her, Irish crochet became a genuine export industry, sold on the Continent under the chic name 'Point d'Irlande.'

Key facts

> **Three theories three continents**
> Historians float three origin stories: the Arabia theory (spread by Arab trade routes to Tibet and Spain), the South America theory (crochet-like techniques in Indigenous ceremony), and the Asia theory — that a hooked-chain technique called tambour is crochet's most likely direct ancestor.

> **The first printed pattern**
> In 1823, a Dutch magazine called Penélopé printed detailed instructions for crocheted purses — the earliest known crochet pattern in print. From there, written patterns spread across Europe like a dropped ball of yarn, and by the mid-1800s crochet was both a practical skill and a decorative art.

Crochet means hook

The word itself is a tiny history lesson: 'crochet' comes from the French croche or crochet, meaning 'hook.' It turns up in French tailor records from the 16th-century court of Mary, Queen of Scots — making the name almost as old as the mystery.

A royal paper trail

The phrase 'croude et crochetz' shows up in the expense accounts of Mary, Queen of Scots — a hint that hooked work was part of royal fashion as far back as the 16th century, centuries before crochet 'officially' appears.

The woman who invented the style

Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière is generally credited with inventing the Irish crochet style and publishing the first book of Irish Crochet patterns in 1846. Ursuline nuns taught it in convents from about 1845, spreading it through charity schools and famine-relief programs.

Lace you could eat

The finished pieces — collars, cuffs, trimmings — were marketed to wealthy buyers across Europe. The crochet motifs were sometimes used as currency at local markets, literally traded for food. Beauty born of necessity, exchanged for survival.

Queen Victoria makes it a craze

When Queen Victoria championed Irish lace at a London arts exposition, demand exploded and a survival craft became an international industry. The lace was known across Europe as 'Point d'Irlande' — Irish Point — and the simple hooks of the era earned the name 'famine hooks.'

The Tool's Bittersweet Name

The plain, sturdy hooks used to make Irish crochet lace during the Great Famine were known as 'famine hooks' — a humble tool with a bittersweet, desperate origin.

Crochet goes to war

Crochet kept growing through the late 1800s and early 1900s, and by World War II it had become an important home craft for stretching scarce resources — make-do-and-mend, one stitch at a time.

Ravelry changed everything

Launched in 2007, Ravelry is the Wikipedia-meets-social-network of fiber arts — a vast pattern database and community that helped power crochet's modern boom. It now counts over 9 million members swapping patterns, projects, and stash photos.

The great crochet revival

After decades as a 'grandma hobby,' crochet came roaring back in the 2010s and '20s, supercharged by YouTube tutorials and #crochettok. The craft didn't just survive the algorithm — it went viral.

Crochet's Age Flip

The crochet demographic has flipped: over 73% of crocheters today are between 18 and 34, part of a revival that saw the number of crocheters jump by more than 200%.

By the numbers

In what year did the earliest printed crochet instructions appear (in the Dutch magazine Penélopé)?
1823 year

By 1851, roughly how many women were working in Irish crochet lace?
16000 women

In what year was the first book of Irish Crochet patterns published?
1846 year

By roughly what percent has the number of people who crochet increased in recent decades?
200 %

What percent of crocheters today are between the ages of 18 and 34?
73 %

Roughly how many members does the fiber-arts network Ravelry have?
9000000 members

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

The Arabia theory → Crochet spread via Arab trade routes to Tibet and Spain

The Asia / tambour theory → A hooked-chain technique from India and China — the likely ancestor

The South America theory → Indigenous tribes used crochet-like techniques in ceremony

Famine hooks → The simple hooks used to make Irish crochet lace during the Great Famine

Point d Irlande → The European name for Irish crochet lace

Granny square → The portable scrap-yarn motif that defined 1970s crochet style

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. The Arabia theory of crochet's origin makes which claim?

(A) A hooked-chain embroidery from India and China was crochet's ancestor

(B) Crochet developed in the Arab world and spread along trade routes to Tibet and Spain

(C) Indigenous tribes used crochet-like techniques in ceremonial dress

(D) Ursuline nuns first taught the technique in convents

2. According to the Asia / tambour theory, what makes tambour crochet's most plausible direct ancestor?

A It was the fastest lace technique known during the Great Famine
B It appears by name in the accounts of Mary, Queen of Scots
C It used a small hook to pull thread through fabric in a chain of loops, nearly identical to a crochet chain
D It spread along Arab trade routes to Tibet and Spain

3. Which origin theory points to Indigenous tribes using crochet-like techniques in ceremonial dress?

A The Arabia theory
B The Egyptian theory
C The Asia / tambour theory
D The South America theory

4. Which of these is NOT one of the three competing theories historians offer for crochet's origin?

A The Egyptian theory
B The South America theory
C The Asia / tambour theory
D The Arabia theory

5. Which origin theory do historians consider the strongest contender for crochet's direct ancestor?

A The Arabia theory
B The Asia / tambour theory
C The shepherd's knitting theory
D The South America theory

6. The Asia / tambour theory claims crochet descended from a hooked technique practiced in which two countries?

A Tibet and Spain
B Peru and Bolivia
C India and China
D Egypt and Morocco

7. What makes tambour embroidery the strongest candidate for crochet's direct ancestor?

A Its hooked loops match a crochet chain's mechanics
B It was invented by the first pattern's author
C It required the exact same yarn weight as crochet
D It used the same standardized hook sizes as crochet

8. Crocheted fabric doesn't appear in the historical record until the early 1800s. What do historians think best explains those 'missing centuries'?

A Medieval guilds kept the method a closely guarded secret
B The technique genuinely wasn't invented until the early 1800s
C Early crocheted fabric decayed and left no surviving samples
D Its ancestor techniques were recorded under other names or simply never written down

9. In what year did the earliest known crochet pattern appear in print, in the Dutch magazine Penélopé?

A 1846
B 1823
C 1801
D 1851

10. Which royal's 16th-century expense accounts contain the phrase 'croude et crochetz,' hinting at early hooked work?

A Mary, Queen of Scots
B Marie Antoinette
C Queen Victoria
D Queen Elizabeth I

11. The documentation-gap theory says crochet's ancestors were recorded under other names. Which is NOT one of those named ancestor techniques?

A Shepherd's knitting
B Nalbinding
C Tambour embroidery
D Macramé

12. The 1823 Penélopé pattern gave detailed instructions for making what item?

A Granny-square ponchos
B Shawls
C Crocheted purses
D Lace collars

13. What do historians believe best explains why crocheted fabric doesn't appear in the record until the 1800s?

A Its ancestor techniques went unrecorded or under other names
B Guilds legally banned crochet before the 1800s
C The craft was only invented in the early 1800s
D All earlier crocheted textiles decayed without a trace

14. The 'documentation-gap' theory argues crochet's missing centuries reflect a gap in what, not an absence of the craft?

A Yarn production
B Royal patronage
C Written records
D Trade routes

15. In what year did the Dutch magazine Penélopé publish the earliest known printed crochet pattern?

A 1846
B 1851
C 1907
D 1823

16. What item did the earliest printed crochet pattern, published in 1823, give instructions for making?

A Baby bonnets
B Purses
C Lace collars
D Doilies

17. The phrase 'croude et crochetz' appears in the 16th-century expense accounts of which royal figure?

A Queen Victoria
B Mary, Queen of Scots
C Catherine de Medici
D Elizabeth I

18. Why was Irish crochet lace, rather than traditional needle lace, ideal as a famine-relief craft?

A. It required years of apprenticeship but paid far more
B. It used cheap wool instead of the expensive silk needle lace required
C. It was faster to learn, faster to make, and needed almost no equipment — just a hook and cotton thread
D. It could be produced entirely by machine, unlike needle lace

19. During which crisis did Irish crochet lace emerge as a relief-work craft?

A. The Great Famine (1845–1852)
B. World War II
C. The Great Depression
D. The 1960s counterculture

20. Irish crochet lace was designed to mimic the dense, raised motifs of which luxury craft?

A. Nalbinding
B. Shepherd's knitting
C. Tambour embroidery
D. Venetian needle lace

21. What were the plain, sturdy hooks used to make Irish crochet lace during the Great Famine called?

A. Relief hooks
B. Tambour hooks
C. Famine hooks
D. Shepherd hooks

22. In the most striking detail of the Irish lace story, how were the crochet motifs sometimes used at local markets?

A. As currency, traded directly for food
B. As proof of convent membership
C. As tax payments to landlords
D. As raffle prizes to fund convents

23. Who is generally credited with adapting needle-lace designs into the Irish crochet style and publishing its first pattern book?

A. Queen Victoria
B. Mary, Queen of Scots
C. The Ursuline nuns
D. Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière

24. In what year was the first book of Irish Crochet patterns published?

A. 1823
B. 1846
C. 1851
D. 1845

25. Whose championing of Irish lace at a London arts exposition turned it into an international luxury industry?

A. Queen Victoria
B. Marie Antoinette
C. Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière
D. Mary, Queen of Scots

26. Across Europe, Irish crochet lace was known by which chic French name?

A. Penélopé lace
B. Point de Venise
C. Croude et crochetz
D. Point d'Irlande

27. By 1851, roughly how many women were working in Irish crochet lace?

A About 1,600
B About 40,000
C About 16,000
D About 4,000

28. Crochet kept growing through the late 1800s and early 1900s, and by ___ it had become an important home craft for stretching scarce resources — make-do-and-mend, one stitch at a time.

A the Great Depression
B World War II
C World War I
D the Great Famine

29. The granny square defined crochet's flashiest moment in which era?

A The World War II make-do-and-mend years
B The Great Famine relief effort
C The 2010s internet revival
D The 1960s and '70s hippie movement

30. Launched in 2007, which site became the 'Wikipedia-meets-social-network' of fiber arts?

A Ravelry
B YouTube
C #crochettok
D Penélopé

31. What share of crocheters today are between the ages of 18 and 34?

A About 20%
B About 50%
C Over 73%
D Over 90%

32. Which platform is credited as the accelerant — 'the best free crochet school ever built' — behind the 2010s–20s revival?

A Ravelry
B YouTube
C Facebook
D Pinterest

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LESSON 2 OF 11

Lesson 2: Crochet vs Knitting

Crochet vs Knitting

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Distinguish crochet from knitting by its single hook and single live loop.
- Compare the fabric each craft produces — texture, forgiveness, and yarn appetite.
- Choose the right craft for a given project or beginner using the crochet-vs-knitting trade-offs.

Crochet vs Knitting

Two yarn crafts, one persistent case of mistaken identity. Let's settle it for good.

The whole debate in one line

If you remember nothing else, remember this: crochet makes **knots**, knitting makes **loops**. That single distinction cascades into every difference between the crafts. In crochet, you work with one hook and exactly one live loop at a time — you build the fabric stitch by stitch, knotting each one into place before moving on. In knitting, two needles hold *all* your stitches open and active at once, and you transfer loops back and forth between them. Same raw material, totally different machinery. Both spin yarn into textile fabric, which is why the confusion exists — but mechanically they're not even cousins.

No its not knitting

Welcome to the single most common sentence a crocheter will ever hear: "Oh, is that knitting?" The honest answer needs a touch more nuance than a flat no. Yes, both crafts use yarn. Yes, both make fabric. But the moment you point out that you're holding *one hook* instead of two needles, the difference becomes obvious. It's a friendly conversation, not a turf war — knitters and crocheters share the same yarn shops, the same stash problem, and the same joy. Just know that you're allowed to gently correct the record.

Tool & live stitches. The defining gear: crochet uses **one hook**; knitting uses **two or more needles**. And the live-stitch count is the quiet superpower here — crochet keeps just **one loop active** at a time, while knitting holds *every* stitch open on the needles simultaneously. That's why dropping a stitch feels like a catastrophe in knitting (it can "ladder" all the way down a column) but a shrug in crochet (only one loop is ever live, so there's nothing to unravel beneath it). Crochet is genuinely **forgiving**.

Texture & yarn appetite. Crochet fabric comes out **thicker, denser, and more textured**; knitting comes out **smoother, drapier, and stretchier**. The trade-off for all that crochet substance is yarn: crochet eats roughly **25% more yarn** than knitting for the same piece of fabric. Budget your skeins accordingly — and add this to your list of reasons the stash keeps growing.

Learning curve. Good news for beginners: crochet is generally **easier to pick up**, because there's less to juggle than knitting's two-needle, many-stitch coordination dance. Many people start with a hook for

exactly this reason.

Best for. Each craft has a home turf. Crochet's dense, structured fabric is best for **3D shapes, amigurumi, sturdy bags, and thick blankets** — anything that needs to hold its form. Knitting's stretchy drape wins for **socks, fitted garments, and fine, lightweight fabric**. Neither is "better"; they're built for different jobs.

Crochet fabric is typically thicker and sturdier than knitted fabric

Those individual knots stack up into a firm, substantial cloth that holds its shape beautifully — the reason crochet rules at baskets, hats, and chunky throws. Here's the kicker that no knitter can claim: **true crochet still cannot be made by machine.** Knitting machines have existed for centuries, but that hand-pulled single live loop has never been mechanized. Every real crochet stitch on Earth was made by human hands. Wear that fact with pride.

Key facts



FlashFeed original diagram · CC-BY-4.0

No, it's not knitting

Every crocheter has fielded the question at least a hundred times: "Oh, is that knitting?" Both crafts spin yarn into fabric, but that's where the family resemblance ends. Smile, say no, and maybe show them the hook.

> **The Easier Craft to Learn**
> Crochet tends to have a gentler learning curve for beginners than knitting, since its single live loop means less to juggle than knitting's two needles and dozens of active stitches.

> **Best Craft for Stretchy Socks**
> For a lightweight, stretchy sock that drapes, knitting usually wins — its interlocked loops make a smoother, stretchier fabric than crochet's denser, knotted structure.

> **Crochet's Fabric Personality**
> Crochet fabric generally comes out thicker, denser, and more textured than knitting, because its stacked knots build differently than knitting's smoother, drapier loops.

By the numbers

Roughly how much more yarn does crochet use than knitting for the same fabric?

25 percent

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Crochet's tool → One hook (knitting uses two or more needles)

Crochet's active stitches
→ Just one live loop at a time (knitting keeps all stitches active on the needles)

Crochet's fabric texture → Thicker, denser, more textured (knitting is smoother and drapier)

Crochet's dropped-stitch risk
→ Very forgiving — only one live stitch can run (knitting can ladder all the way down)

Crochet is best for
→ 3D shapes, amigurumi, structured bags, thick blankets (knitting wins for stretchy garments and socks)

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What is the defining tool of crochet?

A. One hook
B. Two or more needles
C. A pair of needles plus a hook
D. A knitting loom

2. At any moment while crocheting, how many live loops are active?

A. As many as the row is wide
B. Every stitch in the whole piece
C. Exactly two
D. Just one

3. Which statement about crochet's mechanics is NOT true?

A. It uses a single hook
B. It holds every stitch open on two needles at once
C. It builds fabric one knot at a time
D. It keeps one live loop active at a time

4. In knitting, how many stitches are held active at the same time?

A. Exactly two, one per needle
B. None until the row is finished
C. All of them, kept open on the needles
D. Just a single live loop

5. The single distinction that cascades into every crochet-vs-knitting difference is that:

A. Both crafts make knots
B. Both crafts make loops
C. Crochet makes loops; knitting makes knots
D. Crochet makes knots; knitting makes loops

6. Compared with knitting, crochet fabric generally comes out:

A Thicker, denser, and more textured
B Thinner and more elastic
C Smoother, drapier, and stretchier
D Identical in feel and weight

7. Roughly how much more yarn does crochet use than knitting for the same piece of fabric?

A About 10% more
B About 50% more
C About 25% more
D About the same amount

8. Why is a dropped stitch far less catastrophic in crochet than in knitting?

A Crochet yarn is stickier and holds itself together
B Only one loop is ever live, so nothing unravels beneath it
C Crochet fabric contains no loops at all
D Crochet stitches are permanently locked by glue

9. Which is NOT a property of crocheted fabric compared with knitted fabric?

A Sturdier
B Stretchier and drapier
C Denser
D More textured

10. Knitting's fabric, compared with crochet's, tends to be:

A Smoother, drapier, and stretchier
B Thicker and stiffer
C Denser and more textured
D Less elastic overall

11. Roughly how much more yarn does crochet use than knitting to make the same piece of fabric?

A 50% more
B 10% more
C 25% more
D Crochet uses less yarn

12. Why does crochet typically require more yarn than knitting for the same project?

A Crochet patterns intentionally waste yarn for stretch
B It always uses a larger gauge hook than knitting needles
C Knitting recycles yarn from dropped stitches
D Its thicker, denser fabric uses more yarn per stitch

13. Which craft is generally considered easier for beginners to pick up?

A Crochet
B Knitting

14. You want a lightweight, stretchy sock that drapes. Which craft usually wins?

A Knitting
B Crochet

15. Which project is crochet's dense, firm fabric best suited for?

A Lightweight drapey socks
B Stretchy pullover sweaters
C Fine fitted garments
D Amigurumi and structured bags

16. For which project is crochet the better choice than knitting?

A. A stretchy fitted sock
B. A firm basket that holds its shape
C. A lightweight drapey shawl
D. A fine ribbed sweater cuff

17. A friend who has never done a yarn craft wants the gentlest start. What makes crochet easier to pick up?

A. Less to juggle — one hook and one live loop
B. It uses much thicker yarn than knitting
C. It can be finished quickly by machine
D. It needs no tools at all

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LESSON 3 OF 11

Lesson 3: Your Materials

Yarn Weights 0 to 7 · What Your Yarn Is Made Of · A Buyer's Guide to Hooks

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall the CYC 0–7 yarn-weight scale and place Lace, Worsted, and Jumbo on it.
- Match each yarn weight to the projects it suits best.
- Classify yarns into animal, plant, and synthetic families and recall each fiber's defining traits.
- Define the specialty fibers merino, mohair, and bamboo/viscose and recognize them by description.
- Read hook sizes in millimeters and match hook materials to their strengths.

Yarn Weights 0 to 7

Yarn weight isn't about how heavy the ball is — it's about how thick the strand is. Master the numbers and a pattern stops being a foreign language.

The 0 to 7 system that decodes every pattern

The Craft Yarn Council (CYC) gave the craft a gift: one standardized yarn weight scale, numbered 0 to 7, with an extra Size 8 tacked on for genuinely jumbo work. Before it, "worsted" might mean one thing to a Scottish mill and another to a Texas megastore. Now the number on the label is the number in the pattern, full stop. The ladder runs thin to thick: 0 Lace, 1 Super Fine (Fingering), 2 Fine (Sport), 3 Light (DK), 4 Medium (Worsted), 5 Bulky (Chunky), 6 Super Bulky, and 7 Jumbo. Learn this once and you'll glance at any pattern's recommended weight and instantly know whether you're making a gossamer shawl or a couch-sized blanket. It's the single most useful bit of literacy in this whole lesson.

Why worsted is the workhorse

If the yarn weights were a stable of horses, worsted (Size 4) would be the dependable one you ride every day. Most beginner and intermediate patterns are written for it, and that's no accident. Worsted works up at a satisfying clip — fast enough to feel progress, slow enough to fix mistakes — and it shows stitch definition beautifully, so your shells look like shells and your bobbles look like bobbles. Best of all, it's available in every fiber under the sun, from budget acrylic to buttery merino. Blankets, hats, sweaters, amigurumi: they all live comfortably at Size 4. When a pattern doesn't specify or you're improvising, reaching for a worsted is almost never the wrong call.

The categories at a glance

Each weight has a job it does best. **Lace (0)** is for doilies and fine, airy shawls — the cobweb end of the spectrum. **Super Fine / Fingering (1)** is sock-and-baby territory, thin and durable. **Fine / Sport (2)** suits baby clothes and light accessories. **Light / DK (3)** handles lighter garments and shawls when worsted feels too heavy. **Bulky / Chunky (5)** is the instant-gratification weight — scarves and rugs that grow before your eyes. **Super Bulky (6)** piles on for very thick blankets and chunky hats. And **Jumbo (7)** is the extreme stuff, the giant-yarn arm-knitting, sculptural-art realm. Pick the weight to match the project's

purpose, not just its picture, and your finished piece will feel right in the hand. Bigger numbers want bigger hooks; smaller numbers want patience and a tiny one.

What Your Yarn Is Made Of

Weight tells you how thick. Fiber tells you how it lives — warm or cool, washable or precious, springy or stiff. This is where a project's personality is decided.

Fiber is destiny

Two yarns can share a weight, a color, even a price, and still behave like completely different creatures once they're stitched up. That's the fiber talking. Fiber content governs how a finished piece feels against the skin, how it drapes off a shoulder, how warm it keeps you, and — crucially — whether you can toss it in the machine or must hand-wash it like an heirloom. Broadly, fibers split into three families: animal (warm, cozy, textured), plant (cool, breathable, crisp), and synthetic (practical, durable, budget-friendly). Choosing well means matching the fiber to the job. A breezy summer top wants plant fiber; a winter hat wants animal warmth; a kids' blanket that'll see a hundred washes wants something synthetic and bombproof.

The animal fibers

These come off sheep, goats, and alpacas, and they're the cozy crowd. **Wool** is the classic: springy, warm, forgiving, and blessed with "memory," meaning it bounces back into shape. It's perfect for hats, sweaters, and blankets, though it can itch sensitive skin and wants gentle washing. **Alpaca** is softer and even warmer than wool with gorgeous drape, but it can stretch out in garments over time, so respect gravity. **Merino wool** is a superfine variety of wool, dramatically softer than the standard stuff — the gateway fiber for everyone who swears "wool is scratchy." **Mohair** comes from Angora goats: incredibly fluffy and lightweight, usually held together with a base yarn, and famous for the dreamy halo of fuzz it throws around each stitch.

The plant fibers

Cool, breathable, and crisp, plant fibers shine in warm weather. **Cotton** is durable, absorbent, and machine-washable — ideal for dishcloths, summer garments, and baby items. Its one quirk: no stretch, which can make keeping even tension tricky. **Linen** starts out crisp, almost stiff, then softens beautifully the more you use and wash it; reach for it for airy shawls and warm-weather wear. **Bamboo/Viscose** is silky and luxurious with a natural sheen, making it a favorite for lacy wraps and lightweight projects that catch the light.

