Developing a better understanding of beer styles allows brewers to be better competitors and judges. This doesn't necessarily make you a better brewer, but in the field of competitive brewing, beers are judged to style. A sound understanding of the profiles and ingredients which define a style greatly increases your chances of making (or judging) a beer better.

The Beer Judge Certification Program has created the BJCP Style Guidelines which are used in virtually all homebrewing competitions as the standard for styles. These guidelines can be found here .

The Brewing Network has compiled an excellent series of podcasts led by Jamil Zainasheff covering details of each of the BJCP beer styles and how to brew them. These podcasts are an excellent resource for brewers looking to brew a particularl style and are also a great way for judges to freshen up on what defines a certain beer style profile and how it is built up. We strongly encourage listening to these podcasts to get ready for your next brew day, judging session, or BJCP exam.

Note: As additional podcasts become available, the links will be updated. Last updated 24 November 2008.

Recommend right clicking on style and selecting "Save Target As"

Category	Cat #	Subcategory
1. Light Lager	1A	Lite American Lager
	1B	Standard Premium Lager
	1C	Premium American Lager
	1D	Munich Helles
	1E	Dortmunder Export
2. Pilsner	2A	German Pilsner (Pils)
	2B	Bohemian Pilsener
	2C	Classic American Pilsner
3. European Amber Lager	3A	Vienna Lager

	3B	Oktoberfest/Marzen
4. Dark Lager	4A	Dark American Lager
	4B	Munich Dunkel
	4C	Schwarzbier (Black Beer)
5. Bock	5A	Maibock/Helles Bock
	5B	Traditional Bock
	5C	Doppelbock
	5D	Eisbock
6. Light Hybrid Beer	6A	Cream Ale
	6B	Blonde Ale
	6C	Kolsch
	6D	American Wheat or Rye Beer
7. Amber Hybrid Beer	7A	Northern German Altbier
	7B	California Common Beer
	7C	Dusseldorf Altbier
8. English Pale Ale	8A	Standard/Ordinary Bitter
	8B	Special/Best/Premium Bitter
	8C	Extra Special/Strong Bitter
9. Scottish and Irish Ale	9A	Scottish Light 60/-
	9B	Scottish Heavy 70/-
	9C	Scottish Export 80/-
	9D	Irish Red Ale
	9E	Strong Scotch Ale
10. American Ale	10A	American Pale Ale
	10B	American Amber Ale
	10C	American Brown Ale
11. English Brown Ale	11A	Mild
	11B	Southern English Brown

	11C	Northern English Brown
12. Porter	12A	Brown Porter
	12B	Robust Porter
	12C	Baltic Porter
13. Stout	13A	Dry Stout
	13B	Sweet Stout
	13C	Oatmeal Stout
	13D	Foreign Extra Stout
	13E	American Stout
	13F	Russian Imperial Stout
14. India Pale Ale	14A	English IPA
	14B	American IPA
	14C	Imperial IPA
15. German Wheat and Rye Beer	15A	Weizen/Weissbier
	15B	Dunkelweisen
	15C	Weizenbock
	15D	Roggenbier(German Rye Beer)
16. Belgian and French Ale	16A	Witbier
	16B	Belgian Pale Ale
	16C	Saison
	16D	Biere de Garde
	16E	Belgian Specialty Ale
17. Sour Ale	17A	Berliner Weisse
	17B	Flanders Red Ale
	17C	Flanders Brown Ale
	17D	Straight (Unblended Lambic)
	17E	Gueuze
	17F	Fruit Lambic

18. Belgian Strong Ale	18A	Belgian Blond Ale
	18B	Belgian Dubbel
	18C	Belgian Tripel
	18D	Belgian Golden Strong Ale
	18E	Belgian Dark Strong Ale
19. Strong Ale	19A	Old Ale
	19B	English Barleywine
	19C	American Barleywine
20. Fruit Beer	20	Fruit Beer
21. Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer	21A	Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer
	21B	Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer
22. Smoke-Flavored and Wood-Aged Beer	22A	Classic Rauchbier
	22B	Other Smoked Beer
	22C	Wood-Aged Beer
23. Specialty Beer	23	Specialty Beer
24. Traditional Mead	24A	Dry Mead
	24B	Semi-sweet Mead
	24C	Sweet Mead
25. Melomel	25A	Cyser (Apple Melomel)
	25B	Pyment (Grape Melomel)
	25C	Other Fruit Melomel
26. Other Mead	26A	Metheglin
	26B	Braggot
	26C	Open Category Mead
27. Standard Cider and Perry	27A	Common Cider
	27B	English Cider
	27C	French Cider
	27D	Common Perry

27E Traditional Perry

28. Specialty Cider and Perry 28A New England Cider

28B Fruit Cider

  28C Applewine

  28D Other Specialty Cider/Perry