

# Lesson 1 Ship Registration

## Pre-reading Activity

### Reading Techniques: Skimming

One of the techniques we use to read is "Skimming". It refers to reading something quickly so as to get the gist of it. In order to get the general overview of the reading text, we may look at:

- the title
- subtitle
- first sentence of the text
- first sentence of each paragraph
- last sentence of the text
- keywords
- accompanying images

In this way we get a general idea of the passage based on which we may decide whether we are interested in reading in detail or not.

Skim the following text and find out:

- a) what it is about.
- b) how many types of registries are mentioned.

## 1.1. Reading Text

### Definitions of Registration and Registries

*Registration:* Ship Registration (or Vessel Registration) is the process of **granting** an approved new building or existing vessel a given nationality. It is like the 'passport' of a ship. After the successful completion of the registration process, the ship is allowed to travel internationally where citizens of its nation are authorized to travel. The vessel is provided with a Certificate of

Registry (COR), along with other trading documents, which proves that the Registered Owner of the vessel meets the legal requirements of ownership.

According to international law, every merchant ship must be registered to a particular country. The country to which the ship is registered is its "flag state" and it is often said that the vessel "sails" or "flies" under the "flag" of its country of registration. The flag state has the duty to exercise its **jurisdiction** and control in administrative, technical and social matters over vessels sailing under its flag. This automatically means that the country of registration has exclusive **dominion** over the ship but also the duty to inspect it regularly and provide it with all the appropriate documents and certifications. Among the state's other obligations are those of keeping a register of the country's registered vessels, **manning** the vessels with trained crew, supplying them with all the necessary nautical charts and legal documents, surveying them periodically to ensure safety of the vessel, the crew and the marine environment, covering the vessels diplomatically and legally etc.

**Picture 1.1.** A seismic support vessel flying the flag of the Marshall Islands and bearing the home port of Majuro.



Source: Sheila1988 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, at commons.wikimedia.org.

The organization that registers the vessel is its registry. Registries may be governmental or private agencies. In the USA especially they may be a **hybrid** of the two where a governmental administrative body may assign the task of ship registration to a private agency. A vessel may be registered in one registry only and can sail under one flag. It may change flag but not during transit and only after real change of ownership.

**Picture 1.2. Malta Yacht Registration.**



Source: *frolson.com*.

The port of registration of vessel must be clearly shown on its **stern**. Upon registration, the ship is assigned an **Official Number** by the registry it was registered, with which is also seen on its stern.

*Registries:* There are three broad categories of Registries:

*a. Traditional or National Registries:* These are registries that register vessels owned by companies or people who are citizens of the country. More specifically, the shipowner should be from the country, the business should be located in the same country and there is an effort made for the vessel to be manned by nationals, at least to the greatest possible extent.

*b. Open Registries or International Registries:* These allow shipowners of other nationalities to register and operate their vessels under their flag.

*c. Flags of Convenience (FOC):* This is a type of open registry that offers additional attractive *fiscal regimes*, easier on-line registration processes, **substantially** lower administrative fees, cheaper foreign labor and other **prerogatives**. Vessels flying under FOCs are not owned or operated by

anyone from the country of registration and this country does not have administrative, technical or social connection with the ship.

In addition to the **mentioned** kinds of registries, we also have the **Second National Registers** which offer less operating cost for the vessels in an attempt to stop losing ships to other countries with Open Registries or FOCs.

Finally, there are **Off-shore Registries** which are equally cost effective and are operated by autonomous regions of a country or in regions considered as overseas territories of a particular country.

Vessels are not obliged to register under a country's own flag. They may choose, primarily for financial reasons, to register with another country's registry and the ultimate choice of registry impacts on all aspects of the vessel's life.

