

# UNDERSTANDING AND USING DIFFERENT WRENCHES

What do you think of when someone says, “Pass me a wrench?” The reality is that there are several types of wrench. As with anything, using the right tool for the right job goes a long way.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

With your parents’ direction, try all these varieties of wrenches, especially if you have an old mechanical item that you can try dismantling and assembling. Get a feel for which are easiest to use, and also which ones are limited when you have a tough space to get into.

LEVEL H

B-7

1. First, there is the open-ended wrench. This is what many of us think of when we hear the word wrench. This certainly has its uses. It is easy to get onto the head of a bolt or onto a nut, but it is one of the least stable options. They slip easily and can deform the nut making it impossible to remove.

2. The next is the ring wrench. This has a ring that goes all the way over the nut or bolt head. If you can get one of these to fit the item you are trying to tighten or loosen, use it.

3. Socket sets work like a ring wrench and comes with a detachable socket. You can get many different sized sockets. These are bulky, but super-fast to use. Again it will not slip like the open-ended wrench.

4. Finally, there is the adjustable wrench. Just about everyone has one of these in their tool kit because one wrench does it all. But you only want to use this as an absolute last resort. They slip off and cause big problems, which makes them slow to use, so you tend to keep having to adjust them. Avoid these if you can.

Okay, so now you know the most common styles of wrenches. All you need to know now is how to use them.

