

# Shaving

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

***After completing this chapter, you should be able to:***

1. Define the objective of shaving.
2. Discuss the fundamentals of shaving.
3. Demonstrate the ability to handle the razor in four standard cutting positions and strokes.
4. Identify the fourteen shaving areas of the face.
5. Demonstrate a facial shave.
6. Demonstrate a neck shave.
7. Discuss safety and sanitation procedures and precautions.

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #1—  
OBJECTIVE OF SHAVING

## INTRODUCTION

Several decades ago, shaving was one of the services most frequently performed in a barber-styling shop. Today, however, the number of clients desiring to be shaved has declined to a point where shaving is in danger of becoming a lost art. This is due partially to the wide use of safety and electric razors, and also to the fast pace of today's society. It is simply quicker and easier for most men to shave themselves as part of their daily personal hygiene routine.

There are still barber-styling shops, however, where shaves are available for those who wish them. Usually these are either full-service, luxury salons or the more traditional, established shops where the service has been offered for many years. Few chain, unisex, or franchised salons offer shaving services. The art of shaving requires a great deal of attention, skill, and consistent practice.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF SHAVING

The objective of shaving is to remove the visible part of facial and neck hair without irritating the skin. The professional barber-stylist uses a straight razor and warm lather when shaving a client.

Although there are certain general principles of shaving which apply to all men, there are also certain exceptions that need to be considered. The texture of the hair, the grain of the beard and the sensitivity of the skin to the razor edge, shaving cream, hot towels or astringent lotion all factor into the decision that the barber-stylist has to make about how to proceed with the shave.

Hot towels should not be used when the skin is chapped or blistered from heat or cold, or when the skin is thin and sensitive. Astringents may also be too harsh for this type of skin. A person having any infection of the area to be shaved must not be served because of the danger of spreading the infection.

Curly facial hair has its own inherent characteristics that may cause problems if the shave isn't performed correctly. All too often, ingrown hairs are the result of improper hair removal by a razor, tweezer, or trimmer. Curly hair has the tendency to grow in a "looped" direction and as it grows out of the skin, it can bend back into the skin surface. Excessively close shaving, coupled with excessive pressure, with either clippers, trimmers, or razors can damage skin to the point that new hair growth is trapped under the injured tissue. This can result in infected bumps on and under the skin surface, scar tissue, or a keloid condition.

## CAUTION

**Some states require the stylist to wear protective gloves while shaving a client. Be guided by your instructor about the use of gloves in your state for this procedure.**

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #2—  
CALL IT FUNDAMENTALS

## Four Standard Shaving Positions and Strokes

The correct angle of cutting the beard with a straight razor is called the **cutting stroke**. To achieve the best cutting stroke, the razor must glide over the surface at an angle with the grain of the hair. It should be drawn in a forward movement with the point of the razor in the lead.

Before the student shaves a client, it is necessary to master the fundamentals of handling the razor. (Figs. 9.1 and 9.2)

To shave the face and neck with ease and efficiency, the following standard positions and strokes should be used:

1. Free-hand position and stroke
2. Back-hand position and stroke
3. Reverse free-hand position and stroke
4. Reverse back-hand position and stroke

Under each of the standard shaving positions and strokes, consideration should be given to:

1. How to hold the razor for each stroke
  - a) Position of right hand with razor
  - b) Position of left hand
2. How to stroke the razor
3. When to use a particular shaving stroke

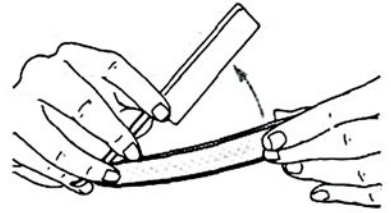
Review the proper method of honing and stropping the razor before learning each shaving stroke.

### Exercise No. 1

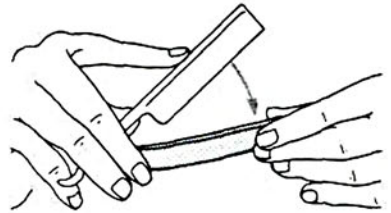
#### FREE-HAND POSITION AND STROKE

In the first lesson, the student learns the correct way to perform the free-hand position and stroke. To master this important shaving skill requires regular practice.

1. **How to hold the razor.** The position of the right hand is as follows:
  - a) Take the razor in the right hand.
  - b) Hold the handle of the razor between the third and fourth fingers, the small fingertip resting on the tang of the razor.