**Picture 1.3.** Ship registry: Freighter flying under the Panama flag.



*Source: Azat Agleev, Unsplash*

### **Importance of Ship Registration**

A ship without a nationality cannot be protected in international law and thus may not engage in lawful trade as it is not allowed to enter ports. The registration grants the vessel physical and legal protection. Moreover, a vessel flying without a flag is **liable to seizure**. Additionally, in the UK

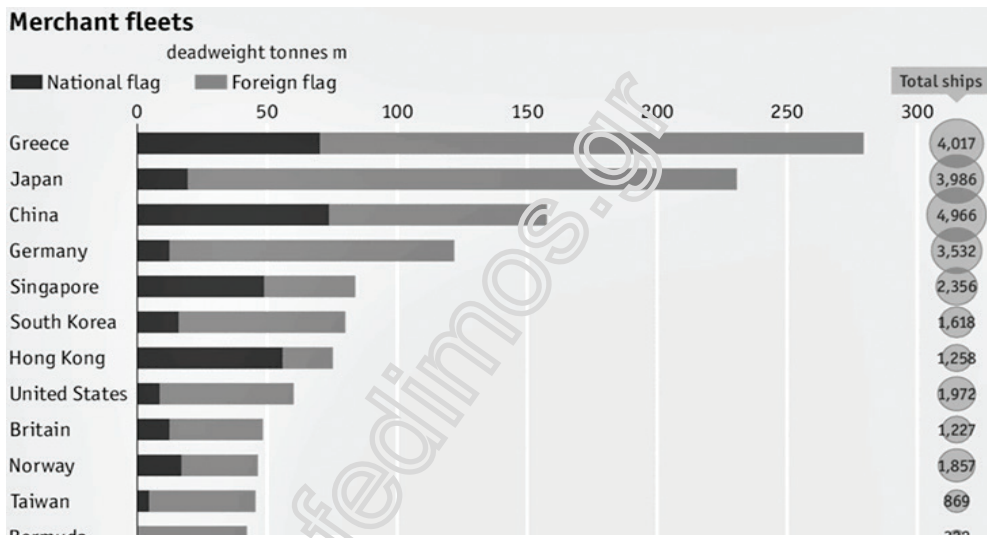


under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1995, a flagless vessel cannot be granted **clearance** or **transire**, i.e. the necessary documents listing the cargo to be loaded onto a ship. Furthermore, when a vessel registers with a state's registry, it automatically enjoys diplomatic and naval protection, the right to fish in the state's **territorial waters** and to engage in coastal trade.

Ultimately, the final choice of registry has significant effects not only on the shipowner and his vessel's administration but also on everybody engaged in the technical and commercial sectors of her working life.

(Source: [he.org/skip-registration.html](http://he.org/skip-registration.html)/suithansanga.blogspot.com)

**Picture 1.4. 2015 statistical data comparing the number of merchant vessels registered in foreign states and those carrying ship's national flag.**



Source: [www.cruisemapper.com](http://www.cruisemapper.com)

## 1.2. Vocabulary and Terminology Activities

**Activity 1:** Match the words or expressions in bold in the above text to their meaning below:

1. the authority to make decisions and judgements: .....
2. to give or allow something, usually in an officially way: .....
3. something that is a mixture of two very different things:  
.....
4. the process of providing people to do a job: .....
5. control over a country or people: .....

6. very likely to do something: .....
7. the area of sea that is around the coast of a country and belongs to it: .....
8. official permission for something or the condition of having satisfied the official conditions of something: .....
9. connected with public money: .....
10. the action of taking something by force or the act of taking hold or possession of something: .....
11. a particular government or a system of government: .....
12. the back part of a ship or boat: .....
13. to a large degree: .....
14. something that certain people are allowed or able to do, but is not possible or allowed for everyone: .....
15. something mentioned earlier: .....
16. a custom document in the UK here the cargo loaded on to a vessel is listed proving that the goods come from a home port and not from abroad: .....