The synthetics and blends

Synthetics are the practical workhorses. **Acrylic** is the most widely available and affordable yarn there is, machine-washable, colorfast, and endlessly varied — and modern versions can be impressively soft. **Nylon** is usually blended in to add durability and is a staple in sock yarn. **Polyester** turns up in many blends and specialty novelty yarns like eyelash, velvet, and chenille.

Blends give you the best of both

Blends are exactly what they sound like — two or more fibers spun together to keep the good and ditch the bad. A wool/acrylic blend gives you warmth with easy care; a cotton/acrylic blend adds strength and washability to cotton's crispness. When no single fiber is perfect, a smart blend usually is.

A Buyer's Guide to Hooks

The hook is the other half of the equation. Get the size and the material right and your hands — and your stitches — will thank you.

The number that actually matters is the millimeter

Crochet hooks carry two labels: a millimeter size and a US letter-number. Only one of them is the truth. The millimeter is the actual shaft diameter, and the shaft is what controls how big each stitch comes out — so that's the figure that genuinely matters. The US letter (B, E, G, H, J, K, N…) is really just a nickname stamped on top, and nicknames can drift between brands. Memorize a few key conversions and you're set: B-1 is 2.25 mm, E-4 is 3.5 mm, G-6 is 4.0 mm, H-8 is 5.0 mm (the most popular size by a mile), J-10 is 6.0 mm, K-10.5 is 6.5 mm, and N-15 is a chunky 10.0 mm. When a pattern's letter and your hook's letter seem to disagree, ignore the letters and match the millimeters. The mm never lies.

Steel hooks count backward

Just when the system makes sense, steel hooks flip it. Numbered 00 to 14, the steel scale runs in reverse — a higher number means a smaller hook, not a bigger one. They shrink all the way down to a hair-thin 0.6 mm, because they're purpose-built for fine thread crochet: doilies, lace edgings, delicate filet work. So don't be alarmed when a "size 14" steel hook turns out to be the tiniest one in the tin. It's not a typo; it's just the thread-crochet world marching to its own backward drum.

Switch to ergonomic before it hurts

Here's the advice every long-time crocheter wishes they'd gotten sooner: if you start crocheting for hours at a time, switch to ergonomic hooks before you develop hand pain, not after. The crucial point is that ergonomic hooks don't affect your stitch quality at all — the aluminum shaft is identical — they only change your comfort. So there's genuinely no trade-off to making the switch early. Treat it as cheap insurance for your hands.

Materials matter more than you'd think

The handle material quietly shapes your whole experience. **Aluminum** is smooth, consistent, and affordable — the great all-purpose choice that suits almost everyone. **Wood and bamboo** are slightly grippy and warm to the touch, which makes them lovely with slippery yarns like silk or bamboo that would slide right off metal. **Plastic** is lightweight and especially popular in the very large N-and-up sizes, where a metal hook would get heavy. And **ergonomic hooks** — the famous Clover Amour and Tulip Etimo lines — pair a standard aluminum shaft with a large, soft rubberized handle. They're a genuine game-changer for long sessions and for anyone living with arthritis, carpal tunnel, or plain hand fatigue. Try a few materials; your hands have opinions you haven't met yet.

Key terms

Merino wool
A superfine variety of sheep fleece, far softer than the standard kind — the gateway fiber for anyone who insists the scratchy stuff hates them.

Mohair
An incredibly fluffy, lightweight fiber from Angora goats, often held with a base yarn to create a dreamy halo of fuzz around every stitch.

Bamboo / Viscose
A silky, luxurious plant fiber with a natural sheen, prized for lacy wraps and lightweight projects that catch the light.

Ergonomic hooks
A standard aluminum shaft fitted with a large, soft rubberized handle — a game-changer for long sessions and for anyone with arthritis, carpal tunnel, or hand fatigue. Clover Amour and Tulip Etimo are the famous names.

Key concepts

Alpaca

- One of the cozy animal fibers, from the same warm-and-fuzzy family as sheep and goats.
- It's softer and even warmer than ordinary sheep's wool, with a gorgeous drape.
- The catch: garments made from it tend to stretch and sag over time, so you must respect gravity.

Mohair

- A featherlight animal fiber, so wispy it's usually carried along with a sturdier base yarn.
- It's sheared from Angora goats and prized for being incredibly fluffy and lightweight.
- Its signature is the dreamy halo of fuzz it throws around every single stitch.

Cotton

- A cool, breathable plant fiber that comes into its own in warm weather.
- Durable, absorbent, and machine-washable, it's the classic pick for dishcloths, summer tops, and baby items.
- Its one quirk is a total lack of stretch, which can make keeping even tension tricky.

Linen

- Another crisp, cool plant fiber, at its best in breezy warm-weather projects.
- It starts out stiff — almost board-like — then softens beautifully the more you use and wash it.
- Reach for it when you want airy shawls with a crisp hand that mellows over time.

Acrylic

- A practical synthetic workhorse rather than a natural fiber.
- It's the most widely available and most affordable yarn there is — machine-washable and colorfast.
- Modern versions can be impressively soft, making it the bombproof choice for a kids' blanket facing a hundred washes.

Key facts



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The 0 to 7 system that decodes every pattern

The Craft Yarn Council (CYC) numbered yarns 0 to 7 (plus a Size 8 for jumbo monster yarn) so a pattern in Ohio and a skein in your stash speak the same language. Learn the ladder and reading patterns gets dramatically easier overnight.

> **Why worsted is the workhorse**
>
> Worsted weight (Size 4) is where most beginner and intermediate patterns live, and for good reason: it works up quickly, shows off crisp stitch definition, and comes in literally every fiber type. When in doubt, reach for a 4 — blankets, hats, and sweaters all start here.

> **Top of the Yarn Ladder**
>
> Jumbo yarn sits at weight 7, the top of the standard CYC 0-to-7 ladder — though an extra Size 8 exists for genuinely monster yarn beyond that.

> **The Sock Yarn Weight**
>
> Super Fine / Fingering (weight 1) is the go-to yarn for socks and baby items — thin and durable, in a way Bulky or Jumbo could never manage.

> **The Instant-Gratification Yarn Weight**
>
> Bulky / Chunky (weight 5) is the instant-gratification yarn — perfect for quick projects like scarves and rugs that grow fast under the hook.

> **Blends give you the best of both**
>
> Blends are exactly what they sound like. A wool/acrylic blend hands you warmth with easy care, and a cotton/acrylic blend adds strength and washability to cotton's crispness. Mixing fibers lets a yarn keep the good traits and shed the annoying ones.

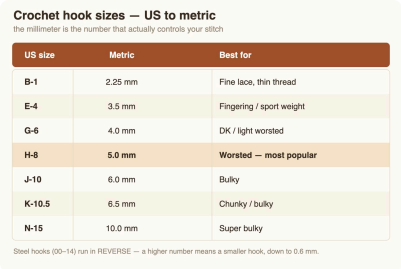
> **Wool's Softer Cousin**
>
> Merino wool is a superfine variety of sheep fleece, dramatically softer than standard wool.

The Halo Fiber

Mohair comes from Angora goats — incredibly fluffy and lightweight, usually held together with a base yarn, and famous for the dreamy halo of fuzz it throws around each stitch.

A Plant Fiber That Shines

Bamboo / Viscose is a silky plant fiber with a natural sheen, prized for lacy wraps and lightweight projects that catch the light.



Crochet hook sizes — US to metric

the millimeter is the number that actually controls your stitch

US size	Metric	Best for
B-1	2.25 mm	Fine lace, thin thread
E-4	3.5 mm	Fingering / sport weight
G-6	4.0 mm	DK / light worsted
H-8	5.0 mm	Worsted — most popular
J-10	6.0 mm	Bulky
K-10.5	6.5 mm	Chunky / bulky
N-15	10.0 mm	Super bulky

Steel hooks (00–14) run in REVERSE — a higher number means a smaller hook, down to 0.6 mm.

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The number that actually matters is the millimeter

Hooks are sized by millimeter — the shaft diameter that genuinely controls how big each stitch comes out — and labeled with US letters and numbers on top. The mm is the truth; the US letter is just the nickname. When a pattern and your hook disagree, trust the millimeter.

Steel hooks count backward

Steel thread hooks, numbered 00 to 14, run in reverse: a higher number means a smaller hook, shrinking all the way down to a tiny 0.6 mm. They're built for delicate thread crochet, so don't panic when a 'size 14' turns out to be the hair-thin one.

Worsted yarn's default hook

H-8 (5.0 mm) is the most popular hook for worsted-weight yarn, the most common yarn weight, so it's the one that ends up in nearly every crocheter's hook bag.

The grip of wood hooks

Wood and bamboo hooks are slightly grippy and warm to the touch, which keeps slippery yarns like silk or bamboo from sliding off the way they would on a metal hook.

By the numbers

What CYC weight number is Medium / Worsted, the workhorse of yarn?

4 CYC weight

What CYC weight number is the finest category, Lace?

0 CYC weight

What CYC weight number is Jumbo, the thickest standard category?

7 CYC weight

What is the metric size of the H-8 hook, the most popular worsted-weight hook?

5 mm

What is the metric size of a US G-6 hook?

4 mm

What is the metric size of a US B-1 hook, used for fine lace and thread?

2.25 mm

What is the metric size of a US N-15 hook, used for super bulky yarn?

10 mm

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Weight 0 — Lace → Doilies and fine, gauzy shawls

Weight 1 — Super Fine / Fingering → Socks and baby items

Weight 2 — Fine / Sport → Baby clothes and light accessories

Weight 3 — Light / DK → Lighter garments and shawls

Weight 5 — Bulky / Chunky → Quick projects, scarves, rugs

Weight 6 — Super Bulky → Very thick blankets and chunky hats

Wool → Springy, warm, has memory — can be itchy

Alpaca → Softer and warmer than wool, gorgeous drape — can stretch out

Cotton → Durable, absorbent, machine-washable — no stretch, so tension gets tricky

Linen → Starts crisp, softens beautifully with use — ideal for airy summer wear

Acrylic → Cheap, machine-washable, everywhere — the workhorse synthetic

Nylon → Blended in for durability — the secret ingredient in sock yarn

Polyester → The basis of specialty yarns — eyelash, velvet, chenille

Aluminum hooks → Smooth, consistent, affordable — the great all-purpose pick

Wood / Bamboo hooks → Slightly grippy and warm — great for slippery silk or bamboo yarn

Plastic hooks → Lightweight — popular for the very large N-and-up sizes

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. The ___ numbered yarns 0 to 7 (plus a Size 8 for jumbo monster yarn) so a pattern in Ohio and a skein in your stash speak the same language. Learn the ladder and reading patterns gets dramatically easier overnight.

A Craft Yarn Council
B The Knitting Guild Association
C Textile Society of America
D Crochet Guild of America

2. On the CYC scale, what weight number is Lace, the finest category?

A 3
B 1
C 0
D 2

3. What CYC weight number is Medium / Worsted, the workhorse weight?

A 5
B 3
C 2
D 4

4. What is the highest number in the standard CYC 0-7 yarn-weight scale?

A 5
B 7
C 8
D 6

5. Which lists these three CYC weights correctly from thinnest to thickest?

A Lace (0), Worsted (4), Jumbo (7)
B Jumbo (7), Worsted (4), Lace (0)
C Lace (0), Jumbo (7), Worsted (4)
D Worsted (4), Lace (0), Jumbo (7)

6. What CYC number is assigned to Lace, the finest standard yarn-weight category?

A 2
B 0
C 1
D 8

7. On the CYC 0–7 scale, where does Lace weight fall relative to Worsted and Jumbo?

A The thickest, above Jumbo
B Tied with Worsted at weight 4
C The thinnest, at the bottom of the scale
D In the middle, between Sport and DK

8. What CYC number is assigned to Jumbo, the thickest standard yarn-weight category?

A 8
B 6
C 5
D 7

9. Jumbo yarn sits at which end of the CYC 0–7 weight scale?

A The thickest end, above Super Bulky
B The thinnest end, below Lace
C Outside the numbered scale entirely
D The exact middle of the scale

10. Which yarn weight is best suited to socks and baby items?

A Lace (0)
B Bulky / Chunky (5)
C Jumbo (7)
D Super Fine / Fingering (1)

11. Bulky / Chunky (5) yarn is best for which kind of project?

A Fine doilies and gauzy shawls
B Quick projects like scarves and rugs
C Socks and baby items
D Delicate thread lace edgings

12. Which weight is the versatile all-rounder for blankets, hats, sweaters, and amigurumi?

A Lace (0)
B Jumbo (7)
C Worsted / Medium (4)
D Fingering (1)

13. Which weight-to-project pairing is INCORRECT?

A Fingering (1) → socks and baby items
B Lace (0) → very thick blankets and chunky hats
C Bulky (5) → quick scarves and rugs
D Worsted (4) → blankets, hats, and sweaters

14. Super Bulky (6) yarn is the go-to for which projects?

A Very thick blankets and chunky hats
B Fine lace doilies
C Airy summer shawls
D Lightweight baby socks

15. Fibers fall into three families. Which family is described as cool, breathable, and crisp — best for warm-weather projects?

A Synthetic fibers
B Animal fibers
C Plant fibers

16. Which fiber is springy and warm with 'memory' that bounces it back into shape?

A Acrylic
B Linen
C Cotton
D Wool

17. Which of these is NOT an animal fiber?

A Cotton
B Mohair
C Wool
D Alpaca

18. Which plant fiber is durable, absorbent, and machine-washable, but has no stretch?

A Bamboo / Viscose
B Linen
C Cotton
D Nylon

19. Which synthetic fiber is usually blended in for durability and is a staple in sock yarn?

A Cotton
B Nylon
C Polyester
D Wool

20. Which fiber is a superfine variety of sheep fleece, dramatically softer than standard wool?

A Mohair
B Bamboo / Viscose
C Alpaca
D Merino wool

21. Which fluffy, lightweight fiber comes from Angora goats and throws a halo of fuzz around each stitch?

A Mohair
B Cotton
C Alpaca
D Merino wool

22. Which silky plant fiber has a natural sheen, prized for lacy wraps that catch the light?

A Cotton
B Mohair
C Bamboo / Viscose
D Linen

23. You want a 'gateway' fiber to prove that not all wool is scratchy. Which do you recommend?

A Alpaca
B Mohair
C Cotton
D Merino

24. Among these specialty fibers, which is a PLANT fiber rather than one from an animal?

A Merino wool
B Bamboo / Viscose
C Mohair
D Alpaca

25. Which hook is the most popular choice for worsted-weight yarn?

A B-1 (2.25 mm)
B K-10.5 (6.5 mm)
C N-15 (10.0 mm)
D H-8 (5.0 mm)

26. What is the metric (mm) size of a US G-6 hook?

A 5.0 mm
B 6.0 mm
C 4.0 mm
D 3.5 mm

27. Among these standard hooks, which has the smallest millimeter shaft size?

A N-15 (10.0 mm)
B B-1 (2.25 mm)
C G-6 (4.0 mm)
D H-8 (5.0 mm)

28. Which hook material is slightly grippy and warm, making it great for slippery silk or bamboo yarn?

A Wood / Bamboo
B Plastic
C Steel
D Aluminum

29. Which hook material is lightweight and especially popular in the very large N-and-up sizes?

A Wood / Bamboo
B Plastic
C Aluminum
D Steel

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-3-your-materials

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 4 OF 11

Lesson 4: Reading a Pattern

The Core Stitch Abbreviations · Pattern Action Abbreviations · The US vs UK Trap

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the core stitch abbreviations and order them by height.
- Recognize the special stitches — magic ring, popcorn, puff, and bobble — and the move that makes the bump trio.
- Interpret the shaping and loop/post action abbreviations.
- Decode a pattern's housekeeping and orientation shorthand.
- Translate between US and UK stitch names to avoid the terminology trap.

The Core Stitch Abbreviations

Patterns look like alphabet soup until they don't. Once you can glance at "3dc, ch1, sk" and read it as a sentence, you've crossed the real beginner-to-intermediate line. Every abbreviation here is just a stitch's nickname — learn the dozen and the whole pattern world opens up.

Cracking the code

The biggest jump to intermediate isn't a fancy technique — it's *fluency*. A pattern is a private language shared between makers, and the abbreviations are its vocabulary. They exist because writing "double crochet" forty times per row would be exhausting; "dc" does the job. The good news: the list is short and it never changes. Memorize these once and you'll read patterns for the rest of your hooked life without a cheat sheet taped to your project bag.

Meet dc the workhorse

If you learn one stitch cold, make it the double crochet (**dc**). It's the single most common stitch in published patterns — taller and airier than single crochet, quick to work up, and the backbone of granny squares, blankets, shawls, and garments alike. Yarn over, insert, pull through, then work off the loops two at a time. It strikes the sweet spot between the dense little single crochet and the towering trebles: enough height to grow fast, enough body to look finished. Spot dc on sight and half of pattern-reading is already done.

A whole alphabet of texture

Stitches aren't just different names — they're different *heights* and *textures*. They climb in a tidy ladder: the flat slip stitch (**sl st**) adds no height at all, single crochet (**sc**) is short and dense, half double crochet (**hdc**) is the medium all-rounder, dc is taller and open, treble (**tr**) is taller still for lace, and double treble (**dtr**) shoots up fast. The best way to feel the family resemblance is a sampler — a swatch with a band of each, stacked together. Work it once and you'll never confuse them again.

Beyond the height ladder live the special-effect stitches. The **chain** (**ch**) is the humble foundation under almost every project. The **magic ring** (**mr / MR**) is an adjustable loop you cinch tight to start working in the round — the secret to amigurumi with no hole in the middle. Then come the puffy trio, all built by piling several stitches into one spot: the **popcorn** (**pc**) is several dc worked together then folded so it pops proud of the fabric; the **puff** stitch gathers multiple half-double loops and pulls them all through at once; and the **bobble** (**bo**) is like a puff but built from dc, and it conveniently stays on the same side you're working. Together they give you bumps, ridges, and texture on demand — the difference between a flat scarf and one that begs to be touched.

Pattern Action Abbreviations

If stitches are the nouns of a pattern, this lot is the verbs. They don't make new kinds of fabric so much as tell you what to *do* with the stitches you know — and that's exactly how a flat rectangle becomes a hat, a sphere, or a sleeve.

Verbs of the pattern

A pattern reads like a recipe, and these are its instructions. **inc** (increase) means work two stitches into the same stitch, fanning the fabric wider; **dec** (decrease) joins two stitches into one, pulling it narrower. Those two alone are how you shape everything curved. When a pattern wants a specific decrease it spells it out: **sc2tog** means single crochet two stitches together, **dc2tog** does the same with doubles. **tog** on its own just means "together." Master increasing and decreasing and you've unlocked shaping — the whole reason crochet can become a body and not just a blanket.

The loop-and-post family changes *where* you put the hook. Normally you work under both top loops; **FLO / FL** (front loop only) and **BLO / BL** (back loop only) tell you to use just one. Front loop leaves a decorative ridge; back loop creates that stretchy, knit-like **ribbing** beloved for cuffs and hatbands. Go deeper and you get the post stitches: **FP** (front post) and **BP** (back post) wrap the hook around the whole post of the stitch below, raising bold cables and dimensional texture. A **ch-sp** (chain space) is simply the little gap a chain left in a previous row — lacy patterns love telling you to work *into the space* rather than a stitch.

Then there's the housekeeping shorthand, the words that keep you oriented. **sk** means skip a stitch entirely; **rep** means repeat; **rnd** means round; **RS / WS** flag the right side and wrong side of your work; **yo** is the yarn over that begins most stitches. Color patterns use **MC / CC** for main color and contrasting color. **pm / sm** tell you to place a marker or slip a marker — invaluable for tracking the start of a round in amigurumi. And **tch** is the turning chain: the little stack of chains you make at the beginning of a row to lift the hook to the right height before the first real stitch. None of these are glamorous, but skip one and your whole row drifts off. Learn the verbs and the pattern stops being a wall of letters and starts telling you, step by step, exactly what to do.

The US vs UK Trap

Of all the ways a crochet pattern can go sideways, this is the sneakiest — because nothing *looks* wrong. The words are familiar, the abbreviations are ones you know, and yet the fabric comes out completely different. Welcome to the most common source of confusion in the craft.

The transatlantic booby trap

Here's the ambush: US and UK patterns use the **same words for different stitches**. A UK "double crochet" is not a US double crochet — it's what Americans call a single crochet. The two systems are essentially offset by one rung on the height ladder, so every name points to a shorter stitch in UK terms than it does in US terms. That free pattern from a lovely British blog can quietly sabotage your whole project, not because it's wrong, but because it's speaking a different dialect.

The full set of false friends is worth memorizing cold. **US single crochet (sc) = UK double crochet (dc). US half double crochet (hdc) = UK half treble crochet (htr). US double crochet (dc) = UK treble crochet (tr). US treble crochet (tr) = UK double treble (dtr).** Notice the pattern: each UK term is one step "taller" in name than its US equivalent, because the UK system doesn't have a "single" — it starts counting at double. So when you read a UK instruction, mentally shift it down one notch to find the US stitch your hands already know.

There is exactly one mercy in all this: the **slip stitch**. US "sl st" and UK "ss" mean the same thing — a flat joining stitch with no height. It's the lone term that survives the crossing unchanged, so at least you have one fixed point of reference.

The practical defense is simple and saves enormous frustration: before you start, find out which system a pattern uses. Many patterns say so up front; if not, the abbreviations themselves are a tell (a UK pattern will use "dc" where you'd expect "sc," and won't mention single crochet at all). And here's the classic diagnostic — if your stitch counts come out *wildly* wrong, or the fabric looks far denser or far airier than the photo, suspect a terminology mismatch before you suspect yourself. A whole project worked in the wrong-height stitch will throw off gauge, sizing, and counts from the very first row. Check the dialect first, and you'll never frog an afghan over a vocabulary mix-up.

Key concepts

Chain

- The humblest building block in crochet, learned before any of the taller stitches.
- Nearly every project begins by making a long row of these, which you then work all your other stitches into.