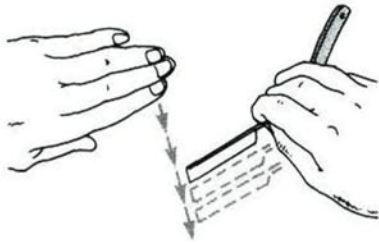
9.1 Opening razor



9.2 Closing razor

## CAUTION

When closing the razor, be careful that the cutting edge does not strike the handle.



9.3 Proper way to hold razor for free-hand stroke

Place the tip of the thumb on the reverse side of the shank, close to blade. Rest the fingertips on the back of the shank. (Fig. 9.3)

- 0 Raise the right elbow level with the shoulder. This is the position used in the arm movement.

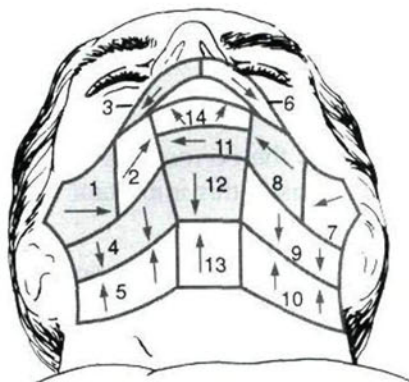
**NOTE:** Some barber-stylists prefer to use the wrist movement, in which case the elbow is not raised as high.



9.4 free-hand stroke, shaving area #1

The position of the left hand is as follows:

- a) Keep the fingers of the left hand dry in order to prevent them from slipping on the wet face.
  - b) Keep the left hand back of the razor in order to stretch the skin tightly under the razor.
2. **How to stroke the razor.** The free-hand movement is performed in the following manner:
- a) Use a gliding stroke, toward you.
  - b) Direct the stroke toward the point of the razor in a forward, sawing movement. (Fig. 9.4)
3. **When to use the free-hand stroke.** The free-hand position and stroke is used in six of the fourteen shaving area. See Numbers 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, and 12 shaded on Figs. 9.5, 9.6, and 9.7.



1. Free-hand
2. Back-hand
3. Free-hand
4. Free-hand
5. Reverse free-hand
6. Back-hand
7. Back-hand
8. Free-hand
9. Back-hand
10. Reverse free-hand
11. Free-hand
12. Free-hand
13. Reverse free-hand
14. Reverse free-hand

9.5 Diagram of shelving areas for the free-hand stroke



9.6 Diagram of shaving areas on the right side of the face for the free-hand stroke



9.7 Diagram of shaving area on the left side of the face for the free-hand stroke



9.8 First two joints of first three fingers

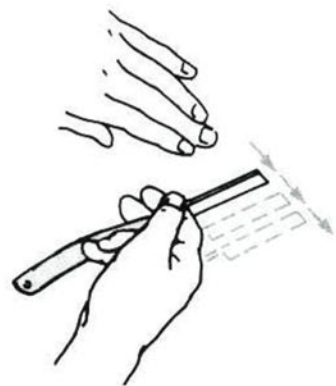
## Exercise No. 2

### BACK-HAND POSITION AND STROKE:

After learning the free-hand position and stroke, the student is ready to proceed with the back-hand position and stroke.

**1. How to hold the razor.** The position of the right hand is as follows:

- a) Hold the shank of the razor firmly with the handle bent slightly back.
- b) Rest the shank of the razor on the first two joints of the first three fingers. Hold the thumb on the underside of the shank. Rest the end of the tang inside the first joint of the third finger as in Fig. 9.8. The little finger remains idle. For two other ways to hold a razor, see Figs. 9.9 and 9.10.
- c) Turn the back of the hand away from you and bend the wrist slightly downward. Then raise the elbow so that you can move the arm freely. This is the position used for the back-hand stroke with the arm movement.



9.9 First two joints of fingers



9.10 fingers wrapped around handle

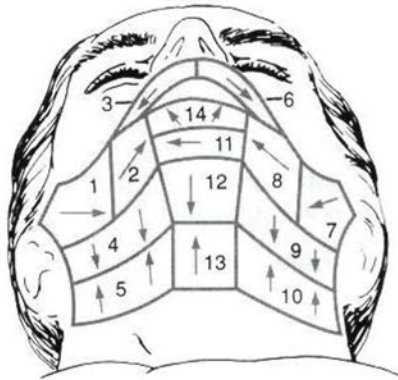
**NOTE:** Some barber-stylists prefer to use the wrist movement, in which case the arm is not held as high as for the arm movement.