**Activity 2:** Use some of the words above to complete the following sentences:

1. The new library regulations are expected to ..... change how we borrow books.
2. The flag of the country of registry is seen on the ..... of the vessel.
3. Violators of the fishing regulations may face ..... of their boats.
4. The new ..... policy is facing acute criticism by opposition.
5. He is ..... to make a fuss if you distract him.
6. God has ..... over all his creatures.
7. The freight company will be responsible for the ..... of the ships.
8. Most car manufacturers now offer ..... models.

### 1.3. Reading Comprehension Activities

**Activity 3:** Read the above text again and answer the following questions. Identify the points in the text that give you the answers:

1. What is the meaning of 'Ship Registration?'

.....  
.....

2. Why is it important?

.....  
.....

3. What is a 'flag state'?

.....  
.....

4. What are the duties of a flag state?

.....  
.....

5. What is a 'registry'?

.....  
.....

6. On what conditions can a vessel change flag?

.....  
.....

7. What are the three main types of registries?

.....  
.....

8. What is the difference between "National Registries" and "Second National Registries"?

.....  
.....

9. What factors influence the choice of registry?

.....  
.....

10. What are the effects of the choice of registry?

.....  
.....

### 1.4. Cloze Exercise

**Activity 4:** Complete the following excerpt with the words provided below:

<i>a. reimbursement</i>	<i>b. assured</i>	<i>c. occurred</i>	<i>d. monetary</i>
<i>e. replace</i>	<i>f. practicable</i>	<i>g. profit</i>	<i>h. restoring</i>

The purpose of any form of insurance is to (1) ..... that which has been lost. It is not intended that the (2) ..... should make a (3) ..... from his loss but that he should merely be in no worse position than he was before the loss (4) ..... Obviously, it is not (5) ..... to expect the insurer to replace an object which is lost, nor is it reasonable to expect him to remove the damage thus (6) ..... the damaged object to the whole sound object. As a compromise, any recompense must be of a (7) ..... nature and this system of (8). ..... is called 'indemnifying'.

### 1.5. Terminology Activity

**Activity 5:** Match the following Maritime Terms to their definitions below:

<i>a. BRITCON</i>	<i>b. Cabotage</i>	<i>c. At sea</i>
<i>d. Black products</i>	<i>e. Cancelling date</i>	<i>f. Closing Date</i>

1. Crude oils: .....
2. When a ship is free from mooring and ready to sail (in marine insurance): .....
3. Voyage charterparty published by Chamber of Shipping of UK: .....
4. The carriage of goods or passengers from one port of the country to another within the same country reserved to national flag vessels: .....
5. Final date for delivering cargo to a liner ship: .....
6. The last date, as agreed in a charter party, when the vessel must be available to the charterer at a specified place: .....

### 1.6. Grammar Review

#### The English Verb Tenses

The verb tenses is one of the mechanisms of Language used to show our relation. The concept of time: past, present, and future. Closely connected is the idea of aspect which concerns how we experience the action



of the verb: as *completed* or *in progress*. Finally, the notion of mood refers to things such as necessity, certainty, possibility etc. and is especially linked to future time.

The *Tenses of the English Verb* and their relation to real time can be seen in the following diagram:

	DISTANT PAST	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Past Perfect Simple		Past Simple	Present Simple	Future Simple
Past Perfect Progressive		Past Progressive	Present Progressive	Future Progressive
		Present Perfect Simple		'going to' future
		Present Perfect Progressive		
			Future Perfect Simple	
			Future Perfect Progressive	

We will see how the tenses relate to real time and why they have been placed on these specific points on the time axis by examining them together with other mechanisms relating to time, aspect and mood in detail.

### The Present Tenses - Stative Verbs

#### Present Simple

##### Form

I/You/We/They work, He/She/It works

I/ You/ We /They do not work, He/ She/ It does not work

Do I/you/we they work?, Does he/she/it work?)