Single Crochet

- Near the bottom of crochet's height ladder, one rung above the flat joining stitch that adds no height.
- This short, dense stitch works up the tightest, firmest fabric of the common stitches.
- Beware the transatlantic trap: British patterns call this exact stitch a 'double crochet.'

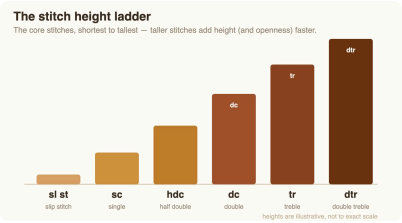
Half Double Crochet

- Squarely in the middle of crochet's height ladder sits this sensible compromise stitch.
- Taller than the short dense stitch but shorter than the open workhorse, it's the medium all-rounder patterns lean on.

Treble Crochet

- One of the tall stitches on the height ladder, rising well above the everyday workhorse.
- Open and airy, it climbs high fast — the height crocheters reach for when making lace.
- On the US ladder it sits just below the very tallest of the common stitches.

Key facts



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Cracking the code

The leap from beginner to intermediate is mostly this: reading a pattern without flinching. Once "3dc, ch1, sk" reads like a sentence instead of alphabet soup, the whole craft opens up. The abbreviations are just shorthand whispered between makers.

> **Meet dc, the workhorse**
>
> Double crochet (dc) is the most common stitch you'll meet in patterns — taller and airier than single crochet, fast to work, and the backbone of countless blankets, garments, and granny squares. Learn to spot it on sight and half the pattern world becomes legible.

> **Crochet's zero-height stitch**
>
> A slip stitch adds essentially no height to your work — it just moves the yarn along. Single, double, and treble crochet each build in progressively more height.

> **Crochet's tallest stitch**
>
> Ranked by height, double treble is the tallest of the basic crochet stitches — more yarn-overs at the start of a stitch make it stand taller on the fabric.

> **Verbs of the pattern**
>
> Stitch names are the nouns; this batch is the verbs. Increase, decrease, skip, repeat, place a marker — these little instructions are what actually shape your fabric into a hat, a sphere, or a sleeve. Learn them and a pattern stops being a list and starts being a recipe.

> **The pair that shapes fabric**
>
> Increase (inc) and decrease (dec) are the pair of abbreviations that let a pattern shape curved fabric: increase fans it wider, decrease pulls it narrower, and together they turn a flat rectangle into a hat or a sphere.

What back loop only does

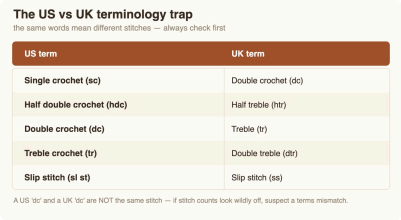
Working into the back loop only (BLO) creates a stretchy, knit-like ribbing that's popular for cuffs and hatbands. Its counterpart, front loop only (FLO), leaves a more decorative ridge instead.

How post stitches really work

Front post (FP) and back post (BP) stitches are worked by wrapping the hook around the whole post of the stitch below, rather than into its top loops, which raises bold cables and dimensional texture.

What tch really means

The turning chain (tch) is the little stack of chains at the start of a row that lifts the hook up to the right height before the first real stitch begins.



FlashFeed original diagram · CC-BY-4.0

The transatlantic booby trap

Here's the one that ambushes everyone: US and UK terms use the SAME words for DIFFERENT stitches. A UK "double crochet" is what Americans call a single crochet. So a free pattern from a British blog can quietly sabotage your whole project if you don't know which dialect it speaks.

UK's sneakiest stitch name

In UK pattern terms, "double crochet" is the same stitch as US single crochet — same name, different stitch, and the classic transatlantic mix-up for crocheters switching between patterns.

US treble's UK identity

US treble crochet (tr) is the same stitch as UK double treble (dtr). Every UK stitch name sits one step "taller" than its US equivalent.

US hdc's UK alter ego

US half double crochet (hdc) is the same stitch as UK half treble crochet (htr). Each UK name sits one rung "taller" than its US equivalent, because the UK system has no stitch called "single."

One stitch, no translation

The slip stitch is the one stitch that means the same thing in both US and UK terms — a flat, no-height joining stitch either way. Every other stitch name shifts between the two systems.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

ch → Chain stitch — the foundation of almost every project

sl st → Slip stitch — joins rounds and moves yarn without adding height

sc → Single crochet — a dense, short stitch

hdc → Half double crochet — medium height, an excellent all-rounder

tr → Treble crochet — taller than dc; loved in lace and decorative work

dtr → Double treble crochet — very tall; adds height quickly

mr / MR → Magic ring — an adjustable starting circle for working in the round

pc → Popcorn stitch — several dc in one stitch, then folded so it pops out

puff → A soft, raised cluster made of several half-double loops all pulled through together

bo → Bobble — like a puff but with dc; stays on the same side as you work

inc → Increase — work 2 stitches into the same stitch

dec → Decrease — join two stitches together into one

sc2tog → Single crochet 2 stitches together — one way to decrease

dc2tog → Double crochet 2 stitches together

FLO / FL → Front loop only — work into just the front loop of the stitch

BLO / BL → Back loop only — creates a stretchy ribbing effect

FP → Front post — work around the post of the stitch below

BP → Back post — creates cables and raised texture

ch-sp → Chain space — the gap created by a chain in a previous row

sk → Skip — jump over a stitch without working into it

rep → Repeat

rnd → Round

RS / WS → Right side / Wrong side

yo → Yarn over

tog → Together

MC / CC → Main color / Contrasting color

pm / sm → Place marker / Slip marker

tch → Turning chain — chains at the start of a row that bring the hook to the right height

US single crochet (sc) → = UK double crochet (dc)

US half double crochet (hdc) → = UK half treble crochet (htr)

US double crochet (dc) → = UK treble crochet (tr)

US treble crochet (tr) → = UK double treble (dtr)

US slip stitch (sl st) → = UK slip stitch (ss)

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which stitch adds no height at all to your work?

A. Double crochet
B. Slip stitch
C. Single crochet
D. Treble crochet

2. Which abbreviation is the 'workhorse' — the most common stitch and backbone of granny squares and blankets?

A. hdc
B. tr
C. sc
D. dc

3. Which stitch is called the 'medium all-rounder'?

A. Half double crochet
B. Treble crochet
C. Double treble
D. Single crochet

4. Ranked by height, which of these stitches is the tallest?

A. Single crochet
B. Double crochet
C. Double treble
D. Treble crochet

5. Which list orders the stitches correctly from shortest to tallest?

A. sl st, sc, dc, hdc, dtr, tr
B. sc, sl st, dc, hdc, tr, dtr
C. sc, hdc, sl st, tr, dc, dtr
D. sl st, sc, hdc, dc, tr, dtr

6. The popcorn, puff, and bobble are all made by the same basic move. What is it?

A. Skipping stitches to leave decorative gaps
B. Wrapping the hook around the post of the stitch below
C. Piling several stitches into one spot so they pop proud of the fabric
D. Working into the back loop only to create ribbing

7. What is the magic ring (mr / MR) used for?

A. An adjustable loop to start working in the round with no center hole
B. Joining two stitches into one to decrease
C. A stack of chains that lifts the hook to the right height
D. Working around the post of the stitch below

8. How is the popcorn stitch (pc) made?

A. Skip stitches to leave decorative gaps
B. Work several dc into one stitch, then fold it so it pops out
C. Gather several half-double loops and pull them all through at once
D. Wrap the hook around the post of the stitch below

9. The bobble (bo) is built like a puff, but from which stitch?

A. Double crochet (dc)
B. Slip stitch (sl st)
C. Chain (ch)
D. Single crochet (sc)

10. The puff stitch is formed by which move?

A. Wrapping the hook around the whole post below
B. Folding several dc so they pop off the surface
C. Working two stitches together to make a decrease
D. Gathering several half-double loops and pulling them all through at once

11. Which pair of action abbreviations lets you shape curved fabric — turning a flat rectangle into a hat or sphere?

A. Place marker (pm) and slip marker (sm)
B. Skip (sk) and repeat (rep)
C. Increase (inc) and decrease (dec)
D. Front loop only (FLO) and back loop only (BLO)

12. What does 'inc' (increase) tell you to do?

A. Join two stitches together into one
B. Work two stitches into the same stitch
C. Work into the back loop only
D. Skip a stitch without working it

13. Which abbreviation does NOT describe a decrease?

A. inc
B. dc2tog
C. dec
D. sc2tog

14. Front loop only (FLO) leaves a decorative ridge. What does back loop only (BLO) create?

A. A decrease
B. Raised cables and dimensional texture
C. A popcorn bump
D. A stretchy, knit-like ribbing

15. How are front post (FP) and back post (BP) stitches worked?

A. By working into just one of the two top loops
B. By wrapping the hook around the whole post of the stitch below
C. By working into the gap a chain left
D. By working two stitches together

16. In a pattern, what does 'sk' tell you to do?

A. Work into the chain space
B. Slip stitch to join a round
C. Skip a stitch entirely
D. Place a marker

17. What is the turning chain (tch)?

A. The gap a chain left in the previous row
B. An adjustable loop for starting in the round
C. Chains at the start of a row that lift the hook to the right height
D. A marker slipped at the start of each round

18. In a color pattern, what does 'MC / CC' stand for?

A. Marker count / Color change
B. Main chain / Center chain
C. Machine color / Custom color
D. Main color / Contrasting color

19. What do 'pm' and 'sm' instruct you to do?

A. Purl stitch / Slip stitch
B. Place a marker / Slip a marker
C. Pattern repeat / Stitch multiple
D. Press seam / Steam block

20. Which of these is a stitch, NOT a piece of housekeeping or orientation shorthand?

A. dtr
B. rnd
C. rep
D. sk

21. A pattern written in UK terms says "double crochet". Which US stitch should you actually work?

A. Half double crochet
B. Treble crochet
C. Single crochet
D. Double crochet

22. US treble crochet (tr) is equivalent to which UK stitch?

A. Double treble
B. Half treble crochet
C. Treble crochet
D. Double crochet

23. US half double crochet (hdc) is the same stitch as which UK term?

A. UK double treble (dtr)
B. UK half treble crochet (htr)
C. UK double crochet (dc)
D. UK treble crochet (tr)

24. Which stitch keeps the same meaning in both US and UK terminology?

A. Single crochet
B. Double crochet
C. Treble crochet
D. Slip stitch

25. Your stitch counts come out wildly wrong and the fabric looks far denser than the photo. What should you suspect first?

A. A US vs UK terminology mismatch
B. The wrong yarn fiber
C. A miscounted foundation chain
D. A hook one size too large

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-4-reading-a-pattern

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 5 OF 11

Lesson 5: Intermediate Techniques

Working in the Round · Post Stitches, Cables and Ribbing · The Texture Trio and Friends · Shaping and Colorwork

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain working in the round and choose a starting method — magic ring or joined chain.
- Distinguish spiral from joined rounds and know when each is used.
- Work front and back post stitches to build ribbing.
- Define the texture trio plus shell and V-stitch and tell which way each pops.
- Apply shaping and colorwork techniques — FSC, increases and decreases, the invisible decrease, and tapestry vs intarsia.

Working in the Round

Rows are where everyone starts, but they only make rectangles. The moment you start working in a circle, the whole craft cracks open — hats, baskets, bags, and every wide-eyed amigurumi creature live here.

Flat is fine round is where it gets fun

Most beginners spend their first months going back and forth: chain, turn, repeat, rectangle. Working **in the round** means crocheting continuously in a circle or spiral instead. That single shift is the entire reason hats are dome-shaped, bags hold things, granny squares exist, and amigurumi can be stuffed. You're no longer building a flat panel — you're building a tube or a disc that grows outward (or upward) round after round. If flat work is the alphabet, round work is your first real sentences.

There are two classic ways to *start* a round. The older one is a **foundation chain joined with a slip stitch**: chain a few, join the ends into a ring, and work into the center. It's simple and beginner-friendly, but it can leave a small hole right in the middle — fine for a doily, less fine for a teddy bear's face.

The upgrade is the **magic ring (MR)**: an adjustable loop you work your first round into, then yank completely shut. No hole, no gap, no daylight peeking through your amigurumi. It's the standard for anything where a closed center matters, and once you trust it, you rarely go back. (See the procedure card for the step-by-step.)

Spiral or joined your project decides

Once you're cruising in the round, you hit a fork: spiral or joined?

Spiral rounds never stop. You don't join or chain up — you just keep going, round bleeding seamlessly into the next like a snail shell. This is how nearly all amigurumi is worked, because there's no join line to mar a smooth toy. The one catch: there's no obvious "end of round," so pop a stitch marker in that first

stitch and move it up each round, or you'll lose count and your innocent little octopus will quietly gain a tenth leg.

Joined rounds do stop and restart. You slip stitch into the first stitch to close the round, chain up to reach the height of the next, and carry on. This gives a tidy, defined edge to each round — exactly what granny squares and other flat motifs want, where a clean concentric structure is the whole point.

Neither is "better." Spirals win for seamless 3D shapes; joined rounds win for flat, structured motifs. Knowing which your pattern expects — and why — is a quiet mark of an intermediate crocheter.

So: pick your start (magic ring for closed centers, joined chain for casual), pick your style (spiral for toys, joined for squares), drop in a marker, and go round. Welcome out of flatland.

Post Stitches, Cables and Ribbing

This is the part where people start asking "wait, you *crocheted* that?" Post stitches are a small change in where you put your hook — and a huge change in what your fabric can do.

Stop poking the top go around the post

Every stitch you've made so far has been worked into the top two loops of the stitch below. Post stitches throw that out. Instead, you wrap your hook **around the post** — the vertical column of the stitch below — coming in from the front or the back. That's the whole trick, and it's the foundation of the most architectural-looking crochet there is.

The two workhorses are post double crochets. **FPdc** (front post double crochet) hooks around the post from the front, so the finished stitch leans toward you and stands up as a raised ridge. **BPdc** (back post double crochet) hooks from the back, so the stitch leans away and sinks into a recessed valley. Same height, opposite directions — one pops out, one tucks in. Everything in this part is built from those two moves.

Crochet ribbing that actually looks like ribbing

Here's the first payoff. Alternate them across a row — front post, back post, front post, back post — and the raised ridges and recessed valleys line up into genuine **ribbing**. Not the fake "work in the back loop only" approximation, but deep, springy, vertical ribs with real stretch and squish.

That stretch is exactly what cuffs, hat brims, and waistbands need: something that hugs and snaps back. Crocheted ribbing has historically been the craft's weak spot compared to knitting, and post-stitch ribbing is the answer. Work it sideways for a brim, or straight up a sleeve cuff, and it behaves like the ribbing you'd expect from needles.

Crochet cables that fool knitters

Now the showstopper. Instead of *alternating* front and back, you **stack front post stitches over front post stitches** — keeping those raised ridges going in columns. Cross two such columns over each other (working the stitches out of order so one ridge crosses in front of the next) and the ridges twist into rope-like **cables**.

Done with a bit of care, the result looks almost identical to knitted cable work — those classic fisherman's-sweater ropes that supposedly only needles could make. Crocheters love this one specifically because it quietly demolishes the "crochet can't look like knitting" myth. Aran-style throws, chunky cabled hats, statement sweater panels — all post stitches underneath.

A few orientation notes: post stitches are taller and use more yarn than you'd guess, so swatch before you commit to a sweater. Keep track of front versus back — it's easy to autopilot into the wrong one and not notice until two rows later. And remember the core logic for everything here: **alternate FP and BP for ribbing, stack FP over FP for cables.** Same two stitches, completely different fabric.

The Texture Trio and Friends

Flat fabric is lovely, but sometimes you want a blanket you can feel with your eyes shut. This part is the bump department: three rounded stitches that get confused constantly, plus two decorative classics you'll meet in half the patterns you open.

Puff bobble popcorn the texture trio

The **puff**, the **bobble**, and the **popcorn** all make a raised lump in one stitch, which is exactly why everyone mixes them up. The difference is in how you build the lump — and how loud it ends up.

The **puff stitch** is the softest of the three. You draw up several half-double loops in the same spot, then pull through all of them together. The result is a gentle, rounded, pillow-like bump — squishy rather than sculptural. It's a darling on baby blankets and cushions where you want texture you can faceplant into.

The **bobble** is firmer and rounder. You work several incomplete double crochets into one stitch, then finish them all off at once so they bunch into a ball. Its quirk is the one to remember: a bobble pops out on the *opposite* side from where you're working. So a bobble made on a wrong-side row blooms on the right side — which is why bobble patterns often have you make them on the "wrong" row. Counterintuitive, but consistent.

The **popcorn** is the diva. You work several *complete* double crochets in one stitch, then slip your hook out and re-insert it through the top of the first one to fold the whole cluster forward. That fold gives the most defined, three-dimensional pop of the three — bolder and more sculptural than a bobble. Great for lettering, polka dots, and anywhere you want texture to genuinely stand off the fabric.

Quick mnemonic: **puff is soft, bobble is round (and shy — it shows on the far side), popcorn is the boldest pop.**

The shell stitch a fan in one stitch

Now two decorative friends that aren't bumps at all. The **shell stitch** crams several double crochets — classically **5** — into a single stitch so they fan out into a shell or scallop. Space the shells with single crochets or chain gaps between them and you get that wavy, scalloped edge you've seen on a thousand blankets, baby cardigans, and granny-adjacent throws. It's beginner-friendly to work but instantly reads as "intermediate," which is the best kind of bargain.

The **V-stitch** is the shell's airy cousin: two double crochets with a chain between them, both worked into one stitch, making a little V. Repeat it and the chain gaps open the fabric into a light, lacy mesh — perfect for wraps, shawls, and anything you want drapey and breathable rather than dense. Where the shell is plush and solid, the V-stitch is open and floaty. Together they're the two decorative stitches you'll see most in intermediate patterns, and knowing both means you can read most "fancy" charts at a glance.

Shaping and Colorwork

Two superpowers in one part: bending flat fabric into three dimensions, and turning a single boring color into a whole picture. This is the toolkit that takes you from "I made a scarf" to "I designed this."

Skip the too tight starting chain

Be honest — your beginning chain is always tighter than the rest of your work, isn't it? Everyone's is. **Foundation stitches** fix it. Instead of chaining a long row and then working back into it, you build the chain *and* the first row of stitches in a single pass. You'll see them written as **Foundation Single Crochet (FSC)** and Foundation Double Crochet (FDC).

The payoff is an elastic starting edge with the same stretch as the rest of your fabric — no more straining to hook into a too-tight chain, no more puckered bottom edge on a sweater. It feels fiddly for the first few stitches and then suddenly clicks, and once it clicks you'll quietly resent every too-tight chain you ever made.

Shaping with increases and decreases

To turn flat into 3D — or to carve a curved armhole — you control your stitch count. An **increase (inc)** is simply working 2 stitches into one stitch, adding one to your total. The standard decrease, **sc2tog** (single crochet two together), does the reverse: insert into the next stitch and pull up a loop, repeat into the following stitch, then yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on the hook — two stitches become one.

Amigurumi makers have a refinement: the **invisible decrease**. You insert your hook through the *front loops only* of the next two stitches, yarn over and pull through just those front loops, then yarn over and finish. It leaves almost no visible gap on the right side, so your toy's curves stay smooth instead of dotted with little decrease holes. It's a small move with an outsized payoff in neatness.

Change color one stitch early

Now color. The **simple color change** has one rule that trips up everyone: switch on the stitch *before* you actually need the new color. Specifically, work the final yarn-over of the last old-color stitch using the **new** color. Pull that last loop through in the new shade and the next stitch starts clean — no muddy half-and-half stitch sitting on the seam. Always change one stitch ahead of where the new color appears in your pattern.

Tapestry crochet hides the yarn it isnt using

For multicolor patterns, you've got two main roads. **Tapestry crochet** carries the resting color *inside* your stitches — you literally crochet over it so it hides within the fabric — letting you draw crisp, pixel-like motifs in dense single crochet. It's the technique behind colorwork bags and **graphghans**, those picture blankets charted square by square.

Intarsia crochet takes the opposite approach: a separate bobbin or ball for each large block of color, with nothing carried across the back. That keeps the fabric light and flexible, which is why intarsia shines for big color sections where carrying yarn would only add bulk. Rule of thumb — tapestry for busy, detailed patterns in firm fabric; intarsia for large, simple color blocks you want to stay drapey.

Key terms

Magic ring
An adjustable starting loop that pulls completely tight, leaving no hole in the center — the go-to start for amigurumi and anything that can't show a gap.

Front post stitch
A stitch worked by inserting the hook from the front, around the column of the stitch below, so it pops forward as a raised ridge toward you.

Puff stitch
Several half-double loops drawn up in one spot and pulled through all together, making a soft, rounded, pillow-like bump — lovely on blankets and cushions.

Bobble stitch
Several incomplete double crochets worked in one stitch and finished off at once, popping out on the opposite side from where you're working.

Popcorn stitch
Several complete double crochets in one stitch, then folded by removing the hook and re-inserting it through the top of the first — the most defined, 3D pop of the bumpy stitches.

V-stitch
Two double crochets with a chain between them, both worked into one stitch, making an open, lacy fabric that's perfect for wraps and shawls.

Invisible decrease
A decrease worked through the front loops only of the next two stitches, leaving almost no visible gap — the amigurumi-maker's secret for smooth, gap-free shaping.

Key concepts

Puff Stitch

- One of the 'texture trio' of raised, lumpy stitches that crocheters mix up constantly.
- The softest of the three, made by drawing up several half-double loops in one spot and pulling through them all at once.
- The result is a gentle, pillow-like bump — squishy rather than sculptural, and a darling on baby blankets.

Bobble Stitch

- Another member of the texture trio — a raised lump firmer and rounder than the soft, squishy one.
- You work several unfinished double crochets into one stitch, then close them all at once so they bunch into a firm ball.
- Its quirky signature: it forms on the opposite side from where you're working, so patterns often make it on the 'wrong' row.

Popcorn Stitch

- The showiest member of the texture trio — the acknowledged 'diva' of raised stitches.
- You work several complete double crochets in one stitch, then slip your hook out and re-insert it through the top of the first to fold the cluster forward.
- That fold gives the most defined, three-dimensional bump of the three — bold enough for lettering and polka dots.

