

FIREARM TERMINOLOGY

Common terminology for firearms are listed here for your review.

AUTOMATIC VS. SEMI-AUTOMATIC

An **automatic firearm** continues firing as long as the trigger is pulled and ammunition is available. Fully automatic firearms are also called machine guns. A **semi-automatic firearm** fires one round of ammunition when the trigger is pulled, then a new round is automatically reloaded. The trigger must be fully released and pulled again to fire another shot.

TYPES OF FIREARMS

Firearms can be divided into two main categories: **handguns and long guns**.

Handguns

A handgun is a short-barreled gun that is designed to be fired with only one hand. The most common types of handguns are **semi-automatic pistols** and **revolvers**. Most people own handguns for protection.



A semi-automatic pistol



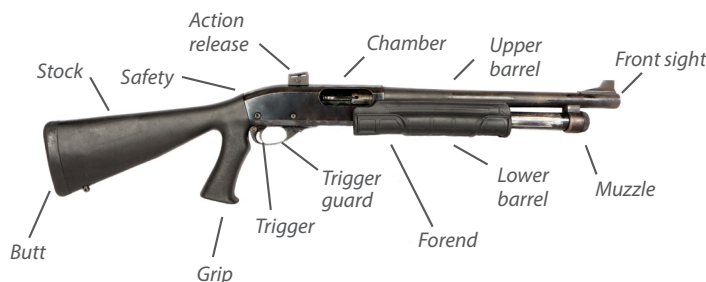
A revolver

Long guns

A long gun is a long-barreled gun that is designed to be used with both hands and held against the shoulder. Long guns are either **rifles** or **shotguns**. Unlike rifles and handguns, the ammunition in shotguns is small pellets called shot. People often own long guns for sport shooting and hunting.



A rifle



A shotgun

“Assault weapons”

There is no universal definition of assault weapons and the term is controversial—it may refer to guns that use large magazines of ammunition, can fire rapidly, are fully automatic, or were designed for combat use.