##### Spelling Notes:

- Verbs ending in *-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -z, -o* take *-es* in the third person singular: **e.g.** passes, buzzes

- Verbs ending in *consonant +y* take *-ies* in the third person singular **e.g.** studies, flies

##### Uses

- A present habit, a usual activity

**e.g.** He studies 3 hours a day.

- General statements of fact, things that are always true  
**e.g.** *The moon revolves around the earth.*
- Permanent states  
**e.g.** *He lives in New York.*
- Future arrangements according to timetables or programs  
**e.g.** *the train leaves at 5.00 p.m.*
- To make a story more lively (present narrative or historical or dramatic present)  
**e.g.** *The burglar then draws his gun and points at the cashier*
- In sports commentaries, demonstrations or instructions  
**e.g.** *He passes the ball to Messi and he scores.*
- In exclamatory sentences beginning with "Here" or "There"  
**e.g.** *There comes our bus!*

**Note:** Frequency adverbs (always, usually, frequently, often, sometimes, periodically, occasionally, seldom, rarely, never) are often used with the Present Simple to show how often something happens. They are placed *before* the main verb:

**e.g.** *I always get up late*

After the verb "to be" and modals:

**e.g.** *We can always go to the cinema. / I am always late.*

### **Present Continuous (Progressive)**

#### **Form**

I am working, We/ You/ They are working, He/She/It is working

I am not working, We/You/ They are not working, He/She/It is not working

Am I working? Are we/you/they working?, Is he/she/it working?

#### **Spelling Notes**

Verbs ending in one -e drop it and take -ing:

**e.g.** come -coming

**But:** see – seeing, flee-fleeing

Verbs ending in one stressed vowel followed by one consonant double the final consonant before the -ing:

**e.g.** stop -stopping

prefer-preferring

We do not double the final -w, -x, -y

- e.g.** plow-plowing  
fix-fixing
- Verbs ending in -ie turn it into -y and then take -ing:
  - e.g.** lie - lying
  - tie - tying
  - die - dying

**Note;** ski - skiing

Verbs ending in -y keep it before the -ing ending:

**e.g.** enjoy- enjoying

### Uses

- An activity that is in progress now, at the moment of speaking or this period of time

**e.g.** *I am writing a new book.* (not necessarily this moment)

- A changing or temporary situation

**e.g.** *He is getting better.*

- Future arrangements or plans

**e.g.** *We're leaving tomorrow.*

- With 'always', 'forever', 'constantly' and 'continuously' to denote annoyance, irritation or an amusing situation

**e.g.** *He is always interrupting me!*

**Note:** Present Continuous of the verb 'to be':

He is selfish. (= selfishness is a general characteristic of his)

He is being selfish. (= now, at the moment of speaking he is behaving in a selfish way)

### Stative (Non-progressive) Verbs

There are some verbs in English that express states (stative) and therefore, cannot be used in any continuous (progressive) form since these tenses primarily express activities in progress.

Some of the commonest are:

- Verbs expressing mental states:

realize, understand, think, believe, want, need, remember, forget, suppose, feel, appear, seem, look, suspect, etc.

- Verbs expressing emotional states:

like, dislike, love, prefer, care, envy, adore, appeal, concern, detest, despise, doubt, desire, appreciate, hate, matter, pity, trust etc.

- Verbs expressing possession:  
own, possess, have, belong to, owe, etc.
- Verbs expressing senses:  
see, hear, smell, taste, feel, etc.
- Verbs existing other existing states:  
consist of, contain, include, involve, resemble, suit, cost, weigh, exist, fit, depend, deserve, equal, sound, etc.

