

**DON'T GET BIT**

Draw lines behind and in front of the ball, and imagine them as snakes. Then get 'em out of there.

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HATE SNAKES? TRY THIS

Groove a good bunker swing with this killer image

IF YOU TEND TO SKULL THE ball out of greenside bunkers, you likely have a reputation with your playing partners. They watch you out of self-preservation. Check your spine angle at address. It just might save someone's life.

Seriously, many golfers hit these shots because they set up with their spine leaning away from the target—like on

a driver swing. In the sand, this leads to the club bottoming out too far behind the ball. The farther back the club contacts the sand, the greater your chances of hitting on the upswing and blading the ball.

My snake drill can help you eliminate these shots. When you practice, scrape a line in the sand a few inches behind the ball and another line a few

inches in front (*above, left*). I tell students to pretend these lines are snakes that you want to knock out of the sand. (People hate snakes almost as much as they hate bunkers.)

Play the ball opposite your front heel, and tilt your spine two inches *toward* the target. Swing back halfway, and on the downswing try to hit the first snake. If you keep the club moving, you'll catch the second snake, too (*above, right*). You'll execute a perfect explosion. ♣

TOM STICKNEY

Age 39 **Lesson rate** \$200/hour
Facility Bighorn G.C., Palm Desert, Calif., and Cordillera, Vail, Colo.

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Background "I played for the University of Memphis, then tried the mini-tours but quickly got into teaching. My first round as a pro got me on track: I shot 74, and the guy I'm playing with shot 64. I said to myself, *I need to get a real job.*

Best lesson "I once worked for a pro named Bob Kinard in Boca Grande, Fla. He taught on a range that was only 120 yards long. He'd say, 'They gotta be able to hit it here first.' Point is, you have to learn to crawl before you can run hurdles."