

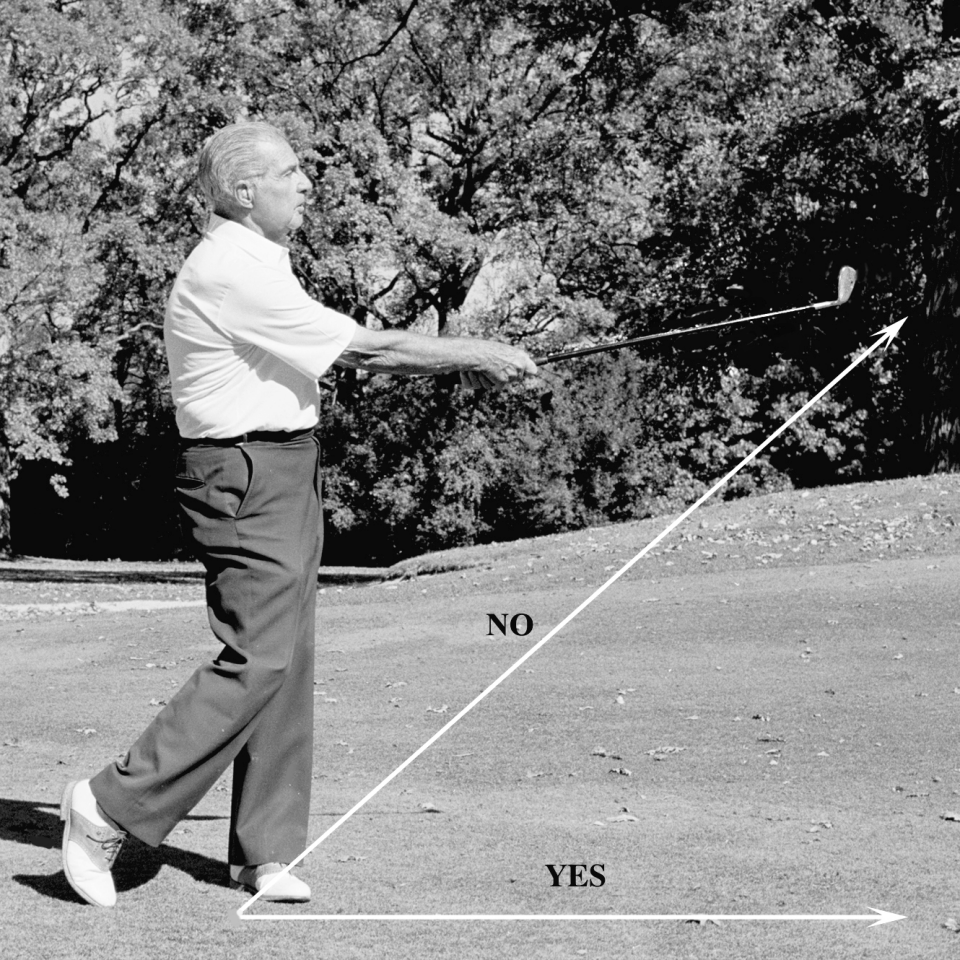
The most common cause for difficulties in the short game is that the mental image of the shot is too high. The height of the shot is produced by the loft, which the manufacturer gave the pitching clubs. It is not produced by the player. See Figure 27.

When we visualize the shot higher than it should be, it causes us to use a scooping action, thereby increasing the loft of the club to produce a high shot. This scooping action is produced with the hands and can make the club meet the ball with the sole line and high on the ball, causing a lined shot, which sends the ball over the green. The scooping action can also produce a very short shot if the player happens to slide the clubface underneath the ball, in which case the club does not impart a forward direction to the ball.

Another way to try to get the ball to fly high is to swing the club in an upward direction, toward the sky. The result is a topped shot.

When a chip shot or pitch shot is hit along the ground, a frequent comment is “I did not get under it.” When the shot is attempted again with the intent of getting under the ball, the club strikes the ground behind the ball before contacting the ball. The ground is under the ball, so the player cannot get the club under the ball, it will hit the ground first. This shot is known as a fat shot.

Just as with the long game, pitches and chips must propel the ball forward toward the target, even though lofted clubs are used. The target is never to be found up in the clouds.



NO

YES