9.11 Back-hand stroke, shaving area #2

The position of the left hand is as follows:

- a) Keep the fingers of the left hand dry in order to prevent them from slipping.
  - b) Stretch the skin tightly under razor.
2. **How to stroke the razor.** The back-hand stroke is performed in the following manner:
- a) Use a gliding stroke away from you.
  - b) Direct the stroke toward the point of the razor in a forward, sawing movement. (Fig. 9.11)
3. **When to use the back-hand stroke.** The back-hand stroke is used in four of the fourteen basic shaving areas. See Numbers 2, 6, 7, and 9 shaded on Figs. 9.12, 9.13, and 9.14.

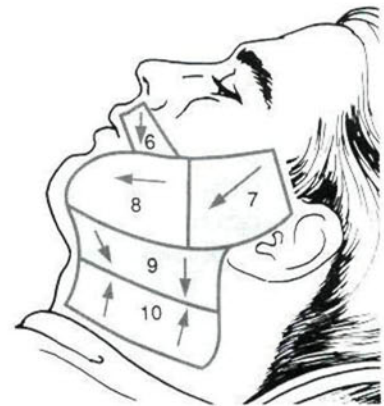


1. Free-hand
2. Back-hand
3. Free-hand
4. Free-hand
5. Reverse free-hand
6. Back-hand
7. Back-hand
8. Free-hand
9. Back-hand
10. Reverse free-hand
11. Free-hand
12. Free-hand
13. Reverse free-hand
14. Reverse free-hand

9.12 Diagram of shaving areas for the back-hand stroke



9.13 Diagram of shaving area on the right side of the face for the back-hand stroke



9.14 Diagram of shaving areas on the left side of the face for the back-hand stroke



## Exercise No. 3

### REVERSE FREE-HAND POSITION AND STROKE

The reverse free-hand stroke hand and razor position is similar to the free-hand stroke, however the *stroke movement* is performed in an *upward*, rather than a downward *direction*.

1. **How to hold the razor.** The position of the right hand is as follows:

- a) Hold the razor firmly, as in a free-hand position. Turn the hand slightly toward you so that the razor edge is turned upward. (Fig. 9.15)

The position of the left hand is as follows:

- a) Keep hand dry and use it to pull the skin tightly under razor.

2. **How to stroke the razor.** The reverse free-hand stroke is performed in the following manner:

- a) Use an upward, semi-arc stroke toward you.
- b) The movement is from the elbow to the hand with a slight twist of the wrist. (Fig. 9.16)

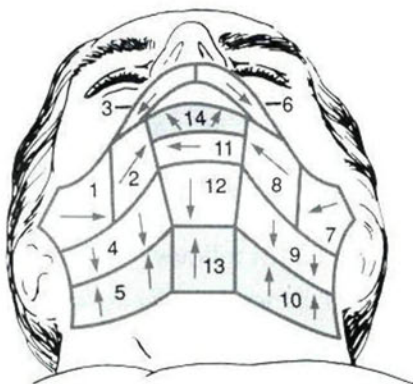
3. **When to use the reverse free-hand stroke.** The reverse free-hand stroke is used in four of the fourteen basic shaving areas. See Numbers 5, 10, 13, and 14 shaded on Figs. 9.17, 9.18, and 9.19.



9.15 Reverse free-hand stroke



9.16 Reverse free-hand stroke, shaving area No. 5



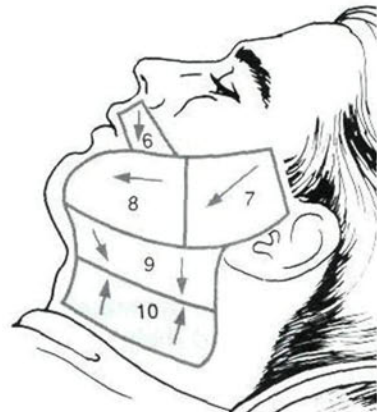
1. Free-hand
2. Back-hand
3. Free-hand
4. Free-hand
5. Reverse free-hand
6. Back-hand
7. Back-hand
8. Free-hand
9. Back-hand
10. Reverse free-hand
11. Free-hand
12. Free-hand
13. Reverse free-hand
14. Reverse free-hand

9.17 Diagram of shaving areas for the reverse free-hand stroke

**NOTE:** Because the beard must be shaved at an angle with the grain of the hair, the barber-stylist must determine if the reverse hand positions and strokes are the correct procedure for the individual client. For example: If the hair in cutting area No. 5 grows downward, the free-hand stroke may be used rather than the reverse free-hand stroke.