Shell Stitch

- A decorative fan-shaped stitch — not a bump at all, but a classic in half the intermediate patterns you'll open.
- You cram several double crochets — classically five — into one stitch so they spread out like a fan.
- Spaced with gaps between them, they form the wavy, scalloped edge seen on a thousand blankets and baby cardigans.

V-Stitch

- The airy, open cousin of the plush fan-shaped stitch — light and lacy rather than dense.
- You work two double crochets with a chain between them, both into the same stitch, forming a small pointed shape.
- Repeat it and the chain gaps open the fabric into a breezy mesh — perfect for drapey wraps and shawls.

Key facts

Spiral or joined? Your project decides.

Amigurumi is almost always worked in a spiral — no joins, just round and round forever (mark that first stitch or weep later). Granny squares and flat motifs use joined rounds instead: slip stitch to close each round, chain up, and carry on.

Why spiral rounds need markers

Spiral rounds flow seamlessly from one into the next with no join line, so there's no obvious end of round. A stitch marker moved up each round keeps your place and your count accurate.

Magic ring's hidden advantage

A magic ring is an adjustable loop pulled completely tight, leaving no hole in the center of your round. A foundation-chain ring, by contrast, can leave a small gap in the center.

Closing out a joined round

A joined round is closed with a slip stitch into the first stitch, then a chain-up to reach the height needed for the next round — giving each round a neat, defined edge.

Stop poking the top. Go around the post.

Until now you've stabbed your hook into the top two loops of every stitch. Post stitches break the rule: you wrap your hook around the post — the whole vertical column of the stitch below. This one move is where crochet starts looking genuinely architectural.

Which way front post leans

A front post double crochet (FPdc) wraps the hook around the post from the front, so the finished stitch leans toward you and stands up as a raised ridge.

Which way back post leans

A back post double crochet (BPdc) wraps the hook around the post from the back, so the stitch leans away and sinks into a recessed valley — the opposite of the front-post ridge.

The reverse-side stitch

A bobble stitch sits on the opposite face from the one you're working — so a bobble made on a wrong-side row pops out on the right side of the fabric. Puff and popcorn instead bulge on the same side you're working.

Building the puff stitch

A puff stitch is built by drawing up several half-double loops in one spot and pulling through them all together, which gives it a soft, pillow-like bump on the fabric.

The boldest texture stitch

The popcorn stitch folds a cluster of complete double crochets forward, giving the boldest, most sculptural pop of the texture trio — bolder than the softer puff or the rounder bobble.

Skip the too-tight starting chain

Tired of a beginning chain that's tighter than the rest of your work? Foundation stitches build the chain and the first row at the same time, in one pass. The payoff is a stretchy starting edge that finally matches your fabric. Look for FSC and FDC in patterns.

Change color one stitch early

The clean color swap has a counterintuitive rule: do the final yarn-over of the LAST stitch in the OLD color using the NEW color. Switch one stitch before the new color appears in your pattern, and the join lands exactly where it should — no muddy half-and-half stitch.

What sc2tog actually does

sc2tog (single crochet two together) is the standard decrease stitch, merging two stitches into one. Working two stitches into the same stitch instead is an increase (inc).

How intarsia handles color

Intarsia crochet uses a separate bobbin of yarn for each color block and carries nothing across the back of the work, which keeps the fabric light and flat.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Working in the round → Crocheting continuously in a circle or spiral instead of back-and-forth rows

MR → Magic ring — an adjustable loop you cinch completely shut

Foundation chain joined with a slip stitch
→ The older round-start method — easy, but can leave a small hole in the center

Spiral rounds → Continuous rounds with no joining — standard for amigurumi

Joined rounds
→ Each round closed with a slip stitch and a chain up — used for granny squares and flat motifs

FPdc → Front post double crochet — leans toward you, making a raised ridge

BPdc → Back post double crochet — leans away, making a recessed valley

Typical shell stitch → 5 double crochets worked into a single stitch

Foundation single crochet (FSC)
→ Makes the foundation chain and first row of single crochet together, for a stretchier edge

inc → Increase — work 2 stitches into the same stitch, adding one to your count

sc2tog → Single crochet two together — the standard decrease that turns two stitches into one

Intarsia crochet

→ Separate bobbins per color block, with no yarn carried across the back — light and flexible

Step by step

Make a magic ring for a hole-free center

1. Drape the yarn over your fingers and form a loop, crossing the tail over the working yarn.
2. Insert your hook into the loop, yarn over, and pull up a loop.
3. Chain one to secure it (this does not count as a stitch).
4. Work your first round of stitches into the ring, crocheting over both the loop and the tail.
5. Once the round is complete, pull the tail firmly to cinch the center closed.
6. Join or continue in a spiral as your pattern directs.

Give the tail a gentle tug to confirm it's the strand that closes the ring before you commit — and weave it in well so it can't sneak back open.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What does "working in the round" mean?

- A Stacking front post stitches to make raised ridges
- B Chaining and turning to build flat rectangular panels
- C Crocheting continuously in a circle or spiral instead of back-and-forth rows
- D Working only into the back loops of each stitch

2. Why choose a magic ring over a foundation-chain ring to start a round?

- A It cinches completely shut and closes the center hole
- B It automatically joins each round with a slip stitch
- C It carries the resting color hidden inside the stitches
- D It is faster because it skips the first round entirely

3. For a stuffed amigurumi face where a center hole would show, which start is preferred?

- A Foundation single crochet (FSC)
- B Magic ring
- C V-stitch
- D Foundation chain joined with a slip stitch

4. Which statement is NOT true of the foundation-chain-joined-with-a-slip-stitch start?

- A It is simple and beginner-friendly
- B It is the older of the two round-start methods
- C It can leave a small hole in the center
- D It cinches completely closed and seals the center hole

5. You want to make a hat, bag, or basket instead of a flat rectangle. What must change from beginner row work?

A Alternate front post and back post stitches
B Change color one stitch early
C Work in the round — crochet in a circle or spiral instead of back-and-forth rows
D Pack five double crochets into one stitch

6. What is the older method for starting a round — joining a chain into a ring with a slip stitch — best known for?

A Being simple but risking a small hole in the center
B Being the standard start for amigurumi
C Requiring a stitch marker to track rounds
D Producing a perfectly closed center every time

7. Chaining a few stitches, then joining the ends into a ring — which starting method is this?

A Invisible decrease
B Foundation chain joined with a slip stitch
C Magic ring
D Front post double crochet

8. When crocheting in a continuous spiral, why place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round?

A To pull the center of the magic ring completely closed
B To flag the right side of the fabric from the wrong side
C To mark where the yarn color changes each round
D Spiral rounds merge seamlessly into one another, so the marker is what keeps your count

9. Which best describes spiral rounds?

A Rows worked back and forth with a turn each time
B Rounds each closed with a slip stitch and a chain up
C Continuous rounds worked seamlessly — standard for amigurumi
D Stitches worked around the post of the row below

10. How is each joined round closed?

A Cinched shut with a magic ring pull
B Carried invisibly inside the stitches
C Worked through the front loops only
D Slip stitch into the first stitch, then chain up to the next round's height

11. Granny squares and other flat, structured motifs are typically worked in which style?

A Tapestry crochet
B Joined rounds
C Foundation single crochet
D Spiral rounds

12. Which statement best captures the spiral-vs-joined tradeoff?

A. Spirals win for seamless 3D shapes; joined rounds win for flat, structured motifs
B. Joined rounds are always the better choice
C. Spirals give a crisp, defined edge to each round
D. Joined rounds have no obvious end of round

13. What do you do to create crochet ribbing?

A. Alternate front post and back post stitches across the row
B. Insert the hook into the front loops only
C. Stack front post stitches over front post stitches
D. Work several double crochets into one stitch

14. How does a front post double crochet (FPdc) behave?

A. Hooks around the post from the back, sinking into a recessed valley
B. Hooks around the post from the front and leans toward you as a raised ridge
C. Is worked into the top two loops as usual
D. Draws up several loops and pulls through them together

15. What does a back post double crochet (BPdc) create?

A. A soft, pillow-like bump
B. A raised ridge that pops toward you
C. A recessed valley that leans away from you
D. A fan of five double crochets

16. How do you make crochet cables?

A. Chain up and slip stitch to close each round
B. Alternate front post and back post stitches across the row
C. Work several complete double crochets in one stitch and fold them
D. Stack front post stitches over front post stitches, crossing the columns

17. Which is NOT part of the core post-stitch logic?

A. Alternate FP and BP for ribbing
B. Wrap the hook around the post of the stitch below
C. Work into the top two loops to raise a ridge
D. Stack FP over FP for cables

18. Which post stitch is worked by hooking around the post from the back, so it leans away?

A. sc2tog
B. Popcorn stitch
C. FPdc
D. BPdc

19. What does a back post double crochet (BPdc) create in the fabric?

A. A recessed valley
B. A lacy V-shape
C. A raised ridge
D. A shell fan

20. Which stitch pops out on the OPPOSITE side from the one you're working on?

- A Popcorn
- B Bobble
- C Puff
- D Shell

21. How is a puff stitch built?

- A Work incomplete double crochets and finish them all at once
- B Draw up several half-double loops in one spot and pull through them all together
- C Two double crochets with a chain between them
- D Work several complete double crochets and fold them forward

22. Which of the texture trio gives the most defined, sculptural 3D pop?

- A Bobble
- B Puff
- C Popcorn
- D Shell

23. A typical shell stitch is how many double crochets worked into one stitch?

- A 7
- B 3
- C 2
- D 5

24. What makes up a V-stitch?

- A Two double crochets with a chain between them, worked into one stitch
- B Five double crochets fanned into one stitch
- C Several half-double loops pulled through together
- D Front and back post stitches alternated across a row

25. What kind of bump does the puff stitch make?

- A An open, lacy mesh
- B A firm ball that pops on the far side
- C A folded, sculptural 3D pop
- D A soft, pillow-like bump

26. How do you work a puff stitch?

- A Draw up several half-double loops and pull through together
- B Chain between two double crochets in one stitch
- C Finish several incomplete double crochets at once
- D Fold a cluster of complete double crochets forward

27. What makes the popcorn stitch the boldest of the texture trio?

- A You pull through several half-double loops together
- B You finish several incomplete double crochets at once
- C Fold the cluster forward by re-inserting the hook
- D You space it with chains for an open mesh

28. The popcorn stitch is built from several of which stitch worked into one spot?

A Incomplete double crochets
B Complete double crochets
C Chains
D Half-double loops

29. What makes tapestry crochet different from intarsia?

A Tapestry uses a separate bobbin for each block of color
B Tapestry carries the unused color hidden inside the stitches
C Tapestry changes color only at the start of a new row
D Tapestry works every color into the front loops only

30. What is the advantage of foundation single crochet (FSC)?

A It closes each round with a slip stitch and chain up
B It carries the unused color hidden inside the stitches
C It builds the chain and first row together for a stretchier starting edge
D It pops out on the opposite side from where you work

31. What does sc2tog do?

A Builds a stretchy foundation edge
B Changes color one stitch early
C Increases — it works two stitches into one stitch
D Decreases — it turns two stitches into one

32. How is the invisible decrease worked?

A Through the front loops only of the next two stitches, so the decrease is almost seamless
B Through both loops of two stitches, cinched tight
C Around the back post of the stitch below
D With a separate bobbin for each color block

33. What defines intarsia crochet?

A Front-loop-only decreases for gap-free shaping
B The resting color carried hidden inside the stitches
C Five double crochets packed into one stitch
D Separate bobbins per color block, with no yarn carried across the back

34. What does foundation single crochet (FSC) accomplish?

A Turns two stitches into one for shaping
B Builds the foundation chain and first row together
C Works 2 stitches into the same stitch to add one
D Hides the resting color inside the stitches

35. Why crochet a foundation single crochet edge instead of a regular starting chain?

A. It leaves almost no visible gap between stitches
B. It hides the yarn you aren't using
C. It gives a stretchier edge that matches the fabric
D. It builds a raised ridge down the fabric

36. What does the abbreviation 'inc' tell you to do?

A. Work 2 stitches into the same stitch
B. Work through the front loops only
C. Turn two stitches into one
D. Fold a cluster of stitches forward

37. An increase (inc) does what to your total stitch count?

A. Doubles the stitch count
B. Leaves the count unchanged
C. Adds one stitch
D. Removes one stitch

38. What does sc2tog do to your stitch count?

A. Turns two stitches into one
B. Leaves the stitch count unchanged
C. Doubles the stitch count
D. Turns one stitch into two

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-5-intermediate-techniques

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 6 OF 11

Lesson 6: Tunisian Crochet

The Hybrid Craft

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Distinguish the three basic Tunisian stitches — tss, tks, and tfs.
- Recall that a Tunisian row is two passes and describe what the forward pass does.

The Hybrid Craft

Tunisian crochet is the technique that makes people squint and say "wait, is that knitting?" It isn't — but it isn't quite ordinary crochet either. It lives happily in between, and once it clicks, it opens up a whole new kind of fabric.

The Hybrid Craft

Tunisian crochet genuinely is its own beast. It borrows the loaded-loops idea from knitting and the single-hook handling from crochet, then does something neither parent does: it builds rows in two passes without ever turning the work. The payoff is a dense, stable, distinctive fabric with a square-grid texture. That grid is more than pretty — it's a built-in canvas. Crocheters use it for cross-stitch embroidery overlay, tapestry colorwork, and structured garments that hold their shape. Three common stitches give you a starter vocabulary: **tss** (Tunisian Simple Stitch), **tks** (Tunisian Knit Stitch), and **tfs** (Tunisian Full Stitch).

Why the hook is so long

The whole technique hinges on one piece of gear. An ordinary crochet hook can hold one or two loops; Tunisian asks you to hold an entire row's worth at once. So the hook is elongated — either a long single hook or a hook with a flexible cable extension for wider pieces. The cable is what lets you make a blanket without needing a hook the length of your arm. Think of it as crochet's answer to a knitting needle: somewhere to park all those live loops while you work back across them.

You never turn your work

This is the rule that rewires your brain. In regular crochet you flip the piece at the end of every row; in Tunisian you never do. You always face the right side, working left-then-right, left-then-right, watching the grid grow toward you. Each row is exactly **two passes**. The *forward pass* (right to left) picks up a loop from each stitch and leaves all of them on the hook — very much like casting on. The *return pass* (left to right) yarns over and draws through the loops one at a time until a single loop is left. That last loop is the start of your next forward pass.

The famous Tunisian curl

Here's the thing nobody warns beginners about: fresh Tunisian fabric curls. Hard. It has a strong natural bias and wants to roll up on itself like a window shade. This is completely normal and absolutely not a

sign you did anything wrong — so don't frog it in frustration. A proper blocking relaxes the fibers and flattens that curl out entirely, revealing the crisp grid that was hiding the whole time. Tunisian and blocking are a package deal; plan to do both.

Key facts



AI-generated (gpt-image-1.5)

Why the hook is so long

A regular hook can't hold a whole row of loops — but a Tunisian hook can. It's either a long single hook or a hook with a flexible cable extension for wider pieces, so every loop in the row has somewhere to wait.

> **You never turn your work**
>
> Here's the quirk that trips up newcomers: in Tunisian crochet you never flip the piece. You always face the right side, row after row, building that signature grid without ever turning around.

> **The famous Tunisian curl**
>
> Tunisian fabric has a strong natural bias — it desperately wants to curl up on itself. Don't panic and don't frog it: a good blocking flattens that curl out entirely.

> **The stitch that mimics knitting**
>
> The Tunisian Knit Stitch (tks) is worked through the center of each stitch, giving a fabric that looks remarkably like knitted stockinette even though it's made entirely with a hook.

By the numbers

How many passes make up a single row of Tunisian crochet?

2 passes

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

tss → Tunisian Simple Stitch — pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar of each stitch

tks → Tunisian Knit Stitch — inserts through the center of the stitch and resembles stockinette knitting

tfs → Tunisian Full Stitch — works through both the front and back vertical bars

Step by step

Work one row of Tunisian crochet (forward pass + return pass)

1. Forward pass: working right to left, pick up a loop from each stitch and leave every loop on the hook — like casting on in knitting.
2. Keep going across the whole row until all the loops are loaded onto your elongated hook.
3. Return pass: now working left to right, yarn over and draw through two loops at a time.
4. Continue drawing through, one stitch at a time, until just a single loop remains on the hook.
5. That single loop becomes the first stitch of your next forward pass — and you never turn the work.

Two passes equal one row. You always look at the right side of the fabric.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which Tunisian stitch is worked through the center of the stitch and resembles stockinette knitting?

A tks
B tfs
C tss
D tps

2. The Tunisian Simple Stitch (tss) pulls up a loop through which part of each stitch?

A The center of the stitch
B The front vertical bar
C Both the front and back vertical bars
D The back bump of the chain

3. Which trio of stitches makes up the Tunisian starter vocabulary that builds its grid fabric?

A tss, sc, sl st
B tks, tfs, tds
C tss, tks, tfs
D sc, dc, tr

4. Which of these is NOT one of the three basic Tunisian stitches in this lesson's starter vocabulary?

A tks
B tss
C tfs
D tds

5. What does the abbreviation 'tfs' stand for?

A Tunisian Flat Stitch
B Tunisian Full Stitch
C Tunisian Front Stitch
D Tunisian Fine Stitch

6. What does the Tunisian Simple Stitch (tss) involve?

A Working through both the front and back vertical bars
B Drawing through all loops at once on the return pass
C Inserting through the center of the stitch, like stockinette
D Pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar

7. Which abbreviation stands for the Tunisian stitch worked through the front vertical bar only?

A tfs
B MR
C tss
D tks

8. In a row of Tunisian crochet, what happens during the forward pass?

A You pick up a loop from each stitch and leave them all on the hook, like casting on
B You turn the work to face the wrong side before continuing
C You draw through the loops one at a time until a single loop remains
D You block the fabric to flatten its natural curl

9. How many passes make up a single row of Tunisian crochet?

A Three
B Two
C One
D Four

10. In which direction does the forward pass of a Tunisian row travel?

A Right to left
B Diagonally across
C Left to right
D Top to bottom

11. What happens during the return pass of a Tunisian row?

A You turn the work to face the wrong side
B You block the fabric to remove its curl
C You pick up a loop from every stitch and hold them all on the hook
D You yarn over and draw through the loops one at a time until one loop remains

12. The forward pass leaves loops parked on the hook in a way often compared to which knitting action?

A Binding off
B Dropping stitches
C Casting on
D Purling

13. As you build the grid fabric, each row is completed in how many passes?

A Three
B Four
C Two
D One

14. Within the grid vocabulary, which stitch produces a knit-like, stockinette appearance?

A tss
B tks
C tfs
D tps

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-6-tunisian-crochet

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 7 OF 11

Lesson 7: Blocking

The Finisher's Secret

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Distinguish the three blocking methods and match each to its process.
- Explain what it means to kill acrylic yarn and the safe alternative for it.
- Recognize each blocking method by name and description.

The Finisher's Secret

You've woven in the last end and your project is done — except it's a little wonky, the edges curl, and the lace looks more like a knot than a snowflake. Don't despair. You haven't reached the finish line yet; you've reached blocking, the step that makes everything look intentional.

The Finisher's Secret

Blocking is using moisture — and sometimes heat — to set and shape finished crochet. It's quietly transformative: it evens out uneven stitches, flattens curled edges, opens up lace patterns so the holes actually show, and squares up granny squares that drifted into parallelograms. More than any single stitch, blocking is the difference between work that looks "homemade" and work that looks "handcrafted." It's the professional's secret precisely because it's invisible — nobody sees the pins, they just see the polish. There are three main methods, and which you reach for depends mostly on your fiber.

Wet blocking for natural fibers

Wet blocking is the deepest, most thorough method, and it's the gold standard for **natural fibers** — wool, cotton, and linen, which all respond beautifully to a soak. The piece gets fully saturated, gently squeezed out, and then pinned to its final dimensions to dry. Because the whole fabric relaxes when wet, it "remembers" the shape you pin it into. The trade-off is time: it's the slowest method, since the piece has to air dry completely before you unpin. The companion methods are quicker. *Spray blocking* — pin first, then mist until damp — is faster and great for slight adjustments. *Steam blocking* uses bursts of steam from an iron held an inch or two away (never touching), then lets the piece cool while pinned.

Beware killing the acrylic

Here's the cautionary tale every crocheter should hear once. Standard acrylic yarn can be **"killed"** — pressed flat with a hot iron until the fibers permanently soften and flatten. Sometimes this is done on purpose, to achieve a deliberately drapey, smooth look. But it is irreversible: there is no un-killing acrylic. For most projects, and especially for beginners, it's rarely the goal and easily an accident. The safe move with acrylic is gentle steam blocking from a distance, not direct contact. And whatever you're attempting, always test on a swatch first — a sacrificial square will tell you the truth before your finished sweater does.

The blocking starter kit

The good news: blocking costs almost nothing to start. You need a **foam blocking mat** — interlocking children's floor tiles work perfectly and are cheap — a fistful of **T-pins or blocking pins** to hold edges at your target dimensions, and a **spray bottle or a basin** for water depending on your method. That's the whole kit. With those three things you can wet block, spray block, and pin out steam-blocked pieces, which covers nearly everything you'll ever make.

Key concepts

Wet Blocking

- One of three moisture-based methods for setting a finished piece into its final shape.
- The deepest and most thorough of the three methods, but also the slowest, since the piece must air-dry completely before you unpin it.
- The gold standard for natural fibers like wool, cotton, and linen: fully soak the piece, gently squeeze it out, then pin it so the relaxed fabric 'remembers' the shape.

Spray Blocking

- A quick moisture method, ideal for making only slight adjustments to a finished piece.
- Unlike the deep-soak approach, you pin the piece to its target dimensions first, then add the moisture afterward.
- You dampen the already-pinned fabric by misting it with a bottle until it is just damp.

Steam Blocking

- The gentlest moisture method, and the one considered safe for acrylic yarn.
- It relies on an iron, but the iron must never touch the fabric; you hold it an inch or two above.
- Short hot bursts from the hovering iron relax the fibers, and you let the piece cool while it is still pinned.

