

## Left-over-Right starting knot



### Standard Shoelace Knot

Right way = Balanced knot

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Back

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Back

### [Standard Shoelace Knot](#)

Right way = Balanced knot

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Back

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Back

### [Two Loop Shoelace Knot](#)

Right way = Balanced knot

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Right loop over Left loop & through

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left loop over Right loop & through

### ["Ian Knot" Shoelace Knot](#)

Right way = Balanced knot

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left end in front, Right end behind

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left end behind, Right end in front

### [Standard Shoelace Knot](#)

Wrong way = "Granny Knot"

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Back

- OR -

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Right loop, Left end around Front

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left loop, Right end around Back

### [Two Loop Shoelace Knot](#)

Wrong way = "Granny Knot"

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Right loop over Left loop & through

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left loop over Right loop & through

### ["Ian Knot" Shoelace Knot](#)

Wrong way = "Granny Knot"

**Start:** Right end over Left end & through

**Finish:** Left end in front, Right end behind

- OR -

**Start:** Left end over Right end & through

**Finish:** Left end behind, Right end in front

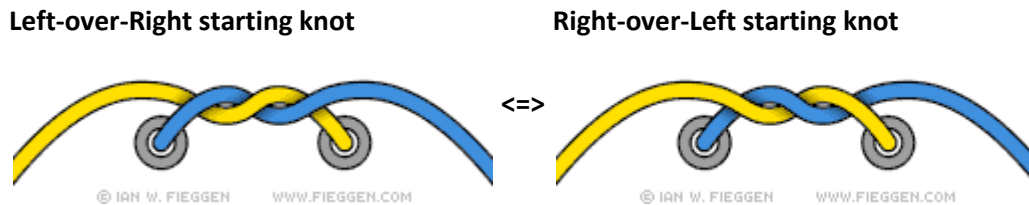
Of the three methods, the [Two Loop Shoelace Knot](#) (or "Bunny Ears" method) is probably the biggest cause of "Granny Knots" because most people naturally tie the starting knot and finishing bow exactly the same way. This has given it a bad reputation as an inferior knot, whereas it's actually quite secure if tied correctly.

Note that **any shoelace knot**, even those considered "secure" shoelace knots, can end up crooked and less secure if tied wrongly.

## Fixing an Un-balanced "Granny Knot"

Okay, so you've just realised that you've wasted your whole life tying and re-tying what turns out to be a "Granny Knot". Don't panic, the solution is as easy as the problem:

Simply reverse your Starting Knot!



In other words, if you currently tie your starting knot: "Left end over Right end & through", simply change it to: "Right end over Left end & through", or vice versa.

From the above table of variations, if your method is in the **right** side (red) of the table, the adjacent method in the **left** side (green) of the table corresponds to the identical method with a reversed starting knot.

You could also choose **any** of the variations from the left side (green) of the table, such as running around the back instead of around the front or vice versa, or changing left-handed movements to right-handed movements or vice versa. However, most people will find it easier to re-learn the starting knot than to re-learn the finishing bow.

## Important Note for Parents / Teachers

If you ever re-tie a child's shoelaces that have come **partly** undone, especially when re-tying laces that were originally tied by someone else ...

... make sure that you are NOT inadvertently creating a "Granny Knot"!

Suppose a child comes to you with shoelaces where the finishing bow has come undone, yet the starting knot is still intact. *Don't be tempted to take a short-cut!* You should always **undo** and then **re-tie** their starting knot just in case theirs was tied the opposite way to yours. Otherwise, the end result could be a "Granny Knot", which will come undone again.

Kindergarten teachers and day care providers probably spend more time re-tying kids shoelaces than anyone else. It's important that they, of all people, know the correct way to tie shoes. They can also help

enormously by learning to spot "Granny Knots" and teaching the child and/or their parents how to correct this problem.