9.18 Diagram of shaving area on the right side of the face for the reverse free-hand stroke

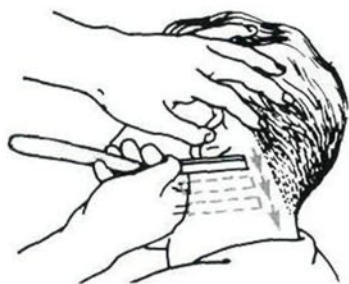


9.19 Diagram of shaving area on the left side of the face for the reverse free-hand stroke

## Exercise No. 4

### REVERSE BACK-HAND POSITION AND STROKE

The reverse back-hand position and stroke require diligent practice in order to master them. When using the reverse back-hand stroke, make short cutting strokes in a downward and slightly outward direction.



9.20 Reverse back-hand stroke. Shaving left side of neck below ear.

1. **When to use the reverse back-hand stroke.** The reverse back-hand stroke is used for making the left sideburn outline, and for shaving the left side behind the ear while the client is sitting in an upright position. (Fig. 9.20)

2. **How to hold the razor.** The position of the right hand is as follows:

- Hold the razor firmly, as in the back-hand position.
- Turn the palm of the hand to the right so that it faces upward.
- Drop the elbow close to the side.

The position of the left hand is as follows:

- Raise the left arm and hand in order to draw the skin tightly under the razor.

3. **How to stroke the razor.** The reverse back-hand stroke is performed in the following manner:

- Use a gliding stroke, directed downward toward the point of the razor.

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #3—  
CUTTING POSITIONS AND  
STROKES



# THE PROFESSIONAL SHAVE

While a professional shave is composed of many individual steps, they all fall under the general classifications: preparation, shaving, and finishing.

The following exercises explain these three classifications in detail.

## *Exercise No. 5*

### How TO PREPARE A CLIENT FOR SHAVING

The stylist's greeting should welcome the client and put the client at ease.

1. Seat the client comfortably in the chair.
2. Ask the client to loosen his collar and drape as for a haircut. Be sure that the towel lies flat and low around the neck area.
3. Change the headrest cover and adjust it to the proper height.
4. Lower, adjust, and lock the chair to the proper height and level.
5. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, and dry them thoroughly.
6. Unfold a clean towel, and lay it diagonally across the client's chest.
7. Tuck the left corner of the towel along the right side of the client's neck, the edge tucked inside the neck-band with a sliding movement of the forefinger of the left hand. (Fig. 9.21) The lower end of the towel is crossed over to the other side of the client's neck and tucked under the neck-band, with a similar sliding motion. (Fig. 9.22)



9.21 Securing the towel on the right side of the client



9.22 Securing the towel on the left side of the client

## *Exercise No. 6*

### How TO PREPARE THE FACE FOR SHAVING

Lathering and steaming the face are very important steps in preparation for shaving.

**Lathering** the face serves to:

1. clean the face by dislodging dirt and foreign matter.
2. soften the hair and hold it in an upright position.
3. create a smooth, flat surface over which the razor can glide easily.

## CAUTION

**Do not use a steam towel if the face is sensitive, irritated, chapped, or blistered.**



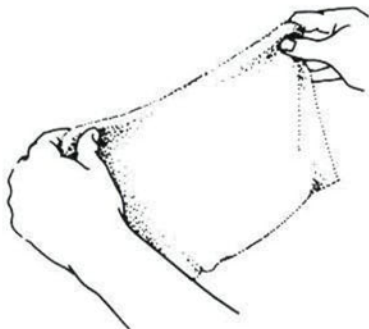
9.25 Rubbing lather in a rotary movement

**Steaming** the face helps to:

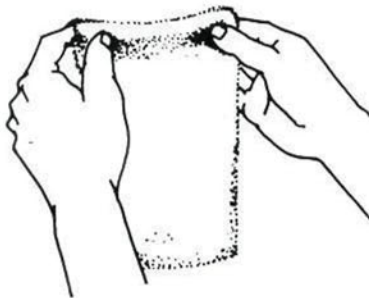
1. soften the cuticle or outer layer of the hair.
2. provide lubrication by stimulating the action of the oil glands.
3. soothe and relax the client.

