

SECRETS

TO READING GREENS

We know you can't read greens. Why? Our Pinehurst Golf Academy team conducted research with 72 golfers of varying skill levels, measuring nearly 1,300 individual putts. The results were clear: 98% of those studied consistently under-read the break.

How can you determine if you under-read or over-read a green? The Pinehurst Golf Academy created this test to demonstrate your individual tendencies and improve your green-reading skills.

HOW WELL DO YOU READ A GREEN? Bring your putter, 5 golf balls and 10 golf tees to any putting green.

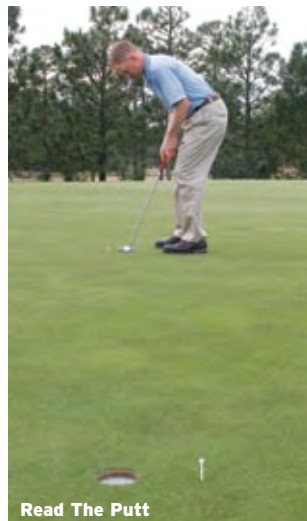
- Place 5 balls in different locations between 10 to 15 feet away from a practice hole, choosing putts that vary in the degrees and directions of break.
- Read each putt by placing a tee either left or right of the hole where you'll aim the putt to accommodate the break. Estimate the distance from the center of the hole to your tee.
- Putt each ball at the tee marking your aiming point. Adjust the aim point after hitting several putts utilizing another tee. The difference between the two tees will show you how much you under-read or over-read a putt.
- Practice a few times at the same location to see if you can improve your accuracy. Starting point and ball speed are key, so practice alignment and pace to eliminate overcompensation in your stroke.

Our study showed that most golfers need to triple the amount of break they perceive in order to achieve the correct aim.

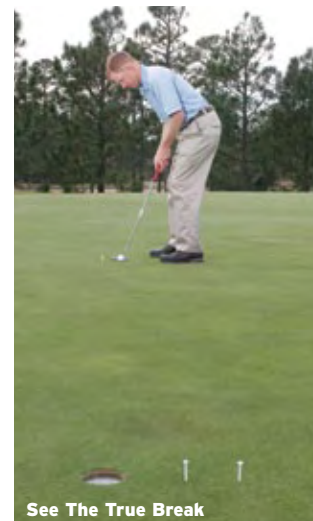


Eric Alpenfels

Eric Alpenfels
Director | Pinehurst Golf Academy
Golf Magazine Top 100 Instructor



Read The Putt



See The True Break

5ive Insider Clues To Reading A Green

1. Pay attention to the slopes of a green as you approach from the fairway, noting the larger features. These will affect the break more than smaller ridges.
2. Note the movement of other players' balls on their chips and putts. Every ball played towards the hole can tell you something about the contour and condition of the putting surface.
3. Imagine standing on the edge of the green during heavy rain and determine where the water would drain. The undulations that would influence the flow of water will also affect the ball's roll.
4. Stand over the putt and sense where you need to aim the putter to accommodate the break of the putt. Does your "feel" match your read?
5. More is better - the average golfer drastically under-reads putts. Always add a little more.