Key facts



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Wet blocking for natural fibers

Wet blocking is the deep soak: submerge the piece, press the water out, then pin it to dimensions and let it dry. It's the gold standard for natural fibers like wool, cotton, and linen, which love a little moisture.

> **Beware killing the acrylic**
> Standard acrylic can be 'killed' — pressed flat with a hot iron until it permanently softens and flattens. Sometimes that's the goal, but it's rarely what beginners want, and there's no undo. Always test on a swatch first.



AI-generated (gpt-image-1.5)

The blocking starter kit

You need surprisingly little: a foam blocking mat (interlocking floor tiles work great), a fistful of T-pins or blocking pins, and a spray bottle or basin for water. That's the whole toolkit.

> **Spray blocking's correct order**
> Spray blocking works in a specific order: pin the piece into shape first, then mist it with water until damp. It's quicker than a full soak and good for slight adjustments.

By the numbers

How long do you soak a piece when wet blocking (lower end of the range)?

10 minutes

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Wet blocking → Submerge 10–15 min, press out water, pin to a board, air dry — best for natural fibers

Spray blocking
→ Pin the piece first, then mist with water until damp — faster, good for slight adjustments

Steam blocking → Hold a steam iron 1–2 inches away, never touching, then let cool while pinned

Step by step

Wet block a finished crochet piece

1. Fully submerge the piece in lukewarm water and let it soak for 10 to 15 minutes.
2. Lift it out and gently press the water out — never wring or twist it.
3. Lay it on a foam blocking board and pin it out at its final dimensions.
4. Leave it pinned and let it air dry completely before unpinning.

Best for natural fibers like wool, cotton, and linen.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which blocking method is the gold standard for natural fibers like wool, cotton, and linen?

- A Spray blocking
- B Killing
- C Wet blocking
- D Steam blocking

2. Which step is NOT part of steam blocking?

- A Submerge the piece and soak it for 10–15 minutes
- B Hold the steam iron 1–2 inches away
- C Never let the iron touch the piece
- D Let the piece cool while pinned

3. In spray blocking, what is the correct order of steps?

- A Mist the piece first, then pin it once damp
- B Submerge, squeeze out, then pin to dry
- C Iron flat, then pin while cooling
- D Pin the piece first, then mist with water until damp

4. When wet blocking, how long do you soak the piece (lower end of the range)?

- A 30 minutes
- B 10 minutes
- C 2 minutes
- D 60 minutes

5. Which blocking method is the slowest because the piece must air dry completely before unpinning?

- A Spray blocking
- B Killing acrylic
- C Steam blocking
- D Wet blocking

6. How do you spray block a crocheted piece?

- A Hold a steam iron 1–2 inches away and let it cool
- B Pin the piece first, then mist it with water until damp
- C Submerge the piece, then pin it and let it dry
- D Press it flat with a hot iron until it softens

7. Which blocking method is the fastest, best for slight adjustments?

A Spray blocking
B Killing the acrylic
C Steam blocking
D Wet blocking

8. How do you steam block a piece safely?

A Submerge it fully in water, then pin
B Press the iron directly onto the fabric
C Hold a steam iron 1–2 inches away, then let it cool
D Mist it with water until damp before pinning

9. What's the risk of holding a steam iron too close or letting it touch acrylic yarn?

A You can accidentally 'kill' the acrylic yarn
B You create unwanted cables
C You lose your stitch count
D You leave a hole in the center

10. In crochet blocking, what does it mean to "kill" acrylic yarn?

A Soak it in cold water until its color permanently fades
B Freeze it overnight so the twist relaxes
C Press it flat with a hot iron until the fibers permanently soften and flatten
D Wash it repeatedly until the stitches loosen and unravel

11. Once acrylic yarn has been 'killed' with a hot iron, how reversible is the change?

A Reversible once the piece is re-blocked with steam
B Reversible with a cold-water soak
C Reversible after washing it a few times
D Irreversible — there is no un-killing acrylic

12. What is the safe way to block acrylic yarn instead of killing it?

A A long soak in a hot-water basin
B Gentle steam blocking from a distance
C Freezing it overnight
D Pressing it flat with a hot iron

13. Why might a crocheter deliberately kill acrylic yarn?

A To make the color permanently brighter
B To achieve a deliberately drapey, smooth look
C To make the stitches puff up and add loft
D To make the piece machine-washable

14. Before blocking — especially with acrylic — what should you always do first?

A Iron the whole piece flat
B Wash the finished piece in hot water
C Freeze the yarn overnight
D Test on a sacrificial swatch

15. Which method is described as 'pin the piece first, then mist with water until damp'?

A Killing
B Steam blocking
C Spray blocking
D Wet blocking

16. Which method is described as 'submerge, press out the water, pin to a board, then air dry'?

A Wet blocking
B Killing
C Spray blocking
D Steam blocking

17. Which method is described as 'hold a steam iron 1–2 inches away, never touching, then let cool while pinned'?

A Killing
B Spray blocking
C Wet blocking
D Steam blocking

18. 'Spray blocking' is best described by which phrase?

A Mist a pinned piece until damp for slight adjustments
B Press the piece flat with a hot iron
C Fully submerge and soak the piece before pinning
D Hold a steam iron an inch or two above the fabric

19. Which name does NOT correctly match its description?

A Wet blocking — submerge, press out water, pin, and air dry
B Wet blocking — mist a pinned piece until just damp
C Spray blocking — pin first, then mist until damp
D Steam blocking — hold an iron 1–2 inches away, never touching

20. Which blocking method fully submerges the piece before pinning it to dry?

A Killing the yarn
B Steam blocking
C Wet blocking
D Spray blocking

21. Wet blocking is considered the gold standard method for which fibers?

A Natural fibers such as wool, cotton, and linen
B Synthetic blends
C Any fiber, since it's universal
D Acrylic only

22. Which method pins the piece first, then mists it with water until damp?

A Wet blocking
B Killing acrylic
C Steam blocking
D Spray blocking

23. What advantage does spray blocking offer compared to a full soak?

A It permanently softens the fibers
B It requires a hot iron held near the fabric
C It's quicker and suited to slight adjustments
D It takes the longest to dry

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-7-blocking

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 8 OF 11

Lesson 8: Famous Faces Behind the Hook

Stitch With the Stars

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recognize the celebrity crocheters and their crochet connections.
- Explain why crochet's portability makes it popular among the famous.
- Identify the crocheters who broke gender and field stereotypes about the craft.

Stitch With the Stars

Crochet keeps better company than you'd think. The roster of famous practitioners runs from soul royalty to Oscar winners to a Nobel-worthy scientist and a 300-pound lineman. Here's who keeps a hook in the bag — and why the craft seems to follow fame around.

Why the stars carry a hook

There's a practical reason crochet shows up in so many famous hands: it travels. A whole project fits in one hook and one skein — no loom, no machine, no power outlet, no setup table. That portability makes it perfect for the in-between moments fame is full of: airport lounges, tour buses, hair-and-makeup chairs, the long quiet stretches between film takes. While knitting needs two needles and a watchful eye, a crochet piece lives happily in a tote bag and comes out whenever there's a spare ten minutes.

That convenience explains the cast. **Aretha Franklin**, taught by her neighbors, carried the craft through a soaring career; she named the pineapple stitch her favorite and was known to crochet her own berets. **Meryl Streep** is one of the most notable celebrity crocheters going, often spotted with her hook between takes. **Eva Longoria** has said she crochets in her trailer to stay focused between scenes — exactly the portable, settle-your-mind use case. And pop star **Katy Perry** has talked openly in interviews about her love of crochet, a quiet counterweight to the costumes and confetti.

Some came to it by surprising routes. **Martha Stewart**, the lifestyle mogul whose whole brand is homemaking and craft, reportedly learned to crochet during her prison sentence — proof the hook finds you wherever you are. **George Washington Carver**, the renowned agricultural scientist, was also a skilled needleworker and crocheter; the same hands that revolutionized crop science were handy with yarn. And **Vanna White**, the television personality famous for turning letters on a long-running game show, turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business, partnering with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line.

The lineman who loved a hook

The most stereotype-busting name on the list belongs to **Rosey Greer** — a former NFL defensive lineman who played for the New York Giants and the Los Angeles Rams. In the 1960s and '70s, when

fiber arts were firmly filed under "women's work," Greer was famously, cheerfully open about his love of needlepoint and crochet. A man built for the line of scrimmage, unembarrassed by a hook and a hank of yarn, did real cultural work: he made it ordinary for anyone to pick up the craft.

It's a useful reminder that crochet has never actually belonged to one kind of person. Singers, scientists, scene-stealers, and sackmasters have all found the same thing in it — a portable, meditative, deeply satisfying way to make something with their hands. The next time someone raises an eyebrow at your stash, you've got a whole lineup of company.

Key concepts

Aretha Franklin

- A legendary American singer crowned a queen of her genre
- Taught the craft by her neighbors, she carried it through a soaring career
- She named the pineapple stitch her favorite and was known to crochet her own berets

Meryl Streep

- An American actress widely regarded as one of the greatest of her generation
- Among the most notable celebrity crocheters of all
- She is often spotted with her hook and yarn between takes on set

Vanna White

- A television personality known for turning letters on a long-running American game show
- She turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business
- She partnered with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line

Eva Longoria

- An American actress who rose to fame on a hit primetime drama
- She keeps a hook handy in her work trailer
- She has said she crochets to stay focused between scenes

Martha Stewart

- An American lifestyle mogul famous for homemaking, cooking, and crafts
- Even an unexpected detour didn't keep her from the craft
- She reportedly learned to crochet during her prison sentence

George Washington Carver

- A renowned American agricultural scientist celebrated for his work with crops
- His talents reached far beyond the laboratory and the field
- He was a skilled needleworker and crocheter as well as a scientist

Rosey Greer

- A former NFL defensive lineman who played for the New York Giants and Los Angeles Rams
- In the 1960s and '70s he was unusually open about a gentle hobby
- His love of needlepoint and crochet helped challenge the idea that fiber arts are only for women

Katy Perry

- An American pop star known for chart-topping, candy-colored hits
- Between the costumes and the stage shows, she keeps a quieter hobby
- She has discussed her love of crochet in interviews

Key facts

> **The lineman who loved a hook**
> An NFL defensive lineman openly championing needlepoint and crochet in the 1960s and '70s? It happened — and it quietly chipped away at the old idea that fiber arts are 'women's work'. Tackles on Sunday, stitches off the field.

> **Aretha Franklin's favorite stitch**
> Aretha Franklin named the pineapple stitch as her favorite, and was known to crochet her own berets.

> **Vanna White's yarn brand deal**
> Vanna White turned her lifelong love of yarn into a business, partnering with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line.

> **Martha Stewart's crochet origin story**
> Martha Stewart reportedly learned to crochet during her prison sentence — proof that the hook finds people wherever they happen to be.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which stitch did Aretha Franklin name as her favorite?

A The shell stitch
B The magic ring
C The granny square
D The pineapple stitch

2. Vanna White turned her lifelong yarn habit into a business by partnering with which company for her own yarn line?

A Red Heart
B Lion Brand
C Caron
D Bernat

3. Where did Martha Stewart reportedly learn to crochet?

A During her prison sentence
B In her television studio
C On a film set between takes
D From her neighbors as a child

4. Which of these people is NOT named in the guide as a crocheter?

A George Washington Carver
B Meryl Streep
C Oprah Winfrey
D Katy Perry

5. Which pop star has talked openly in interviews about her love of crochet?

A Taylor Swift
B Beyoncé
C Katy Perry
D Lady Gaga

6. What practical quality explains why crochet shows up in so many famous hands?

A It's faster to complete than any other fiber craft
B It photographs beautifully, making it ideal for social media
C It uses rare, expensive tools that signal status
D It's exceptionally portable — a whole project fits in one hook and one skein, needing no loom, machine, or power outlet

7. Meryl Streep is one of the most notable celebrity crocheters — where is she often spotted with her hook?

A During red-carpet interviews
B Between takes on set
C On stage during performances
D At awards-show podiums

8. How does crochet contrast with knitting on portability?

A Knitting needs two needles and a watchful eye, while crochet lives happily in a tote bag
B Knitting is cheaper but far bulkier than crochet
C Crochet needs a loom while knitting only needs needles
D Both require a setup table, so neither travels well

9. Crochet's portability makes it ideal for which of the situations fame is full of?

A Formal awards ceremonies
B Red-carpet arrivals and press junkets
C Live concert performances
D Airport lounges, tour buses, and the quiet stretches between film takes

10. Eva Longoria crocheting in her trailer to stay focused between scenes best illustrates which advantage of the craft?

A It's faster than any other fiber craft
B It signals status through expensive tools
C It's portable and helps settle the mind in spare moments
D It photographs well for social media

11. What was Rosey Greer's profession before he became known for openly loving fiber arts?

A NFL defensive lineman
B Major League Baseball pitcher
C NBA center
D Heavyweight boxing champion

12. Besides Greer and Carver, which TV personality upended expectations by building a business around her lifelong love of yarn?

A Meryl Streep
B Vanna White
C Martha Stewart
D Katy Perry

13. Rosey Greer's cheerful openness about crochet in the 1960s and '70s chipped away at which stereotype?

A That fiber arts were 'women's work'
B That real athletes had no hobbies
C That crochet was only for the elderly
D That crochet was too expensive a hobby

14. George Washington Carver, also a skilled crocheter, was renowned for his work in which field?

A Astronomy
B Medicine
C Agricultural science
D Theoretical physics

15. Which option correctly matches a stereotype-breaker to a real claim to fame?

A George Washington Carver — Olympic sprinter who knitted
B Aretha Franklin — NFL lineman who did needlepoint
C Vanna White — opera singer with a yarn line
D Rosey Greer — NFL lineman who openly crocheted

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-8-famous-faces-behind-the-hook

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 9 OF 11

Lesson 9: Fun Facts & the Crocheter's Dictionary

Fun Facts Worth Dropping at the Yarn Haul · The Crocheter's Dictionary

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall the headline crochet fun-facts and numbers, including why no machine can crochet.
- Break the word amigurumi into its parts, ami and nuigurumi.
- Define the core crocheter slang — frogging, tinking, and yarn chicken.
- Define the prep and tool terms and the stash acronyms — WIP, UFO, SABLE, stash, cake winding, and gauge swatch.
- Tell the slang terms apart from mismatched definitions.

Fun Facts Worth Dropping at the Yarn Haul

Every craft has its party tricks — the little facts you whip out when someone at the yarn shop (or, braver still, a non-crocheter) asks why you love this so much. Here's your ammunition.

No machine can crochet

This is the big one, and it's true: there is no industrial machine that can replicate genuine crochet. Knitting is a different story — its simple looping motion was mechanized centuries ago, which is why your closet is full of machine-knit t-shirts and sweaters. But crochet's defining move, pulling a single live loop through another with a hook, one stitch at a time, has stubbornly resisted automation. Engineers have tried; the geometry just doesn't translate to a machine. The upshot is wonderful: every crocheted object in existence, from a great-grandmother's lace doily to last week's viral granny-square cardigan, was made entirely by human hands. When you finish a piece, you've made something no factory on Earth could.

Amigurumi the art of the adorable

Those big-headed, impossibly cute stuffed critters have a proper name and a homeland. Amigurumi is a Japanese art form, and the word is a tidy compound: **ami**, meaning crocheted or knitted, plus **nuigurumi**, meaning stuffed doll. The stitches themselves are nothing exotic — mostly humble single crochet — but the Japanese aesthetic transformed them. Think oversized heads, simplified shapes, and tight spirals worked so densely that stuffing can't peek through the gaps. From that recipe came a worldwide phenomenon: dinosaurs, octopuses, tiny food, and entire fictional casts, all rendered in squishable yarn.

Shauna Richardson and crochetdermy

If you think crochet caps out at hats and baby blankets, meet fine artist Shauna Richardson. She crochets life-sized brown bears, tigers, and other large animals — entirely in crochet — and coined the

cheeky term "crochetdermy" for the genre (a wink at taxidermy). Her work hangs in galleries and proves a useful point: a hook and yarn scale all the way from a thumbnail amigurumi to a gallery-filling beast.

Crochet is a yarn hog

Here's a practical one. Crochet uses roughly **25 to 30 percent more yarn** than knitting to make a similarly sized piece. All those posts and loops simply pack more fiber into the same square inch. So when a blanket pattern's yarn requirement looks alarming, it isn't a typo — trust it, and buy the extra skein rather than losing a game of yarn chicken later.

Your hook might be good for your brain

Deploy this when someone calls your hobby a time-sink: some research suggests that repetitive craft activities like crochet may help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease by keeping the brain engaged. The meditative rhythm isn't just calming — it may double as a quiet cognitive workout.

A few more numbers to round out your trivia arsenal: the **global crochet market reached about $1.18 billion by 2023**, and **around 2011 crochet began overtaking knitting in Google search popularity**, with crochet searches climbing while knitting's flattened. Not bad for a craft no machine can touch.

The Crocheter's Dictionary

Walk into any crochet group, online or in person, and you'll hit a wall of insider vocabulary. None of it is gatekeeping — it's affectionate shorthand, born from a shared and slightly chaotic love of the craft. Learn these and you'll never feel lost in a comment thread again.

Crochet has its own glorious dialect

The lingo clusters around three eternal truths of the hobby: we make mistakes, we juggle too many projects, and we own too much yarn. From those truths spring a whole dialect. You'll **frog** a project, **tink** back a row, lose a round of **yarn chicken**, abandon a **UFO**, and quietly admit your **stash** has crossed into **SABLE** territory. The terms below are the core vocabulary; once they're second nature, you're fluent.

A quick tour of the abbreviations you'll meet constantly: **WIP** is your Work In Progress, the project actively on your hook — and most crocheters keep several going at once. **UFO** is an Unfinished Object, the project you set aside "for now" months ago; everyone has a graveyard of them, and there's genuinely no shame in it. **SABLE** is the most beloved acronym of all: Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy, meaning you own more yarn than you could possibly use in a lifetime. It's treated less as a problem and more as a badge of honor. And the **stash** itself is simply your yarn collection — which, fair warning, will outgrow any storage solution you devise for it.

Frogging

Frogging is ripping out a section of stitches all at once to undo a mistake. The name is a groan-worthy pun: when you tear back your work, you "rip it, rip it" — say it fast and you'll hear the frog. It feels like failure the first few times, but it's a completely normal part of the process. Even expert crocheters frog constantly; the difference is they've made peace with it.

Tinking

Tinking is the gentler cousin of frogging: you undo your work one stitch at a time, in reverse, rather than yanking out a whole section. The name is "knit" spelled backwards — a crafty little joke. It's slower than frogging, but far more precise, which makes it the right tool when you only need to back up a stitch or two and don't want to risk dropping live loops.

Yarn chicken

Yarn chicken is the heart-pounding race to finish a project before your last scrap of yarn runs out. You're rowing along, the ball is shrinking, and you start doing math you don't trust. Win, and you finish with a triumphant six-inch tail to spare. Lose, and you run dry one row from the bind-off — the universal crochet tragedy.

Winding a cake

Winding a cake means rolling a flat-topped, center-pull ball of yarn from a loose skein, using a ball winder and a swift. The payoff is twofold: the yarn feeds smoothly from the center without rolling around the room, and it spares you "yarn barf" — the dreaded moment a skein's center collapses into a tangled knot.

Gauge swatch

A gauge swatch is a small test square, traditionally 4 inches by 4 inches, that you make before starting a garment. You count the stitches per inch and compare to the pattern. If your numbers don't match, you change hook size — going up to loosen, down to tighten — until they do. Skip this step and your "medium" sweater may come out toddler-sized. Tedious, yes; insurance against heartbreak, also yes.

Key terms

Frogging

Ripping out a chunk of your stitches all at once to undo a mistake. The name is a pun: you 'rip it, rip it' (rib-bit). Everyone does it; embrace it.

Tinking

Carefully undoing your work one stitch at a time, in reverse. The name is 'knit' spelled backwards. Slower than ripping the whole thing out, but far more precise.

Yarn chicken

The nerve-wracking race to finish a project before your last bit of yarn runs out. You either triumph with a six-inch tail to spare, or lose dramatically one row from the end.

Winding a cake

Rolling a flat-topped, center-pull ball of yarn from a skein using a ball winder and a swift. It prevents tangles and the dreaded 'yarn barf' — when a skein's center collapses into a knot.

Gauge swatch

A 4-inch by 4-inch test square you make before starting a garment. Count the stitches per inch; if your count doesn't match the pattern's, change your hook size until it does. Skip it at your peril.

Key facts



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Shauna Richardson and 'crochetdermy'

Think crochet tops out at hats and baby blankets? Fine artist Shauna Richardson crochets life-sized brown bears, tigers, and other large beasts — entirely in crochet. She calls it 'crochetdermy.' It's a glorious reminder that a hook and yarn can scale all the way up to gallery-sized wildlife.

Crochet is a yarn hog (and that's fine)

Ever buy what felt like 'too much' yarn for a blanket and then somehow needed all of it? That's physics, not poor planning. Crochet uses roughly 25–30% more yarn than knitting for a similarly sized piece, because all those loops and posts pack in more fiber. So trust the pattern's quote and buy the extra skein.

Your hook might be good for your brain

Here's a fact to deploy when someone calls your hobby a waste of time: some research suggests that repetitive craft activities like crochet may help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease by keeping the brain engaged. So that meditative rhythm of hook-and-loop isn't just relaxing — it may be a low-key cognitive workout.

Yarn chicken

Yarn chicken is the crochet slang for the nerve-wracking race to finish a project before your last bit of yarn runs out — win with a tail to spare, or lose one row from the end.

The SABLE stash

SABLE stands for Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy — more yarn than you could ever use in one lifetime, worn by crocheters as a badge of honor rather than shame.

Crochet's UFO

In the crocheter's dictionary, a UFO is an Unfinished Object — a project set aside for now, distinct from a WIP, the piece currently active on your hook.

The gauge swatch

A gauge swatch is traditionally 4 inches by 4 inches; if your stitch count comes out off from the pattern, you change hook size — up to loosen it, down to tighten it.

