

Title:

Go with your Gut

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Summary:

Improve your golf game with everyday thinking.

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Article Body:

You read a lot about gut instinct in business. Many of today's most successful entrepreneurs do. But these are not unwise, uniformed decisions. The best execs have all the data presented to them. Same thing on the golf course. Make sure you have all the information you can get the correct club. Here's the thing. If you're second guessing the club you have in your hand, that means you're indecisive. Indecision is the kiss of death. When you're indecisive you're thinking way too much about the shot. Before you play the shot you gotta quit thinking about the choice of clubs and start visualizing the ball in the hole. And here's a good rule of thumb that will help you make a confident choice the first time. When you're on the tee, you need to know what you need to make a good, gut decision. The information you need is the target. For instance, it's easy to forget about the target when you're standing on the tee of a long par. On approach shots the target becomes much more clear. Everybody wants to aim right at the flagstick. When you see a hole location that's tucked way in the back of a green, what's your first instinct? Unless you're a tour pro, you shouldn't focus on hitting at the flagstick. It's a lousy target. You want proof? Have your local pro put on a tournament with no flagsticks at all, and see how many holes he makes. If you want to play to your handicap, you need to accept the fact that you're not going to hit the flagstick. Wind speed and direction is are also important factors when it comes to choosing a club. In fact, the first thing you need is a good gauge of how strong the wind is, Not in weatherman terms, but in terms of how many clubs it takes to get the ball into the hole. So before the round, go to the driving range, take out your 100-yard club and try to determine how many clubs it takes to get the ball into the hole. Keep it simple though. Either it's a one club wind, a two-club wind, a three-club wind, or very little wind. Tom Watson was one of the greatest players of all time in the wind. He seemed to shine when there was a one-club wind. The tendency, when you're hitting into the wind, is to swing harder than normal. Problem is, that's not the way to play. So the next time you find yourself vacillating between two clubs, just forget-about it and go with your gut.

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