The face is prepared for shaving as follows:

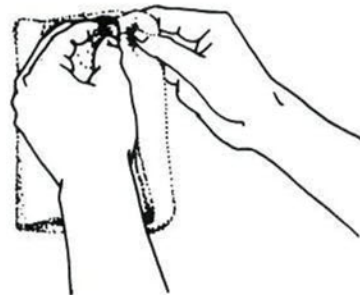
1. The shaving lather is prepared in the latherizing unit. Transfer a quantity of lather into the hand and spread it evenly over the bearded parts of the face and neck.
2. Rub lather briskly into bearded area with the cushion tips of the right hand, using a circular motion. Rub lather on the right side of the face. (Fig. 9.23) Then gently turn the head with the left hand by lightly grasping the top of the head or the back of the head near the crown. Rub lather on the other side of face. Rubbing time is from one to two minutes, depending on the stiffness and density of the beard.
3. Fold a clean towel once lengthwise. (Fig. 9.24) Then fold it again the short way by bringing together both ends of the towel. (Fig. 9.25)
4. Place the folded towel (Fig. 9.26) under a stream of hot water, allowing it to become thoroughly saturated and heated. (Fig. 9.27)
5. Wring out the towel until it is fairly dry.
6. Bring the steam towel behind the client. Unfold it and hold it by the ends. Place the center of towel over the client's mouth,



9.24 Folding a clean towel in half



9.25 Folding towel in half again



9.26 Getting ready to place towel under hot water



9.27 Saturating towel thoroughly with hot water



9.28 Placing towel on client



9.29 Wrapping towel around client

under the chin and the lower part of neck. (Fig. 9.28) Carefully wrap the towel around the face, leaving the nose exposed. Finally, fold the ends over each other on the forehead, covering the eyes. (Fig. 9.29)

7. While the steam towel is on the client's face, strop the razor and immerse it in sanitizing solution. Then wipe the razor dry on a clean towel, and place it in a dry sanitizer until ready for use.
8. Remove the steam towel and wipe the lather off in one operation.
9. Re-lather the beard, then wipe the soap from your hands.
10. Standing on the client's right side, place a piece of clean tissue or paper on the client's chest for wiping lather from the razor. Take the razor out of the dry sanitizer and proceed.

## Exercise No. 7

### POSITION AND STROKES IN SHAVING

Razor strokes should be correct and systematic. Proper coordination of both hands is necessary. While the right hand holds and strokes the razor, the fingers of the left hand stretch tightly the skin that is being shaved. A tight skin allows the beard to be cut more easily.

Loose skin tends to push out in front of the razor and can result in cuts or nicks. However, if the skin is stretched too tightly, it will be easily irritated. The skin must be held firmly, neither too loosely nor too tightly, to create a correct shaving surface for the razor. To prevent slipping, use an alum block to help keep the fingers of the left hand dry at all times. (Fig. 9.30)



9.30 Diagram of shaving areas for the right side of the face



9.31 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 1

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 1

**Free-hand stroke.** Standing at the right side of chair, gently turn the client's face to the left. With the second finger of the left hand, remove the lather from the hairline. Hold the razor as for a free-hand stroke. Use long, gliding, diagonal strokes, with the point of the razor leading. Beginning at the hairline on the right side, shave downward toward the jawbone. (Fig. 9.31)

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 2

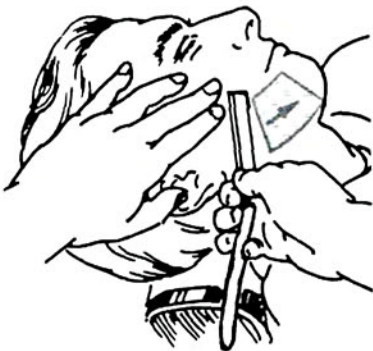
**Back-hand stroke.** Remaining in the same position, wipe the razor clean on lather paper. Hold the razor as for a back-hand stroke; use a diagonal stroke with the point of the razor in the lead. Shave all of the beard on the right side of the face. (Fig. 9.32)

#### SHAVING AREA No. 3

**Free-hand stroke.** Keeping the same position, wipe the razor clean. Hold it in the same manner as for a free-hand stroke, shave underneath the nostrils and over the right side of the upper lip, using the fingers of the left hand to stretch the underlying skin. When shaving underneath the nostril, slightly lift the tip of the nose, taking care not to interfere with breathing. To stretch the upper lip, place the fingers of the left hand against the nose, while holding the thumb below the lower corner of the lip. (Fig. 9.33)

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 4

**Free-hand stroke.** Without wiping the razor, start at the level of the chin and shave all that portion below the jawbone, down to the change in the grain of the beard. While shaving, hold the skin tightly between the thumb and fingers of left hand. (Fig. 9.34)