By the numbers

By 2023, what was the approximate value of the global crochet market, in billions of US dollars?
1.18 billion USD

Crochet uses roughly how many percent MORE yarn than knitting for a similarly sized piece (low end of the range)?
25 percent

Around what year did crochet begin overtaking knitting in Google search popularity?
2011 year

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

ami → crocheted or knitted (the first half of 'amigurumi')

nuigurumi → stuffed doll (the second half of 'amigurumi')

WIP → Work In Progress — your current active project (most crocheters juggle several)

UFO → Unfinished Object — a project you set aside (every crocheter has a graveyard of these)

SABLE → Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy — more yarn than you could finish in a lifetime

Stash → Your personal yarn collection — destined to grow beyond any rational storage solution

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What is the headline fact that makes crochet unique compared to knitting?

- A It can be mass-produced far more cheaply in factories
- B It uses noticeably less yarn per piece than knitting
- C Genuine crochet can only be made by human hands
- D Its looping motion was mechanized centuries before knitting's

2. By 2023, roughly what was the value of the global crochet market?

- A About $1.18 billion
- B About $4.5 billion
- C About $12 billion
- D About $180 million

3. Crochet uses roughly how much MORE yarn than knitting for a similarly sized piece?

- A 50 to 60 percent more
- B 25 to 30 percent more
- C 5 to 10 percent more
- D About the same amount

4. Around what year did crochet begin overtaking knitting in Google search popularity?

A Around 2016
B Around 2001
C Around 1998
D Around 2011

5. Which statement is NOT a crochet fun fact?

A Shauna Richardson crochets life-sized animals she calls 'crochetdermy'
B No industrial machine can replicate genuine crochet
C Repetitive craft like crochet may help reduce Alzheimer's risk
D Modern machines can now mass-produce genuine crochet cheaply

6. In the word 'amigurumi', what does the part 'ami' mean?

A Stuffed doll
B Crocheted or knitted
C Tight spiral
D Oversized head

7. In the word 'amigurumi', what does the part 'nuigurumi' mean?

A Crocheted or knitted
B Japanese art form
C Stuffed doll
D Single crochet

8. Amigurumi is a craft tradition that originated in which country?

A Japan
B Peru
C Sweden
D Ireland

9. 'Amigurumi' is best understood as the combination of which two ideas?

A 'Japan' plus 'toy'
B 'Big head' plus 'small body'
C 'Crocheted/knitted' plus 'stuffed doll'
D 'Single crochet' plus 'spiral'

10. Which meaning is INCORRECTLY matched to its amigurumi word-part?

A 'nuigurumi' = stuffed doll
B 'ami' = stuffed doll
C 'amigurumi' = crocheted/knitted stuffed doll
D 'ami' = crocheted or knitted

11. In crochet slang, how does "tinking" differ from "frogging"?

A Tinking rips out a whole section at once, while frogging undoes one stitch at a time
B Tinking works only on knitting, while frogging works only on crochet
C Tinking winds yarn into a cake, while frogging counts your gauge
D Tinking undoes work one stitch at a time in reverse, while frogging rips out a whole section at once

12. In crochet slang, what does 'frogging' mean?

A Ripping out a whole section of stitches at once to undo a mistake
B Undoing your work one stitch at a time in reverse
C Winding yarn into a center-pull cake
D Racing to finish before your yarn runs out

13. What does 'yarn chicken' describe?

A. A test square made before a garment
B. Ripping out a whole row of stitches
C. The tense race to finish a project before your last yarn runs out
D. Rolling yarn into a cake

14. Where does the term 'tinking' come from?

A. It is 'knit' spelled backwards
B. It imitates the 'rip it' frog sound
C. It is short for 'tiny knots'
D. It comes from a Japanese word

15. Why is the term 'frogging' called that?

A. It is the word 'knit' spelled backwards
B. It echoes 'rip it, rip it' — which sounds like a frog's croak
C. It comes from a Japanese word for undoing stitches
D. It refers to hopping between several unfinished projects

16. What does the crochet slang term "yarn chicken" describe?

A. Undoing your work one stitch at a time, in reverse
B. Rolling a center-pull ball from a skein
C. Ripping out a whole section of stitches at once
D. Racing to finish a project before your last yarn runs out

17. In a game of yarn chicken, what does it mean to win?

A. You wind a fresh cake from the leftover scraps
B. You finish with a few inches of yarn to spare
C. You have to frog the entire project
D. You run out one row before the bind-off

18. In crochet abbreviations, what does 'WIP' stand for?

A. Work In Progress
B. Wool In Progress
C. Weave In Pattern
D. Wound In Place

19. The beloved acronym 'SABLE' stands for what?

A. Skeins Always Bought Locally Everywhere
B. Stitches And Bobbins Left Empty
C. Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy
D. Soft And Bulky Loose Ends

20. In the crocheter's dictionary, a 'UFO' is best described as which of the following?

A. A center-pull ball of yarn
B. Your entire yarn collection
C. Your active current project
D. An Unfinished Object set aside for later

21. What does 'winding a cake' produce, and with what tools?

A. A 4-inch test square, using a hook and ruler
B. A tangled 'yarn barf' from the skein's center
C. A graveyard of unfinished projects
D. A flat-topped, center-pull ball, using a ball winder and a swift

22. A gauge swatch is traditionally what size, and what do you change if your count is off?

- A 6 inches by 6 inches; change your stitch pattern
- B 2 inches by 2 inches; change your yarn brand
- C 4 inches by 4 inches; change your hook size
- D 1 inch by 1 inch; change your tension only

23. Which definition correctly matches the term 'frogging'?

- A A 4x4 inch test square made before a garment
- B Ripping out a chunk of stitches all at once to undo a mistake
- C Rolling yarn into a center-pull cake
- D Undoing your work one stitch at a time in reverse

24. Which term-and-definition pairing is a MISMATCH?

- A Tinking: ripping out a whole section of stitches at once
- B Yarn chicken: racing to finish before your yarn runs out
- C Gauge swatch: a 4x4 inch test square
- D Frogging: ripping out stitches all at once to fix a mistake

25. Which term means 'carefully undoing your work one stitch at a time, in reverse'?

- A Tinking
- B Winding a cake
- C Yarn chicken
- D Frogging

26. Which definition correctly matches 'gauge swatch'?

- A The race to finish before your yarn runs out
- B Undoing stitches one at a time in reverse
- C A center-pull ball wound with a ball winder and swift
- D A 4x4 inch test square you make before a garment to check stitches per inch

27. Which of these term-and-definition pairs does NOT match?

- A SABLE: more yarn than you could finish in a lifetime
- B Frogging: rolling a center-pull ball of yarn with a ball winder and swift
- C Winding a cake: rolling a center-pull ball with a ball winder and swift
- D WIP: the project actively on your hook

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-9-fun-facts-and-the-crocheter-s-dictionary

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 10 OF 11

Lesson 10: Where to Grow

Where to Plug In

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Distinguish the major crochet pattern platforms, Ravelry and Ribblr.
- Match the social and video channels to their crochet role.
- Explain what a Local Yarn Shop offers that online resources cannot.

Where to Plug In

You can absolutely teach yourself the mechanics of crochet alone on the couch. But the *staying power* — the encouragement, the troubleshooting, the "oh THAT'S how you do the magic ring" moment — almost always comes from other people. The crochet community is famously warm, and it lives in a handful of very findable places. Here's your map.

Most learning happens in community

Crochet has a reputation, and it's a good one: the community is genuinely welcoming, across every age and skill level. Beginners are not condescended to; advanced makers love showing off a clever trick. Wherever you go, you'll find people who remember being exactly as confused as you are right now. The only real skill here is plugging in — so let's look at where the outlets are.

There are six big ones, and they split roughly into a database, pattern apps, video, the socials, group forums, and real-world shops.

Ravelry (ravelry.com) is the anchor. Think of it as the Wikipedia-meets-social-network of fiber arts: free to join, with *millions* of patterns (a huge share of them free), plus tools to track your projects, organize your yarn stash, and lurk forums for every imaginable subtopic. If a pattern exists, it's probably catalogued on Ravelry.

Ribblr is the newer kid — a pattern platform built around interactive digital patterns that let you tick off each row as you work it, so you never lose your place. It's growing fast, especially among younger crocheters.

For socials, **Instagram and TikTok** are where new patterns go viral and techniques trend overnight; chase the hashtags #crochet, #crochettok, and #wip (Work In Progress) for a firehose of inspiration. **Facebook Groups** are the quieter, deeper cousins — niche communities organized around a specific technique, a yarn brand, or a project type, where you can ask a very particular question and get a very particular answer.

YouTube is a free crochet university

When you're stuck mid-stitch, nothing beats watching someone's hands do it slowly. YouTube is arguably the single best free crochet education that exists: search any stitch or technique plus the word

"tutorial" and you'll surface multiple video walkthroughs, filmed in close-up, that you can pause, rewind, and replay until it clicks. No enrollment, no fee, infinite patience. It's how a great many self-taught crocheters actually learned every stitch they know.

Your LYS does what a screen cannot

A screen can't let you squeeze a skein to feel its softness, or look over your shoulder at the stitch you keep dropping. Your **LYS — Local Yarn Shop** — can. Beyond the tactile joy of choosing yarn in person, your LYS is where you get gauge-swatching advice, hands-on help with pattern problems, and often a regular **stitch-and-chat**: a standing session where you bring your WIP, sit with other makers, and discover that "my crochet people" is a real and lovely thing to have. The internet is vast; your local shop is *yours*.

Key terms

Ravelry

The free Wikipedia-meets-social-network hub of fiber arts — millions of patterns (many free), project tracking, stash organization, and forums for every imaginable subtopic.

Ribblr

A newer pattern platform with interactive digital patterns that let you check off each row as you work it — growing fast among younger crocheters.

LYS (Local Yarn Shop)

Your nearby brick-and-mortar fiber store — for squishing yarn in person, getting gauge advice and pattern help, and joining regular stitch-and-chat sessions.

Key concepts

Ravelry

- The single biggest online hub for fiber arts, often called the anchor of the whole community.
- Free to join, it has been described as the Wikipedia-meets-social-network of yarn crafts.
- It catalogs millions of patterns, many of them free, and lets you track your projects and organize your yarn stash.

Ribblr

- A newer pattern platform that is growing fast, especially with younger crocheters.
- Its patterns are interactive and digital, built so you never lose your place mid-project.
- As you work, you tick off each row on screen, a row-by-row checklist built right into the pattern.

YouTube

- Arguably the best free crochet education anywhere, with no enrollment and no fee.
- When you are stuck mid-stitch, you go here to watch someone's hands do the move slowly in close-up.
- Search any stitch plus the word 'tutorial' and you surface video walkthroughs you can pause, rewind, and replay.

Facebook Groups

- For plugging into the community online, these are the quieter, deeper cousins of the fast-moving social feeds.
- Each is a niche community organized around one specific technique, one yarn brand, or one project type.
- They live as topic communities on the world's largest social network, the place to ask a very particular question and get a very particular answer.

Key facts

> **YouTube is a free crochet university**
>
> Stuck on a stitch? Type its name plus "tutorial" into YouTube and you'll get a dozen patient instructors filming their own hands in close-up. It's arguably the best free crochet education that exists — no enrollment, no fee, infinite rewinds.



AI-generated (gpt-image-1.5)

> **Your LYS does what a screen cannot**
>
> The internet can't let you squish a skein or fix the dropped stitch on your lap. Your local yarn shop can — plus gauge advice, pattern rescue, and a regular stitch-and-chat where strangers become your crochet people.

> **Ravelry: free pattern hub**
>
> Ravelry is the free, Wikipedia-meets-social-network hub of fiber arts, with millions of patterns — many of them free — plus tools for tracking projects, organizing your stash, and joining forums.

> **Ribblr's row tracking**
>
> Ribblr's interactive digital patterns let you check off each row as you work it, so you never lose your place mid-pattern.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Ravelry → World's largest fiber-arts pattern database + forums

YouTube → Best free stitch tutorials — search any stitch + "tutorial"

Instagram / TikTok → Where patterns go viral — #crochet, #crochettok, #wip

Facebook Groups → Niche communities by technique, yarn brand, or project type

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which crochet platform is described as the free 'Wikipedia-meets-social-network' hub of fiber arts with millions of patterns?

- A YouTube
- B Ravelry
- C Ribblr
- D Instagram

2. What distinctive feature defines Ribblr's interactive digital patterns?

- A They are the world's largest free pattern database
- B They let you squish yarn in person
- C They surface trending viral hashtags
- D They let you check off each row as you work it

3. Which statement about Ravelry is NOT true?

- A It catalogs millions of patterns
- B It is free to join
- C Its patterns let you tick off each row as you crochet
- D It offers project tracking and stash organization

4. Compared with Ravelry, what makes Ribblr distinctive?

- A It is the newer platform, growing among younger crocheters, built on row-tracking patterns
- B It is a brick-and-mortar yarn shop
- C It is the largest fiber-arts pattern database
- D It is a free video tutorial site

5. You keep losing your place mid-row and want a pattern that checks off each row as you finish it. Which platform fits best?

- A YouTube
- B Facebook Groups
- C Ravelry
- D Ribblr

6. Which resource is the single best free source for watching close-up stitch tutorials you can pause and rewind?

A YouTube
B Ribblr
C Ravelry
D Facebook Groups

7. On which channels do new crochet patterns 'go viral,' chased through hashtags like #crochettok and #wip?

A Local Yarn Shops
B YouTube
C Instagram / TikTok
D Ravelry

8. What best describes the role of Facebook Groups in the crochet community?

A Interactive patterns that tick off each row
B Niche communities organized around a technique, yarn brand, or project type
C The world's largest fiber-arts pattern database
D The best free close-up stitch tutorials

9. Which channel-to-role match is WRONG?

A Instagram / TikTok → where patterns go viral via hashtags
B Ravelry → close-up stitch video tutorials you pause and rewind
C YouTube → the best free close-up stitch tutorials
D Facebook Groups → niche communities by technique or yarn brand

10. You have a very specific question about one particular yarn brand and want a deep, niche community to ask. Which fits best?

A Facebook Groups
B YouTube
C Ribblr
D Instagram / TikTok

11. What can a Local Yarn Shop (LYS) offer that an online resource cannot?

A Millions of free downloadable patterns
B Interactive row-by-row digital patterns
C Trending viral hashtags to chase
D Squeezing a skein to feel its softness, plus in-person, over-the-shoulder help

12. What does the abbreviation 'LYS' stand for?

A Local Yarn Society
B Loose Yarn System
C Local Yarn Shop
D Large Yarn Store

13. What is a 'stitch-and-chat' that many local yarn shops host?

A A viral social-media hashtag challenge
B A digital pattern that tracks each row
C A standing in-person session where you bring your WIP and sit with other makers
D An online forum thread for pattern questions

14. Which of these is NOT something a Local Yarn Shop uniquely offers?

A Millions of free downloadable patterns
B Squeezing a skein to feel its softness in person
C Over-the-shoulder help with a stitch you keep dropping
D In-person gauge-swatching advice

15. Your gauge swatch keeps coming out the wrong size and you want expert eyes on your tension in person. Which resource is designed for that?

A YouTube tutorials
B Your Local Yarn Shop
C Ribblr's row tracker
D Ravelry's pattern database

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/lesson-10-where-to-grow

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

LESSON 11 OF 11

Key Concepts

Key People · Key Things

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recognize the eight key crocheter personalities from the pack.
- Identify the crocheter who launched a branded yarn line with Lion Brand.
- Recognize the key crochet things and techniques from the pack.
- Identify the magic ring as the closed-center way to start crocheting in the round.

A quick-recognition gallery of the key people, places, things, and events from The Hooked Life — Crochet.

Key People

Aretha Franklin — A legendary American singer crowned a queen of her genre Taught the craft by her neighbors, she carried it through a soaring career She named the pineapple stitch her favorite and was known to crochet her own berets

Meryl Streep — An American actress widely regarded as one of the greatest of her generation Among the most notable celebrity crocheters of all She is often spotted with her hook and yarn between takes on set

Vanna White — A television personality known for turning letters on a long-running American game show She turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business She partnered with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line

Eva Longoria — An American actress who rose to fame on a hit primetime drama She keeps a hook handy in her work trailer She has said she crochets to stay focused between scenes

Martha Stewart — An American lifestyle mogul famous for homemaking, cooking, and crafts Even an unexpected detour didn't keep her from the craft She reportedly learned to crochet during her prison sentence

George Washington Carver — A renowned American agricultural scientist celebrated for his work with crops His talents reached far beyond the laboratory and the field He was a skilled needleworker and crocheter as well as a scientist

Rosey Greer — A former NFL defensive lineman who played for the New York Giants and Los Angeles Rams In the 1960s and '70s he was unusually open about a gentle hobby His love of needlepoint and crochet helped challenge the idea that fiber arts are only for women

Katy Perry — An American pop star known for chart-topping, candy-colored hits Between the costumes and the stage shows, she keeps a quieter hobby She has discussed her love of crochet

in interviews

Key Things

Granny Square — A popular motif in textile arts, often associated with vibrant colors and patterns. This square-shaped design is made by joining multiple rounds of stitches together. It's commonly used in blankets, bags, and apparel, especially in bohemian styles.

Amigurumi — A Japanese art form that involves crocheting small, stuffed creatures or objects. This technique often uses fine yarn and a small hook for detailed work. Typically, these creations feature exaggerated features and are very cute.

Irish Crochet Lace — A decorative lace technique that emerged during a historical crisis in Ireland. It mimics the raised edges of traditional needle lace but is made with a hook. This style became popularized by Queen Victoria in the 19th century.

Crochet Hook — An essential tool used in the craft of crochet, designed to pull yarn through loops. These tools come in various materials, including aluminum, wood, and plastic. They are sized by millimeter, with different sizes suited for different yarn weights.

Double Crochet — A fundamental stitch in crochet that creates a taller and airier fabric. This stitch is often used in various patterns, making it a staple for beginners. It involves yarn overs and pulling through loops to create height.

Magic Ring — A technique used to start crocheting in the round without leaving a gap. This method allows for an adjustable starting loop that can be cinched tight. It's commonly used in projects like amigurumi and circular motifs.

Yarn Over — A basic crochet technique that involves wrapping yarn around the hook. This action is crucial for creating various stitches, including double crochet. It is often abbreviated as 'yo' in patterns and instructions.

Slip Stitch — A simple stitch used to join rounds or move yarn without adding height. This stitch is often used in finishing techniques and creating seamless edges. It's essential for working in the round and maintaining neatness in projects.

Key concepts

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Slip Stitch

- A simple stitch used to join rounds or move yarn without adding height.
- This stitch is often used in finishing techniques and creating seamless edges.
- It's essential for working in the round and maintaining neatness in projects.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which key crocheter reportedly learned the craft during her prison sentence?

(A) Eva Longoria
(B) Aretha Franklin
(C) Vanna White
(D) Martha Stewart

2. Which key crocheter was a former NFL defensive lineman who challenged the idea that fiber arts are only for women?

A Meryl Streep
B George Washington Carver
C Rosey Greer
D Katy Perry

3. Which legendary singer named the pineapple stitch her favorite and was known to crochet her own berets?

A Aretha Franklin
B Vanna White
C Meryl Streep
D Katy Perry

4. Which of these key crocheters was a renowned American agricultural scientist celebrated for his work with crops?

A Aretha Franklin
B George Washington Carver
C Eva Longoria
D Rosey Greer

5. Which actress keeps a hook handy in her work trailer and says she crochets to stay focused between scenes?

A Vanna White
B Eva Longoria
C Meryl Streep
D Katy Perry

6. Which celebrated crocheter turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business, partnering with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line?

A Martha Stewart
B Meryl Streep
C Vanna White
D Aretha Franklin

7. Vanna White partnered with which company to launch her own branded yarn line?

A Red Heart
B Caron
C Bernat
D Lion Brand

8. The crocheter who launched a Lion Brand yarn line is best known to TV audiences for doing what?

A Turning letters on a game show
B Spinning a prize wheel
C Judging a singing competition
D Hosting a cooking show

9. Vanna White built her branded yarn business out of what?

A A prison hobby
B A lifelong yarn habit
C A film-set pastime
D A pro-football career

10. Which crocheter parlayed a yarn hobby into her own branded product line?

A Vanna White
B Katy Perry
C Aretha Franklin
D Eva Longoria

11. Which Japanese art form involves crocheting small, stuffed creatures with exaggerated, cute features?

A Granny Square
B Irish Crochet Lace
C Magic Ring
D Amigurumi

12. Which decorative lace technique mimics the raised edges of traditional needle lace and was popularized by Queen Victoria in the 19th century?

A Double Crochet
B Amigurumi
C Irish Crochet Lace
D Granny Square

13. Crochet hooks are sized by which unit, with different sizes suited to different yarn weights?

A Ounce
B Millimeter
C Inch
D Centimeter

14. Creating the height in stitches like the double crochet depends on repeatedly performing which basic technique?

A Granny Square
B Slip Stitch
C Magic Ring
D Yarn Over

15. Which stitch joins rounds or moves yarn along WITHOUT adding any height?

A Double Crochet
B Yarn Over
C Slip Stitch
D Amigurumi

16. Which crochet technique creates an adjustable starting loop so you can begin crocheting in the round without leaving a gap in the center?

A Magic ring
B Double crochet
C Slip stitch
D Yarn over

17. The magic ring lets you start crocheting in the round without leaving what?

A A raised edge
B A gap in the center
C Extra height
D A yarn tail

18. The magic ring is commonly used to start which kinds of projects?

A Flat rectangular blankets
B Lace border trims
C Amigurumi and circular motifs
D Straight-edge scarves

19. What is the defining feature of the magic ring that closes the center of a piece worked in the round?

A An adjustable loop that cinches tight
B A permanent knotted ring
C A fixed chain of six stitches
D A metal ring insert

20. Which technique gives a closed, adjustable center when you begin crocheting in the round?

A Yarn Over
B Slip Stitch
C Double Crochet
D Magic Ring

Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/crochet/key-concepts

STUDY The Hooked Life — Crochet in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet

Answer key

Lesson 1: Lesson 1: A Surprising History

1. B Crochet developed in the Arab world and spread along trade routes to Tibet and Spain

The Arabia theory holds that crochet developed in the Arab world and traveled trade routes to Tibet and Spain. The ceremonial-dress claim belongs to the South America theory; the hooked-chain claim to the Asia/tambour theory.