Some of the stative verbs above can be used in a Progressive tense with another meaning (that of action). Some examples are:

- think  
**e.g.** *I think it is a beneficial deal.* (= believe)  
*I am thinking of proceeding into a merger.* (=consider)
- have  
**e.g.** *I have a fast car.* (=possess)  
*I am having lunch* (=eat)
- feel  
**e.g.** *I feel that you are lying.* (=think)  
*She was feeling her way through the dark corridor.* (=touch)
- taste  
**e.g.** *The soup tastes awful.* (=has an awful taste)  
*The chef is tasting the soup to decide whether it needs more salt.* (=try)
- weigh  
**e.g.** *Your schoolbag weighs a ton!* (=it is heavy)  
*The greengrocer is weighing the bananas.* (=put them on the scales)
- smell  
**e.g.** *The roses smell wonderful.* (=have a pleasant smell)  
*The dog is smelling the bone.* (=the action of smelling)
- see  
**e.g.** *Do you see the man over there?* (=can you see?)  
*I am seeing my doctor in the afternoon.* (=meet)
- appear  
**e.g.** *The manager appears to be angry for some reason.* (=seem)  
*The actor is appearing on stage.* (=perform)

### **Present Perfect Simple**

#### **Form**

I/ You/ We/ They have worked

He/ She/ It has worked  
I/You/We/They have not worked  
He/She/ It has not worked  
Have I/you/ we/they worked?  
Has he/she/it worked?

### Uses

- actions that happened before now at some unspecified time in the past which influence the present

**e.g.** *I have read that book.*

- Recently completed actions (with: just, recently, lately)

**e.g.** *I have just finished that book.*

- Actions that started in the past and continue in the present (with: since, for, all my life etc.)

**e.g.** *I have lived in Piraeus for 20 years*

### Notes

since + point of time (**e.g.** since yesterday)

for+ period of time (**e.g.** for 2 days)

Have been to – have been in – have gone to

**e.g.** *They have been to New York.* (=they have visited New York and now they are back.)

*They have been in New York for 2 years.* (=They live in New York. They have lived there for 2 years.)

*They have gone to New York.* (=They are in New York. They are still there.)

### Present Perfect Continuous

#### Form

I/You/ We/ They have been working  
He/ She/ It has been working  
I/ You/ We /They have not been working  
He/ She/It has not been working  
Have I/ You /We /They been working?  
Has he/she/it been working?

#### Uses

- actions that happened in the past and have some visible result in the present

**e.g.** *He's out of breath because he has been running to catch the bus.*

- actions that began in the past and continue in the present

**e.g.** *I have been studying French for 5 years.*

**Note:** With verbs that denote life experiences like *live, work, teach*, etc. we can also use the Present Perfect Simple with little or no difference in meaning:

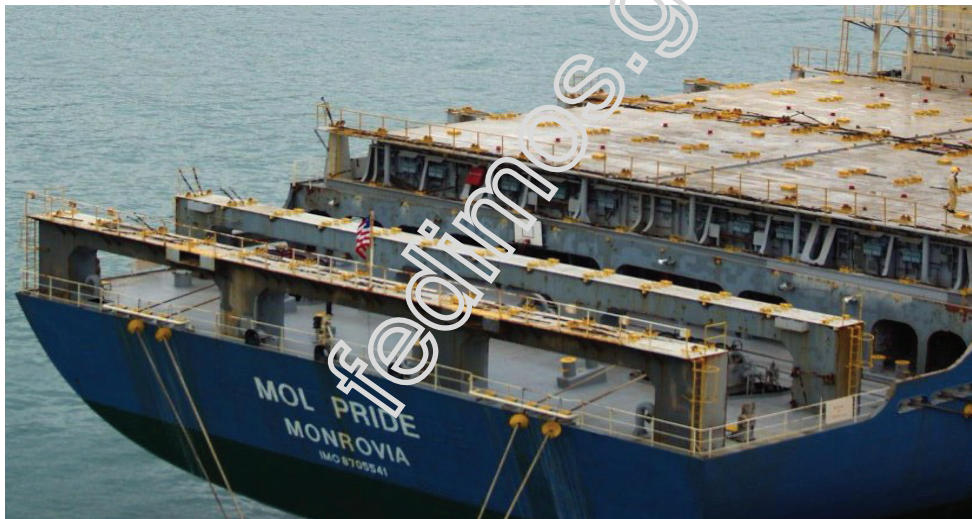
*I have taught in this college for 5 years. =*

*I have been teaching in this college for 5 years.*

- Irritation or annoyance

**e.g.** *Who has been using my laptop?*

**Picture 1.6.** MOL Pride, owned and operated by the Japanese company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, flying the flag of Liberia and home-ported in its capital, Monrovia.