9.32 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 2



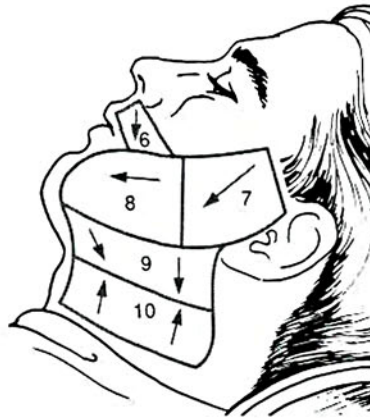
9.33 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 3



9.34 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 4



9.35 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 5



9.36 Diagram of shaving areas for left side of face



9.37 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 6

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 5

**Reverse free-hand stroke.** Move behind the chair. Hold the razor as for a reverse free-hand stroke. Shave the remainder of the beard upward with the grain. This movement completes shaving of the right side of the face. (Fig. 9.35)

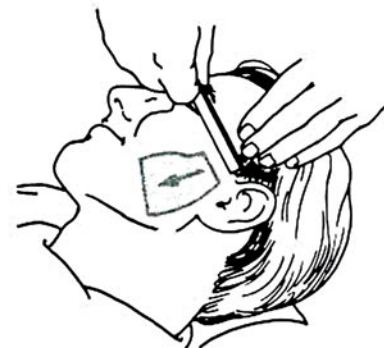
#### SHAVING AREA NO. 6

**Back-hand stroke.** (Fig. 9.36) Wipe the razor clean and strop it. Stand to the right side of the client and turn the client's face upward, so that you can shave the left upper lip. Hold the razor as for a back-hand stroke. While gently pushing the tip of the nose to the right with the thumb and fingers of the left hand, shave the left side of upper lip. (Fig. 9.37)

NOTE: Some barber-stylists prefer to shave the upper lip after shaving area No. 8.

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 7

**Back-hand stroke.** Stand slightly back from the client. Gently turn the face to the right. Re-lather the left side of the face. Clean lather from the hairline. Stretching the skin with the fingers of the left hand, shave downward to the lower part of the ear, and slightly forward on the face. (Fig. 9.38)



9.38 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 7



## CAUTION

Be careful to stretch the skin well with the left hand; otherwise the razor may dig in along the ear.



9.39 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 8

### SHAVING AREA NO. 8

**Free-hand stroke.** Wipe off the razor. Stand to the client's right. Hold the razor as for free-hand stroke. Shave downward on the left side of the face toward the jawbone and point of the chin. (Fig. 9.39)

NOTE: Some barber-stylists prefer to shave the upper lip at this time. (See Fig. 9.37—Shaving area No. 6.)

### SHAVING AREA NO. 9

**Back-hand stroke.** Wipe off the razor. Keeping the same position, hold the razor as for the back-hand stroke. With the fingers of the left hand tightly stretching the skin, shave downward to where the grain of the beard changes on the neck. (Fig. 9.40)

### SHAVING AREA NO. 10

**Reverse free-hand stroke.** Wipe off the razor. Stand slightly back from the client. Hold the razor as for the reverse free-hand stroke.

Stretching the skin tightly with the left hand, shave the left side of the neck upward. (Fig. 9.41)

### SHAVING AREA No. 11

**Free-hand stroke.** Stand at the client's side and turn the head so the face is pointing up. Holding the razor as for the free-hand stroke, shave across the upper part of the chin. Continue shaving across the chin until it has been shaved to a point below the jawbone. The skin is stretched with the left hand. (Fig. 9.42)



9.40 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 9



9.41 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 10



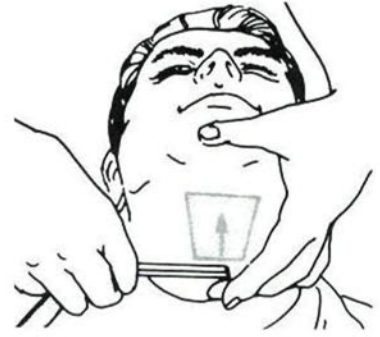
9.42 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 11



9.43 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 12



9.44 Shaving movement No. 12 (alternate method)



9.45 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 13

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 12

**Free-hand stroke.** Stretch the skin with the left hand and shave the area just below the chin until the change in the grain of the beard is reached. (Fig. 9.43)

**Alternate method**—some barber stylists prefer to use the back-hand stroke as shown in Fig. 9.44.

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 13

**Reverse free-hand stroke.** Move behind the chair. Hold the razor as for the reverse free-hand stroke. Stretch the skin tightly and shave upward on the lower part of the neck. (Fig. 9.45)

## CAUTION

Great care must be taken that the skin over the Adam's apple is not cut.