2. C It used a small hook to pull thread through fabric in a chain of loops, nearly identical to a crochet chain

Tambour embroidery, practiced in India and China, used a small hook to pull thread through fabric in a chain of loops — mechanically almost identical to a crochet chain. Lift it off the backing and you've essentially invented crochet.

3. D The South America theory

The South America theory points to Indigenous tribes using crochet-like techniques in ceremony. Arabia claims trade-route spread, Asia/tambour claims the hooked-chain ancestor, and there is no Egyptian theory for crochet — that evidence belongs to knitting.

4. A The Egyptian theory

Historians offer three theories: Arabia, South America, and Asia/tambour. Egypt is associated with early knitting evidence, not crochet, so there is no Egyptian origin theory for crochet.

5. B The Asia / tambour theory

The Asia/tambour theory is the strongest contender: tambour's hooked chain of loops is crochet's most plausible direct ancestor. Shepherd's knitting is named as a possible ancestor technique, not one of the three regional theories.

6. C India and China

Tambour embroidery, practiced in India and China, used a small hook to pull loops through fabric — crochet's most plausible direct ancestor.

7. A Its hooked loops match a crochet chain's mechanics

Tambour pulled thread through fabric in a chain of loops using a small hook — mechanically almost identical to a crochet chain, making it the likely ancestor.

8. D Its ancestor techniques were recorded under other names or simply never written down

Crochet is simple and universal, so it almost certainly existed earlier — but its ancestor techniques (nalbinding, tambour, shepherd's knitting) were recorded under other names or never written down. The gap is one of documentation, not real absence.

9. B 1823

In 1823 the Dutch magazine Penélopé published instructions for crocheted purses — the earliest known crochet pattern in print. 1846 is the first Irish Crochet book; 1851 is the 16,000-women figure.

10. A Mary, Queen of Scots

The phrase 'croude et crochetz' appears in the expense accounts of Mary, Queen of Scots — evidence of hooked work in royal fashion long before crochet 'officially' appears. Queen Victoria's role comes centuries later, with Irish lace.

11. D Macramé

Nalbinding, tambour embroidery, and shepherd's knitting are the ancestor techniques recorded under other names — the reason crochet's early history is a documentation gap, not a real absence. Macramé is a 1970s knotting craft, not a proposed ancestor.

12. C Crocheted purses

Penélopé printed instructions for crocheted purses. Collars and cuffs are the later Irish-lace products; granny-square ponchos belong to the 1960s–70s.

13. A Its ancestor techniques went unrecorded or under other names

The gap is most likely a documentation gap — earlier ancestor techniques like nalbinding or tambour were recorded under other names or never written down at all.

14. C Written records

Historians think hook-based techniques existed earlier but were recorded under other names or never written down — a documentation gap, not a real absence.

15. D 1823

Penélopé printed instructions for crocheted purses in 1823 — the earliest known crochet pattern in print.

16. B Purses

The 1823 Dutch magazine Penélopé printed detailed instructions for crocheted purses — the earliest known crochet pattern in print.

17. B Mary, Queen of Scots

The phrase 'croude et crochetz' shows up in the expense accounts of Mary, Queen of Scots, hinting hooked work was part of royal fashion centuries early.

18. C It was faster to learn, faster to make, and needed almost no equipment — just a hook and cotton thread

Hand-worked needle lace was too slow and costly to sustain the starving. Irish crochet lace mimicked its raised motifs using only a hook and cotton thread — faster to learn, quick to make, and nearly equipment-free, making it the perfect relief work.

19. A The Great Famine (1845–1852)

Irish crochet lace arose during the Great Famine (1845–1852), when needle lace was too slow and costly to sustain the starving. World War II is when crochet served the make-do-and-mend ethos, a separate chapter.

20. D Venetian needle lace

Irish crochet lace mimics the dense, raised motifs of Venetian needle lace using only a hook and cotton thread. Tambour, nalbinding, and shepherd's knitting are named as crochet's ancestor techniques, not the lace it imitated.

21. C Famine hooks

The plain, sturdy hooks of the period earned the name 'famine hooks' — a bittersweet snapshot of a humble tool with a desperate beginning. The other names are invented distractors.

22. A As currency, traded directly for food

The crochet motifs were sometimes used as currency at local markets, traded directly for food — a worker could quite literally crochet her family's next meal. Beauty born of necessity, exchanged for survival.

23. D Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière

Mademoiselle Riego de la Blanchardière adapted needle-lace designs for the hook and published the first book of Irish Crochet patterns in 1846. The Ursuline nuns taught the technique but did not invent or publish it.

24. B 1846

Riego published the first book of Irish Crochet patterns in 1846. 1823 is the Penélopé purse pattern; 1851 is when ~16,000 women worked in the trade; 1845 is when the Ursuline nuns began teaching it.

25. A Queen Victoria

When Queen Victoria championed Irish lace at a London arts exposition, demand exploded and Irish crochet became a genuine export industry. Riego created the style; Mary, Queen of Scots belongs to the 16th-century paper trail.

26. D Point d'Irlande

Across Europe the lace was known as 'Point d'Irlande' — Irish Point — a chic French name for a craft invented to outrun a famine. 'Croude et crochetz' is the phrase from Mary, Queen of Scots' accounts.

27. C About 16,000

By 1851 roughly 16,000 women were working in Irish crochet lace — the craft had grown from a convent skill into a full cottage industry within a few years.

28. B World War II

29. D The 1960s and '70s hippie movement

Crochet's flashiest 20th-century moment came in the 1960s and '70s, the golden age of the granny square — ponchos, fringed vests, and harvest-gold bedspreads wrapped around the hippie movement.

30. A Ravelry

Ravelry, launched in 2007, is the Wikipedia-meets-social-network of fiber arts — a pattern database, project tracker, and forum now counting over 9 million members. YouTube and #crochettok fueled the later revival but aren't fiber-arts networks.

31. C Over 73%

The demographic flipped: over 73% of crocheters are now between 18 and 34, part of a revival that saw the number of crocheters jump by over 200% in recent decades.

32. B YouTube

YouTube turned out to be the best free crochet school ever built — search any stitch plus 'tutorial' for a dozen walkthroughs. Ravelry is the community hub, but the video accelerant behind the revival was YouTube.

Lesson 2: Lesson 2: Crochet vs Knitting

1. A One hook

Crochet's signature gear is a single hook, whereas knitting uses two or more needles. The one-hook giveaway is the fastest way to end the 'is that knitting?' question.

2. D Just one

Crochet keeps only one live loop active at a time. Knitting is the craft that holds every stitch open on the needles simultaneously.

3. B It holds every stitch open on two needles at once

Holding every stitch open on two needles describes knitting, not crochet. Crochet works one hook, one live loop, knotting each stitch into place.

4. C All of them, kept open on the needles

Knitting keeps every stitch open and active on the needles at once — the opposite of crochet's single live loop. That's why a dropped stitch can ladder down a whole column.

5. D Crochet makes knots; knitting makes loops

Crochet builds fabric from individual knots on one live loop; knitting interlocks loops across the needles. Same yarn, completely different machinery.

6. A Thicker, denser, and more textured

Stacked knots make crochet thicker, denser, and more textured. Smoother, drapier, stretchier fabric is knitting's signature.

7. C About 25% more

Crochet eats roughly 25% more yarn than knitting for equivalent fabric — one more reason the stash keeps growing. Budget your skeins accordingly.

8. B Only one loop is ever live, so nothing unravels beneath it

Because crochet keeps just one live loop, there's nothing below it to run. In knitting every stitch is live, so a dropped one can ladder all the way down a column.

9. B Stretchier and drapier

Stretchier and drapier describes knitting. Crochet's knotted fabric is denser, more textured, and sturdier — great for pieces that need to hold their shape.

10. A Smoother, drapier, and stretchier

Interlocked loops give knitting a smoother, drapier, stretchier hand. Crochet's stacked knots make the denser, more textured, stiffer cloth.

11. C 25% more

Crochet's denser, knotted fabric eats roughly 25% more yarn than knitting for the same finished piece.

12. D Its thicker, denser fabric uses more yarn per stitch

Crochet's thicker, denser, more textured fabric is the trade-off for its roughly 25% higher yarn appetite compared to knitting.

13. A Crochet

Crochet's single live loop means less to juggle, so it tends to have a gentler learning curve. Knitting asks beginners to coordinate two needles and dozens of active stitches at once.

14. A Knitting

Knitting's interlocked loops make a smoother, stretchier, drapier fabric — ideal for socks and fitted garments. Crochet's denser knotted fabric shines for structure, not stretch.

15. D Amigurumi and structured bags

Crochet's firm, form-holding fabric excels at 3D shapes, amigurumi, sturdy bags, and thick blankets. Socks and fitted, stretchy garments are knitting's turf.

16. B A firm basket that holds its shape

Crochet's dense, sturdy fabric holds its form, ideal for baskets. Socks, drapey shawls, and fine ribbing all want knitting's stretch and drape.

17. A Less to juggle — one hook and one live loop

Crochet's single hook and single live loop mean far less coordination than knitting's two-needle, many-stitch dance — a gentler learning curve for beginners.

Lesson 3: Lesson 3: Your Materials

1. A Craft Yarn Council

2. C 0

Lace sits at the thin end of the CYC ladder as weight 0. Weight 1 is Super Fine / Fingering, not the finest.

3. D 4

Worsted / Medium is Size 4, where most beginner and intermediate patterns live. Size 3 is Light / DK and Size 5 is Bulky.

4. B 7

The standard CYC ladder runs 0 to 7, so 7 (Jumbo) is the top. An extra Size 8 exists for genuinely monster yarn, but it sits outside the standard 0-7 scale this question asks about.

5. A Lace (0), Worsted (4), Jumbo (7)

The ladder runs thin to thick, so Lace (0) is finest, Worsted (4) is in the middle, and Jumbo (7) is thickest.

6. B 0

Lace sits at the thin end of the CYC ladder as weight 0, the finest standard category.

7. C The thinnest, at the bottom of the scale

The CYC ladder runs thin to thick: Lace (0) sits at the very bottom, far below Worsted (4) and Jumbo (7).

8. D 7

Jumbo sits at the top of the standard CYC ladder as weight 7 (with an extra Size 8 for genuinely jumbo work).

9. A The thickest end, above Super Bulky

The CYC scale runs thin to thick, ending at 7 Jumbo — the thickest standard category, above Super Bulky (6).

10. D Super Fine / Fingering (1)

Super Fine / Fingering (1) is thin and durable, making it sock-and-baby territory. Bulky and Jumbo are far too thick for socks.

11. B Quick projects like scarves and rugs

Bulky / Chunky is the instant-gratification weight for scarves and rugs that grow fast. Doilies and thread lace need weight 0 or fine steel-hook work.

12. C Worsted / Medium (4)

Worsted (Size 4) works up at a satisfying clip, shows crisp stitch definition, and comes in every fiber, so blankets, hats, and sweaters all start here.

13. B Lace (0) → very thick blankets and chunky hats

Lace (0) is for doilies and gauzy shawls, not thick blankets — those want Super Bulky (6). The other three pairings are all correct.

14. A Very thick blankets and chunky hats

Super Bulky (6) piles on for very thick blankets and chunky hats. Airy shawls and doilies want fine weights; baby socks want Fingering.

15. C Plant fibers

Fibers split into three families: animal (warm, cozy, textured), plant (cool, breathable, crisp), and synthetic (practical, durable). Plant fibers like cotton and linen shine in warm weather, which is why a breezy summer top wants plant fiber.

16. D Wool

Wool is the classic animal fiber: springy, warm, forgiving, and blessed with memory. Cotton and linen are crisp plant fibers with no such spring.

17. A Cotton

Cotton is a plant fiber (cool, breathable, crisp). Wool, alpaca, and mohair all come from animals — sheep, alpacas, and Angora goats.

18. C Cotton

Cotton is durable, absorbent, and machine-washable — great for dishcloths and baby items — but its lack of stretch makes even tension tricky.

19. B Nylon

Nylon is blended in to add durability and is a staple of sock yarn. Polyester shows up in novelty yarns; cotton and wool are natural fibers.

20. D Merino wool

Merino wool is a superfine variety of wool, far softer than the standard stuff. Mohair is from goats, alpaca from alpacas, and bamboo is a plant fiber.

21. A Mohair

Mohair comes from Angora goats: incredibly fluffy, lightweight, usually held with a base yarn, and famous for its dreamy halo of fuzz.

22. C Bamboo / Viscose

Bamboo / Viscose is silky and luxurious with a natural sheen, a favorite for lacy wraps and lightweight projects. Linen starts crisp; cotton has no sheen.

23. D Merino

Merino wool is the gateway fiber for everyone who swears wool is scratchy — it is dramatically softer than standard wool while still being warm animal fiber.

24. B Bamboo / Viscose

Bamboo / Viscose is a plant fiber. Merino comes from sheep, mohair from Angora goats, and alpaca from alpacas — all animal fibers.

25. D H-8 (5.0 mm)

H-8 (5.0 mm) is the go-to hook for worsted weight, the most common yarn — which is why it lives in nearly every crocheter's bag.

26. C 4.0 mm

G-6 is 4.0 mm. E-4 is 3.5 mm, H-8 is 5.0 mm, and J-10 is 6.0 mm — remember the mm is the true shaft diameter, not the letter.

27. B B-1 (2.25 mm)

B-1 is 2.25 mm, the smallest here and used for fine lace and thread. N-15 (10.0 mm) is the chunkiest of the four.

28. A Wood / Bamboo

Wood and bamboo hooks are slightly grippy and warm to the touch, so slippery yarns like silk or bamboo don't slide off the way they would on metal.

29. B Plastic

Plastic is lightweight and popular in the very large N-and-up sizes, where a metal hook would get heavy in the hand.

Lesson 4: Lesson 4: Reading a Pattern

1. B Slip stitch

A slip stitch adds essentially no height — it just moves the yarn along. Single, double, and treble crochet each add progressively more height.

2. D dc

Double crochet (dc) is the single most common stitch in published patterns — taller and airier than sc, and the backbone of granny squares, blankets, and garments.

3. A Half double crochet

Half double crochet (hdc) sits between the short, dense single crochet and the taller, open double crochet — the medium all-rounder on the height ladder.

4. C Double treble

By height: single < double < treble < double treble. More yarn-overs at the start of a stitch make it taller.

5. D sl st, sc, hdc, dc, tr, dtr

The height ladder runs sl st (no height), sc, hdc, dc, tr, then dtr — each rung taller than the last.

6. C Piling several stitches into one spot so they pop proud of the fabric

The 'puffy trio' — popcorn, puff, and bobble — are all built by piling several stitches into one spot, then gathering them so they bulge off the surface. They give texture on demand: the difference between a flat scarf and one that begs to be touched.

7. A An adjustable loop to start working in the round with no center hole

The magic ring is an adjustable loop you cinch tight to start working in the round — the secret to amigurumi with no hole in the middle.

8. B Work several dc into one stitch, then fold it so it pops out

Popcorn piles several dc into one spot, then folds them so the cluster pops proud of the fabric. Pulling half-double loops through together is the puff, not the popcorn.

9. A Double crochet (dc)

A bobble is like a puff but built from dc, and it conveniently stays on the same side you're working. The puff, by contrast, gathers half-double loops.

10. D Gathering several half-double loops and pulling them all through at once

The puff gathers multiple half-double loops and pulls them all through together for a soft raised cluster. Folding dc is the popcorn; the post move raises cables.

11. C Increase (inc) and decrease (dec)

Increase works 2 stitches into one, fanning the fabric wider; decrease joins 2 stitches into 1, pulling it narrower. Together they unlock shaping — the whole reason crochet can become a body and not just a flat blanket.

12. B Work two stitches into the same stitch

Increase works 2 stitches into one stitch, fanning the fabric wider. Joining two stitches into one is a decrease (dec).

13. A inc

inc is an increase — it fans the fabric wider. dec, sc2tog, and dc2tog all join stitches together to pull the fabric narrower.

14. D A stretchy, knit-like ribbing

Working into the back loop only creates that stretchy, knit-like ribbing loved for cuffs and hatbands. Bold cables come from post stitches (FP/BP), not BLO.

15. B By wrapping the hook around the whole post of the stitch below

Post stitches wrap the hook around the whole post of the stitch below, raising bold cables and dimensional texture. Working into one top loop is FLO/BLO.

16. C Skip a stitch entirely

sk means skip a stitch entirely — skip one you shouldn't and the whole row drifts off. Joining with a flat stitch is sl st, not sk.

17. C Chains at the start of a row that lift the hook to the right height

The tch is the little stack of chains at the beginning of a row that brings the hook to the right height before the first real stitch. The gap left by a chain is a ch-sp.

18. D Main color / Contrasting color

MC / CC flag the main color and the contrasting color in colorwork patterns.

19. B Place a marker / Slip a marker

pm and sm mean place a marker and slip a marker — invaluable for tracking the start of a round in amigurumi.

20. A dtr

dtr (double treble) is a tall stitch. sk (skip), rep (repeat), and rnd (round) are housekeeping shorthand that keep you oriented in the pattern.

21. C Single crochet

UK "double crochet" is the same stitch as US single crochet. Same words, different stitch — the classic transatlantic trap.

22. A Double treble

Every UK term sits one step "taller" than its US name, so US treble equals UK double treble (dtr).

23. B UK half treble crochet (htr)

US half double crochet = UK half treble crochet (htr). Each UK name sits one rung 'taller' than its US equivalent because the UK system has no 'single'.

24. D Slip stitch

The slip stitch is the lone mercy: US 'sl st' and UK 'ss' mean the same flat, no-height joining stitch. Every other name shifts between the two systems.

25. A A US vs UK terminology mismatch

Wildly wrong counts, or fabric far denser/airier than the photo, is the classic diagnostic for a US/UK terminology mismatch — a whole project worked in the wrong-height stitch.

Lesson 5: Lesson 5: Intermediate Techniques

1. C Crocheting continuously in a circle or spiral instead of back-and-forth rows

Working in the round means crocheting continuously in a circle or spiral rather than back-and-forth rows — the shift that makes hats, bags, and amigurumi possible.

2. A It cinches completely shut and closes the center hole

A magic ring is an adjustable loop you pull completely tight, leaving no center hole — ideal for amigurumi. The foundation-chain start can leave a small gap.

3. B Magic ring

The magic ring pulls fully closed with no gap, so it's the go-to for amigurumi and anything that can't show a hole. The joined foundation chain can leave a small center hole.

4. D It cinches completely closed and seals the center hole

Cinching completely closed is the magic ring's feature. The foundation-chain start is the older, beginner-friendly method but can leave a small center hole.

5. C Work in the round — crochet in a circle or spiral instead of back-and-forth rows

Domed and dimensional pieces come from working in the round — a continuous circle or spiral — rather than the back-and-forth rows that only make flat panels.

6. A Being simple but risking a small hole in the center

The foundation chain joined with a slip stitch is simple and beginner-friendly, but it can leave a small hole right in the middle.

7. B Foundation chain joined with a slip stitch

The foundation-chain method chains a few stitches, joins the ends into a ring with a slip stitch, and works into the center — the older, simpler round-start.

8. D Spiral rounds merge seamlessly into one another, so the marker is what keeps your count

Spiral rounds bleed seamlessly one into the next with no join line, so there's no built-in 'end of round.' A marker in the first stitch, moved up each round, keeps your count — skip it and your innocent octopus quietly gains a tenth leg.

9. C Continuous rounds worked seamlessly — standard for amigurumi

Spiral rounds never stop or join — you keep going seamlessly, which is why they're used for amigurumi. Joined rounds are the ones closed with a slip stitch and chain up.

10. D Slip stitch into the first stitch, then chain up to the next round's height

Joined rounds stop and restart: slip stitch into the first stitch to close, then chain up to reach the next round's height. This gives each round a tidy, defined edge.

11. B Joined rounds

Joined rounds give the clean, concentric, defined edges that flat motifs like granny squares want. Spirals are for seamless 3D shapes like amigurumi.

12. A Spirals win for seamless 3D shapes; joined rounds win for flat, structured motifs

Neither is 'better': spirals give seamless 3D toys with no join line, while joined rounds give the tidy defined edges flat motifs need.

13. A Alternate front post and back post stitches across the row

Alternating front post (raised) and back post (recessed) stitches gives the ridge-and-valley texture of ribbing. Stacking front post over front post makes cables instead.

14. B Hooks around the post from the front and leans toward you as a raised ridge

FPdc wraps the post from the front, so the finished stitch leans toward you and stands up as a raised ridge. The back-post version (BPdc) sinks into a valley.

15. C A recessed valley that leans away from you

BPdc hooks the post from the back, so the stitch leans away and sinks into a recessed valley — the opposite of the front-post ridge.

16. D Stack front post stitches over front post stitches, crossing the columns

Cables come from stacking front post stitches into columns and crossing them so ridges twist over each other. Alternating FP and BP makes ribbing instead.

17. C Work into the top two loops to raise a ridge

Post stitches deliberately abandon the top two loops — you go around the post instead. Alternate FP/BP for ribbing and stack FP over FP for cables.

18. D BPdc

BPdc (back post double crochet) hooks from the back, so the stitch leans away and sinks into a recessed valley.

19. A A recessed valley

BPdc hooks around the post from the back, so the stitch leans away and sinks into a recessed valley — the opposite of FPdc's raised ridge.

20. B Bobble

A bobble sits on the opposite face from where you work it, so bobbles made on a wrong-side row pop out on the right side. Puff and popcorn pop on the side you're working.

21. B Draw up several half-double loops in one spot and pull through them all together

The puff draws up several half-double loops in one spot and pulls through all at once, giving a soft, pillow-like bump. The other builds describe popcorn, bobble, and V-stitch.

22. C Popcorn

The popcorn folds a cluster of complete double crochets forward for the boldest, most sculptural pop. Puff is soft and bobble is round; the shell isn't a bump at all.

23. D 5

The classic shell packs 5 double crochets into a single stitch so they fan out into a scallop. Two double crochets with a chain between them would be a V-stitch.