Source: Pete, commons.wikimedia.org

### Present Perfect Simple vs. Present Perfect Continuous

- *I have written three essays this morning.* (emphasis on the number of recently completed actions)

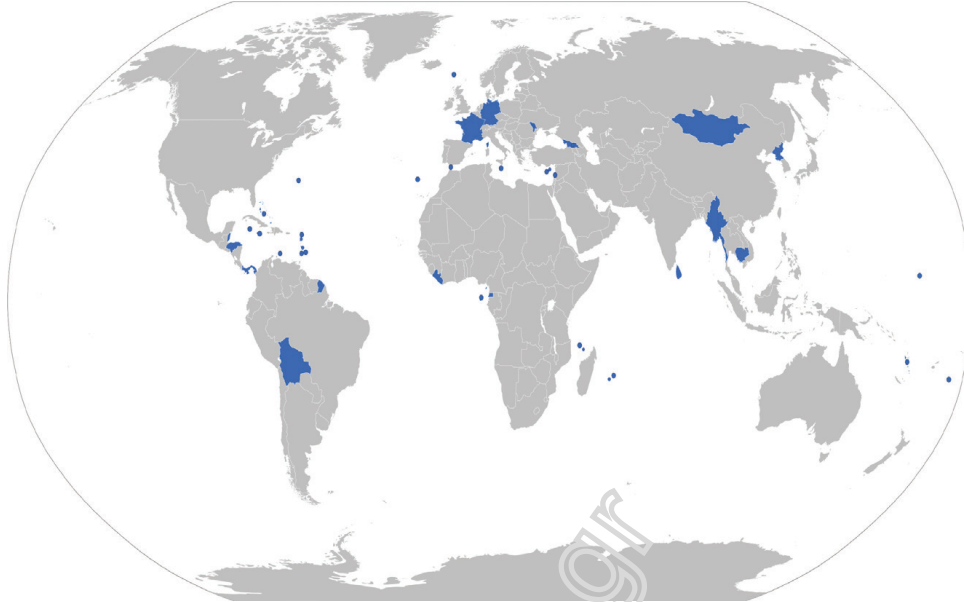
- *I have been writing essays all morning.* (emphasis on duration of action)

- *I have finished the project.* (emphasis on recently completed action)

- *I have been working on it for three weeks and I got bored.* (action still in progress or just completed with a visible result in the present)



**Picture 1.7. Countries listed as having a flag of convenience by the International Transport Workers' Federation.**



Source: LaundryPizza03, commons.wikimedia.org

### Grammar Exercises

**Exercise 1:** Supply the correct present tense of the verbs in brackets:

1. What ..... (you / do) this weekend?
2. I ..... (visit) the new Art Gallery.
3. I can't stand you any longer. You ..... (forever/ make) unbearable noise.
4. We ..... (think) of leaving the country next year.
5. What ..... (you/think) of the new pension scheme?
6. Hurry up! Our train ..... (leave) in 5 minutes.
7. She ..... (take) dance lessons for 5 years.
8. How long ..... (learn) German?
9. I am exhausted. I ..... (work) in the garden for 2 hours.
10. Pete ..... (live) in Paris but this month he ..... (live) with his relatives in London.
11. Most animals just ..... (kill) for food.
12. I ..... (not/ finish) my homework yet.
13. We ..... (usually / spend) the weekends at the cottage.