#### SHAVING AREA NO. 14

**Reverse free-hand stroke.** Remain behind the chair. Shave upward on the lower lip with a few short reverse free-hand strokes. (Fig. 9.46)

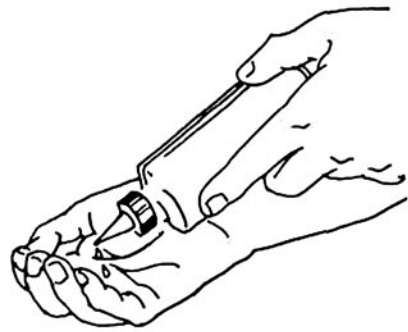
Wipe off the razor again, and fold the lather paper in half.

**NOTE:** When shaving areas No. 13 and No. 14, be careful not to breathe in the client's face. This is annoying and unhealthy.



9.46 Shaving movement for shaving area No. 14

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #4—  
14 SHAVING AREAS



9.47 Water bottle



9.48 Shaving right side



9.49 Shaving left side

The second time over serves to remove any rough or unshaven spots. **Close shaving** is the practice of shaving the beard against the grain of the hair during the **second time over**. This practice is undesirable because it irritates the skin and may lead to infection or ingrown hairs. For this reason, the barber-stylist should be cautious when giving a close shave. However, should the client request it, first remove all traces of lather with a steam towel. Turn the towel over and place it on the face. Strop, sanitize, and close the razor and place it on the work bench. Remove the steam towel and, using a water bottle, sprinkle a little water in the cupped palm of the left hand. (Fig. 9.47) Moisten the bearded part of the face, and proceed with the second time over. Use the free-hand and reverse free-hand strokes in this process.

Stand slightly behind the client. With a free-hand stroke, start to shave the right side of the face. (Fig. 9.48) Stroking the grain of the beard sideways, shave the upper lip and work downward to the lower jawbone. Shave the lower part of the neck with a reverse free-hand stroke and follow the grain of the beard.

Now, turn the client's face toward you. With a free-hand stroke, start to shave the left side of the face. (Fig. 9.49) Stroking the grain of the beard sideways, shave from the ear toward the tip of the nose. When finished, wipe off the razor on lather paper, a neck strip, or a paper towel. Discard all soiled papers in a closed container. .

### *Once Over Shave*

The once over shave takes less time for a complete and even shave. For a once over shave, give a few more strokes across the grain when

completing each shaving movement. This will assure a complete and even shave with a single lathering.

## *Exercise No. 8*

### FINAL STEPS IN FACE SHAVING

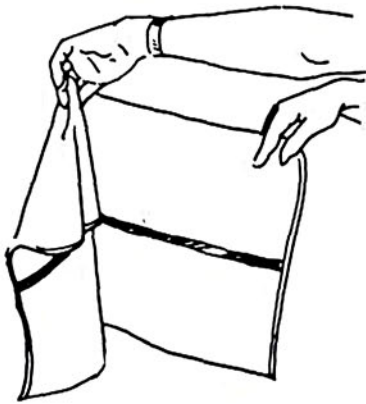
The final steps in face shaving require attention to a number of important details.

1. Apply face cream with massaging motions.
2. Prepare a steam towel and apply it over the face. A facial treatment may be done at this time.
3. Remove the steam towel from the face.
4. Apply finishing lotion with several facial manipulations.
5. Remove the towel from the client's chest.
6. Position yourself behind the chair.
7. Spread the towel over the client's face. First dry the lower part, then the upper part of the face.
8. Move to the right side of the chair.
9. Wrap the towel around your hand as described in Exercise No. 9.
10. Thoroughly dry the face. (Fig. 9.50)
11. Select a dry spot of towel and fold it around the hand.
12. Sprinkle talcum powder over the dry towel.
13. Apply powder evenly to the face.
14. Raise the chair to an upright position.
15. Shave the neckline, if necessary, as described in Exercise No. 10.
16. Comb the hair neatly as desired.
17. With the neck towel, wipe off loose hair, lather, or powder from the face and clothing.
18. Remove linen.
19. Hand the client the check for services rendered and thank him courteously.



9.50 Drying client's face

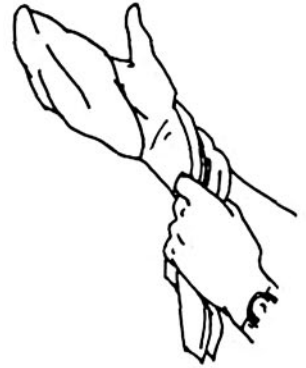
COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #5—  
FACIAL SHAVE



9.51 Hold towel the long way and grasp it.



9.52 Holding the right hand in front of you, draw the upper edge of the towel across the palm of the right hand. Then grasp the towel and draw it toward the right arm.