24. A Two double crochets with a chain between them, worked into one stitch

A V-stitch is two double crochets with a chain between them in one stitch, opening the fabric into light, lacy mesh. Five dc in one stitch is the plush shell.

25. D A soft, pillow-like bump

The puff stitch draws up several half-double loops and pulls them through together, making a soft, rounded, pillow-like bump.

26. A Draw up several half-double loops and pull through together

A puff stitch draws up several half-double loops in one spot, then pulls through all of them together for a soft, pillow-like bump.

27. C Fold the cluster forward by re-inserting the hook

Popcorn works complete double crochets, then folds the cluster forward by re-inserting the hook, giving the most defined, 3D pop.

28. B Complete double crochets

Popcorn stitch uses several complete double crochets in one stitch, then folds the whole cluster forward for its sculptural pop.

29. B Tapestry carries the unused color hidden inside the stitches

Tapestry crochet carries the resting color inside the stitches for dense colorwork. Intarsia uses separate bobbins per block and carries nothing across the back, keeping the fabric lighter.

30. C It builds the chain and first row together for a stretchier starting edge

FSC makes the foundation chain and first row of single crochet in one pass, giving a stretchy starting edge that matches the rest of the fabric.

31. D Decreases — it turns two stitches into one

sc2tog (single crochet two together) is the standard decrease, merging two stitches into one. Working 2 stitches into the same stitch would be an increase (inc).

32. A Through the front loops only of the next two stitches, so the decrease is almost seamless

The invisible decrease goes through the front loops only of the next two stitches, so it leaves almost no visible gap — the amigurumi-maker's trick for smooth shaping.

33. D Separate bobbins per color block, with no yarn carried across the back

Intarsia uses a separate bobbin per color block and carries nothing across the back, keeping the fabric light. Tapestry crochet instead hides the resting color inside the stitches.

34. B Builds the foundation chain and first row together

FSC builds the foundation chain and the first row of single crochet in one pass, giving a stretchier starting edge.

35. C It gives a stretchier edge that matches the fabric

A regular starting chain is tighter than the rest of your work; FSC builds the chain and first row together for a matching, stretchy edge.

36. A Work 2 stitches into the same stitch

inc (increase) means working 2 stitches into the same stitch, adding one stitch to your total count.

37. C Adds one stitch

An increase works 2 stitches into the same stitch, adding one stitch to your overall count.

38. A Turns two stitches into one

sc2tog (single crochet two together) is the standard decrease, turning two stitches into one.

Lesson 6: Lesson 6: Tunisian Crochet

1. A tks

The Tunisian Knit Stitch (tks) inserts the hook through the center of the stitch, giving a look like stockinette knitting. tss uses the front vertical bar; tfs uses both bars.

2. B The front vertical bar

tss pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar of each stitch. Inserting through the center is tks; working both bars is tfs.

3. C tss, tks, tfs

The three common Tunisian stitches are tss (Simple), tks (Knit), and tfs (Full). sc/dc/tr are ordinary crochet stitches, not Tunisian.

4. D tds

The three basic stitches taught here are tss, tks, and tfs. 'tds' is not part of this starter vocabulary.

5. B Tunisian Full Stitch

tfs is the Tunisian Full Stitch, so named because it is worked through both the front and back vertical bars.

6. D Pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar

tss pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar of each stitch — the simplest of the three basic Tunisian stitches.

7. C tss

tss (Tunisian Simple Stitch) pulls up a loop through the front vertical bar of each stitch.

8. A You pick up a loop from each stitch and leave them all on the hook, like casting on

Each Tunisian row is two passes. The forward pass (right to left) picks up a loop from every stitch and leaves them all on the elongated hook — very much like casting on. The return pass then works them off one at a time.

9. B Two

Each Tunisian row is exactly two passes: a forward pass to load loops onto the hook and a return pass to work them off.

10. A Right to left

The forward pass goes right to left, picking up loops. The return pass then works back left to right.

11. D You yarn over and draw through the loops one at a time until one loop remains

The return pass (left to right) yarns over and draws through the held loops one at a time until a single loop is left — the start of the next forward pass. Loading loops is the forward pass.

12. C Casting on

The forward pass picks up a loop from each stitch and leaves them all on the hook — very much like casting on in knitting.

13. C Two

Every Tunisian row — forward pass then return pass — is two passes, and the fabric grows without ever turning the work.

14. B tks

The Tunisian Knit Stitch (tks) inserts through the center of the stitch, giving a stockinette-like look. tss works the front vertical bar; tfs works both bars.

Lesson 7: Lesson 7: Blocking

1. C Wet blocking

Wet blocking is the deepest, most thorough method and the gold standard for natural fibers, which relax and 'remember' their pinned shape after a full soak. Spray and steam are quicker companion methods.

2. A Submerge the piece and soak it for 10–15 minutes

Submerging and soaking is wet blocking. Steam blocking uses bursts of steam from an iron held an inch or two away — never touching — then lets the piece cool while pinned.

3. D Pin the piece first, then mist with water until damp

Spray blocking pins the piece first, then mists it until damp — quick and good for slight adjustments. Soaking-then-pinning describes wet blocking.

4. B 10 minutes

Wet blocking calls for a soak of about 10–15 minutes; the lower end of that range is 10 minutes, long enough for the fabric to fully relax before pinning.

5. D Wet blocking

Wet blocking is the slowest: the fully saturated piece has to air dry completely before you unpin. Spray, steam, and killing are all quicker.

6. B Pin the piece first, then mist it with water until damp

Spray blocking pins the piece first, then mists it with water until damp — faster than wet blocking, good for slight adjustments.

7. A Spray blocking

Spray blocking — pin first, then mist until damp — is the quickest method, ideal for slight adjustments.

8. C Hold a steam iron 1–2 inches away, then let it cool

Steam blocking uses bursts of steam from an iron held 1–2 inches away, never touching, then lets the piece cool while pinned.

9. A You can accidentally 'kill' the acrylic yarn

Direct heat can 'kill' acrylic — permanently flattening its fibers — which is why steam blocking should stay 1–2 inches away.

10. C Press it flat with a hot iron until the fibers permanently soften and flatten

To 'kill' acrylic is to press it flat with a hot iron so the fibers permanently soften and flatten — an irreversible effect. It's sometimes done on purpose for drape, but the safe move is gentle steam from a distance.

11. D Irreversible — there is no un-killing acrylic

Killing acrylic permanently softens and flattens the fibers — it's irreversible, with no way to undo it. That's why it's risky for beginners.

12. B Gentle steam blocking from a distance

The safe move with acrylic is gentle steam blocking from a distance, not direct contact with a hot iron, which would kill the fibers permanently.

13. B To achieve a deliberately drapey, smooth look

Killing is sometimes done on purpose to get a deliberately drapey, smooth, flattened look. It's rarely the goal for beginners and is easily an accident.

14. D Test on a sacrificial swatch

Always test on a swatch first — a sacrificial square tells you the truth before your finished project does, which matters most with irreversible acrylic.

15. C Spray blocking

That description — pin first, then mist until damp — is spray blocking, the faster method good for slight adjustments.

16. A Wet blocking

Submerging, squeezing out water, pinning, and air drying is wet blocking — the deep-soak method best for natural fibers.

17. D Steam blocking

Holding a steam iron an inch or two away without touching, then letting the piece cool while pinned, is steam blocking.

18. A Mist a pinned piece until damp for slight adjustments

Spray blocking mists an already-pinned piece until damp and is great for slight adjustments. Submerging is wet blocking; the steam-iron descriptions are steam blocking or killing.

19. B Wet blocking — mist a pinned piece until just damp

Wet blocking is the deep soak — submerge, squeeze, pin, air dry — not misting. Misting a pinned piece describes spray blocking, so that pairing is the mismatch.

20. C Wet blocking

Wet blocking is the deep-soak method: submerge the piece, press out the water, then pin it to dimensions and let it dry.

21. A Natural fibers such as wool, cotton, and linen

Wet blocking is the gold standard for natural fibers like wool, cotton, and linen, which respond beautifully to a soak.

22. D Spray blocking

Spray blocking pins the piece first, then mists it until damp — faster than a full soak and good for slight adjustments.

23. C It's quicker and suited to slight adjustments

Because it's just a mist rather than a soak, spray blocking is faster and better suited to slight adjustments.

Lesson 8: Lesson 8: Famous Faces Behind the Hook

1. D The pineapple stitch

Aretha Franklin named the pineapple stitch her favorite and was known to crochet her own berets. The others are real crochet techniques but not the one she favored.

2. B Lion Brand

Vanna White partnered with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line. The other three are real yarn brands but not the one she teamed up with.

3. A During her prison sentence

The lifestyle mogul reportedly learned to crochet during her prison sentence — proof the hook finds you wherever you are. The neighbors detail belongs to Aretha Franklin.

4. C Oprah Winfrey

Streep, Carver, and Perry are all named crocheters in the guide. Oprah Winfrey is a plausible celebrity but is never mentioned among the roster.

5. C Katy Perry

Katy Perry openly discusses her love of crochet — a quiet counterweight to the costumes and confetti. The other pop stars are not mentioned.

6. D It's exceptionally portable — a whole project fits in one hook and one skein, needing no loom, machine, or power outlet

Crochet travels: one hook and one skein go anywhere — airport lounges, tour buses, hair-and-makeup chairs — perfect for the in-between moments fame is full of. Unlike knitting's two needles, it lives happily in a tote bag.

7. B Between takes on set

Streep is often spotted with her hook between takes — exactly the in-between film moments where crochet's portability shines. Red carpets, stages, and podiums are public-facing moments, not the quiet downtime the craft fills.

8. A Knitting needs two needles and a watchful eye, while crochet lives happily in a tote bag

Knitting needs two needles and a watchful eye, whereas a crochet piece lives happily in a tote bag and comes out whenever there's a spare ten minutes.

9. D Airport lounges, tour buses, and the quiet stretches between film takes

Airport lounges, tour buses, hair-and-makeup chairs, and the long quiet stretches between film takes are the in-between moments where a portable craft shines.

10. C It's portable and helps settle the mind in spare moments

Longoria's trailer habit is exactly the portable, settle-your-mind use case — the meditative, take-it-anywhere quality, not speed, status, or photos.

11. A NFL defensive lineman

Greer was an NFL defensive lineman — a man built for the line of scrimmage. The other sports are plausible but incorrect.

12. B Vanna White

Vanna White — famous for turning letters on a game show — turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business, partnering with Lion Brand for her own line. Stewart learned in prison; Streep and Perry aren't credited with a yarn business.

13. A That fiber arts were 'women's work'

Fiber arts were then 'firmly filed under women's work,' and Greer made it ordinary for anyone to pick up the craft — busting the gendered stereotype.

14. C Agricultural science

Carver was a renowned agricultural scientist whose hands revolutionized crop science and were also handy with yarn. The other fields are not his.

15. D Rosey Greer — NFL lineman who openly crocheted

Only the Greer pairing is accurate: an NFL lineman openly into crochet. Carver was a scientist, Vanna a TV personality, and Aretha a singer — the other pairings scramble their real roles.

Lesson 9: Lesson 9: Fun Facts & the Crocheter's Dictionary

1. C Genuine crochet can only be made by human hands

Crochet's defining move — pulling one live loop through another with a hook, one stitch at a time — has resisted automation, so every crocheted object was made by human hands. Knitting, by contrast, was mechanized centuries ago.

2. A About $1.18 billion

The global crochet market was worth about $1.18 billion by 2023.

3. B 25 to 30 percent more

Crochet's posts and loops pack more fiber into the same area, so it uses roughly 25-30% more yarn than knitting. Buy the extra skein.

4. D Around 2011

Around 2011 crochet searches began climbing past knitting's, which had flattened.

5. D Modern machines can now mass-produce genuine crochet cheaply

The headline fact is the opposite: no machine can crochet, so every piece is handmade. The other three are all real fun facts.

6. B Crocheted or knitted

'Ami' means crocheted or knitted; it combines with 'nuigurumi' (stuffed doll) to form amigurumi.

7. C Stuffed doll

'Nuigurumi' means stuffed doll; joined with 'ami' (crocheted or knitted) it gives amigurumi.

8. A Japan

Amigurumi is a Japanese art form, and its name is a Japanese compound of 'ami' and 'nuigurumi'.

9. C 'Crocheted/knitted' plus 'stuffed doll'

Amigurumi = ami (crocheted or knitted) + nuigurumi (stuffed doll) — literally a crocheted/knitted stuffed doll.

10. B 'ami' = stuffed doll

'ami' means crocheted or knitted, not stuffed doll — that meaning belongs to 'nuigurumi'.

11. D Tinking undoes work one stitch at a time in reverse, while frogging rips out a whole section at once

Tinking ('knit' spelled backwards) means undoing one stitch at a time — slow but precise. Frogging ('rip it, rip it') tears out a whole section at once. Both are normal; even expert crocheters do them constantly.

12. A Ripping out a whole section of stitches at once to undo a mistake

Frogging means ripping out a chunk of stitches all at once — the pun is 'rip it, rip it.' Undoing one stitch at a time is tinking.

13. C The tense race to finish a project before your last yarn runs out

Yarn chicken is the nerve-wracking gamble of finishing before the yarn runs out — win with a tail to spare, or lose one row from the end.

14. A It is 'knit' spelled backwards

Tinking is 'knit' spelled backwards, fitting its meaning: undoing stitches one at a time in reverse. The frog sound belongs to frogging.

15. B It echoes 'rip it, rip it' — which sounds like a frog's croak

Frogging puns on 'rip it, rip it' (rib-bit), a frog's croak, because you rip out your stitches. 'Knit' spelled backwards is where tinking gets its name.

16. D Racing to finish a project before your last yarn runs out

Yarn chicken is the nerve-wracking race to finish a project before your last bit of yarn runs out.

17. B You finish with a few inches of yarn to spare

Winning yarn chicken means finishing your project with a triumphant tail of yarn left over, rather than running dry early.

18. A Work In Progress

WIP is Work In Progress — the project actively on your hook, and most crocheters juggle several at once.

19. C Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy

SABLE means Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy — more yarn than you could use in a lifetime, worn as a badge of honor.

20. D An Unfinished Object set aside for later

UFO is an Unfinished Object — a project set aside 'for now.' The active project is a WIP; the collection is your stash.

21. D A flat-topped, center-pull ball, using a ball winder and a swift

Winding a cake rolls a flat-topped, center-pull ball using a ball winder and a swift, which feeds smoothly and prevents yarn barf.

22. C 4 inches by 4 inches; change your hook size

A gauge swatch is traditionally 4x4 inches; if stitches per inch don't match the pattern, you change hook size — up to loosen, down to tighten.

23. B Ripping out a chunk of stitches all at once to undo a mistake

Frogging is ripping out a whole section at once. The one-stitch-at-a-time definition is tinking.

24. A Tinking: ripping out a whole section of stitches at once

Tinking is undoing one stitch at a time in reverse — ripping out a whole section at once is frogging, so that pairing is wrong.

25. A Tinking

Tinking ('knit' backwards) is the slow, precise one-stitch-at-a-time undo; frogging tears out a whole section at once.

26. D A 4x4 inch test square you make before a garment to check stitches per inch

A gauge swatch is the 4x4 inch test square for checking stitches per inch before starting a garment.

27. B Frogging: rolling a center-pull ball of yarn with a ball winder and swift

Rolling a center-pull ball is winding a cake, not frogging. Frogging means ripping out stitches to undo a mistake.

Lesson 10: Lesson 10: Where to Grow

1. B Ravelry

Ravelry is the anchor: free to join, with millions of patterns (many free), plus project tracking, stash organization, and forums. Ribblr is the newer row-tracking platform, not the big database.

2. D They let you check off each row as you work it

Ribblr is built around interactive digital patterns that let you tick off each row so you never lose your place. The 'largest database' describes Ravelry.

3. C Its patterns let you tick off each row as you crochet

Row-by-row tick-off is Ribblr's signature interactive feature, not Ravelry's. Ravelry is free and offers a huge pattern database plus project and stash tools.

4. A It is the newer platform, growing among younger crocheters, built on row-tracking patterns

Ribblr is the newer kid, popular with younger crocheters, centered on interactive row-tracking patterns. The largest database is Ravelry; video is YouTube; a physical shop is your LYS.

5. D Ribblr

Ribblr's interactive digital patterns let you tick off each row so you never lose your place. Ravelry catalogs patterns but doesn't center on row-tracking.

6. A YouTube

YouTube is a free crochet university — search a stitch plus 'tutorial' for close-up videos you can pause, rewind, and replay. Ravelry and Ribblr are pattern platforms, not video.

7. C Instagram / TikTok

Instagram and TikTok are where patterns go viral and techniques trend overnight, via hashtags #crochet, #crochettok, and #wip. YouTube is for tutorials; Ravelry is a database.

8. B Niche communities organized around a technique, yarn brand, or project type

Facebook Groups are the quieter, deeper cousins — niche communities where a very particular question gets a very particular answer. Tutorials are YouTube; the big database is Ravelry.

9. B Ravelry → close-up stitch video tutorials you pause and rewind

Ravelry is a pattern database and forum, not a video-tutorial site — that role belongs to YouTube. The other three matches are all accurate.

10. A Facebook Groups

Facebook Groups are niche communities organized around a specific technique, yarn brand, or project — the place for a very particular question. TikTok is for viral trends, not deep Q&A.

11. D Squeezing a skein to feel its softness, plus in-person, over-the-shoulder help

Your LYS does what a screen cannot: let you feel a yarn's softness in person and get hands-on gauge and pattern help — plus a regular stitch-and-chat where you meet 'your crochet people.'

12. C Local Yarn Shop

LYS means Local Yarn Shop — your nearby brick-and-mortar fiber store for feeling yarn in person and getting hands-on help.

13. C A standing in-person session where you bring your WIP and sit with other makers

A stitch-and-chat is a regular in-person session at your LYS where you bring your work-in-progress, sit with other makers, and find 'your crochet people.'

14. A Millions of free downloadable patterns

Millions of free downloadable patterns come from an online database like Ravelry, not the LYS. The LYS's edge is the tactile, in-person, hands-on help a screen can't give.

15. B Your Local Yarn Shop

In-person gauge-swatching advice and hands-on pattern help are the LYS's edge — someone can check your actual tension. A database, video, or row tracker can't.

Lesson 11: Key Concepts

1. D Martha Stewart

Lifestyle mogul Martha Stewart is said to have learned to crochet during her prison sentence. Vanna White built a yarn business, but not behind bars.

2. C Rosey Greer

Rosey Greer, who played for the Giants and Rams, was openly fond of needlepoint and crochet. Carver was a crocheter too, but he was an agricultural scientist, not an athlete.

3. A Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin, taught the craft by her neighbors, named the pineapple stitch her favorite and crocheted her own berets. Katy Perry crochets too but isn't tied to that detail.

4. B George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was a famed agricultural scientist whose talents extended to needlework and crochet. Greer was an NFL lineman, not a scientist.

5. B Eva Longoria

Eva Longoria, who rose to fame on a hit primetime drama, keeps a hook in her trailer to stay focused between scenes. Streep crochets on set but isn't tied to the 'stay focused' quote.

6. C Vanna White

Vanna White, the TV personality famous for turning letters on a long-running game show, parlayed her lifelong yarn habit into a business, partnering with Lion Brand to launch her own branded yarn line.

7. D Lion Brand

Vanna White partnered with Lion Brand to launch her branded yarn line. The others are real yarn brands, but not the one named in the pack.

8. A Turning letters on a game show

Vanna White, famous for turning letters on a long-running game show, is the crocheter who turned a lifelong yarn habit into a Lion Brand line. She turns letters; contestants spin the wheel.

9. B A lifelong yarn habit

Vanna White turned a lifelong yarn habit into a business. The distractors describe other crocheters — Stewart's prison learning, Streep's on-set crocheting, and Greer's NFL background.

10. A Vanna White

Vanna White is the crocheter who turned her hobby into a branded yarn line with Lion Brand. The others enjoy crochet but didn't launch a product line.

11. D Amigurumi

Amigurumi is the Japanese art of crocheting small stuffed creatures, usually with fine yarn, a small hook, and exaggerated cute features. A granny square is a flat motif.

12. C Irish Crochet Lace

Irish Crochet Lace is worked with a hook to mimic the raised edges of needle lace and was popularized by Queen Victoria in the 19th century. Granny squares and amigurumi are unrelated forms.

13. B Millimeter

Crochet hooks are sized by millimeter, matched to yarn weights. Inch and centimeter are length units but not how hooks are sized, and an ounce measures weight.

14. D Yarn Over

The yarn over — wrapping yarn around the hook — is what builds a stitch's height and is crucial to the double crochet. A slip stitch adds no height at all.

15. C Slip Stitch

The slip stitch joins rounds or moves yarn without adding height, useful for seamless edges. Double crochet, by contrast, is a tall stitch that adds height.

16. A Magic ring

The magic ring forms an adjustable starting loop that cinches tight, letting you start in the round with no center gap — which is why it's a staple of amigurumi and other circular motifs.

17. B A gap in the center

The magic ring starts work in the round with no gap in the center, because its adjustable loop can be cinched tight to close the middle.

18. C Amigurumi and circular motifs

Because it closes the center cleanly, the magic ring is a staple for amigurumi and other circular motifs worked in the round, not flat rectangular pieces.

19. A An adjustable loop that cinches tight

The magic ring forms an adjustable starting loop that can be cinched tight, closing the center. It's not a permanent knot or a fixed chain.

20. D Magic Ring

The magic ring provides a closed, adjustable center for starting in the round. Slip stitch, yarn over, and double crochet are stitches/techniques that don't create that start.

Sources

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- The Hooked Life — Your Materials
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- The Hooked Life — Intermediate Techniques
- The Hooked Life — Tunisian Crochet: The Hybrid Craft
- The Hooked Life — Blocking: The Professional Finisher's Secret
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- The Hooked Life — Fun Facts Worth Dropping at Your Next Yarn Haul
- The Hooked Life — Quick Reference: Process Keys
- The Hooked Life — The Community: Where to Grow

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FlashFeed

- This pack in the app: flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/crochet
- All packs: flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs
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- Free and open: flashfeedlearningapp.com/free-and-open

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