9.53 Holding the towel in this position, twist it around the outside of the wrist and hold the ends of the towel to keep them from flapping in the client's face.

Mustache trimming must be done before applying a steam towel (Step 2) or after Step 17.

## *Exercise No. 9*

### WRAPPING A TOWEL AROUND THE HAND

A properly trained barber-stylist knows how to wrap a towel around the hand with ease and skill for the purpose of:

1. Cleansing and drying the face.
2. Applying powder to the face.
3. Removing all traces of powder, lather, and any loose hair from the face, neck, and forehead.

The student should practice the following methods. Figs. 9.51-9.53 show one method of wrapping a towel around the hand and Figs. 9.54-9.59 show an alternate method.

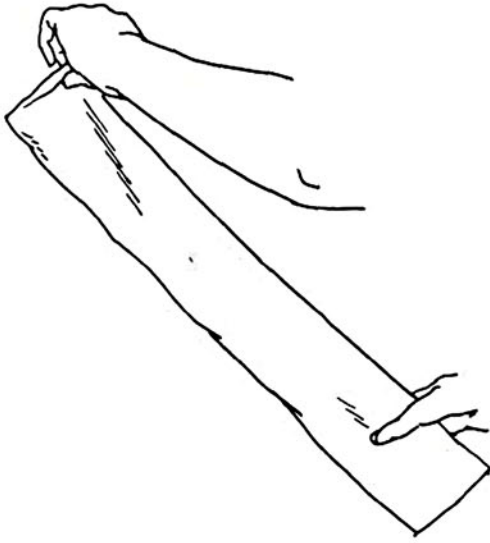


9.54 Use linen or paper towel, usually 16 x 24 inches. Fold the towel in half lengthwise.

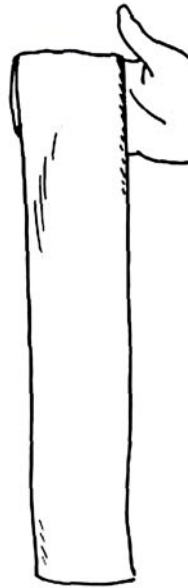


9.55 Fold towel again in half lengthwise.

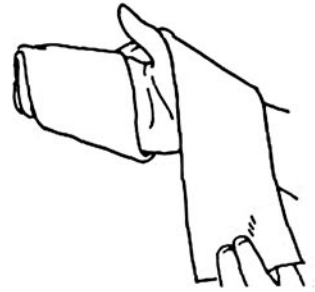




**9.56** Grasp the towel between the index and middle fingers.



**9.57** Bring the towel around to cover the palm.



**9.58** Bring the towel around the back of the hand and twist it forward around the thumb.



**9.59** The towel is folded neatly; therefore, the end will not flap in the client's face.

## Exercise No. 10

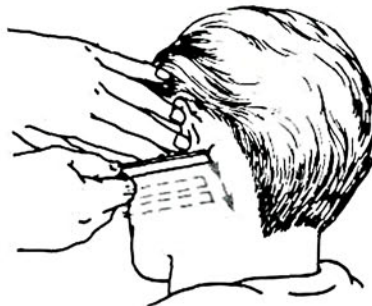
### Neck Shave

The neck shave, as part of the regular shave, involves shaving the neckline on both sides of the neck below the ears.

Raise the chair slowly to an upright position, tuck the towel around the back of the neck, and apply lather. Shave the neckline, first at the right side using a free-hand stroke, and then at the left side using a reverse back-hand stroke, as described in Exercise No. 4. (Figs. 9.60 and 9.61)



**9.60** Shaving right side of neck using free-hand stroke



**9.61** Shaving left side of neck using back-hand stroke

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #6—  
NECK SHAVE

The lather from the razor may be transferred to the palm or base of the left thumb or a strip of tissue, a corner of which is tucked under the towel.

Clean the shaven part of the neck with your palm and fingers, moistened with witch hazel, antiseptic, or warm water. Remove the towel from around the neck and dry thoroughly. (This is the time to suggest a scalp treatment or hair tonic.)

Position yourself behind the chair, replace the towel around the client's neck, and comb or style the hair as desired by the client.

#### RELEASING THE CLIENT

Take the towel from the back of the neck and fold it around the right hand. Remove all traces of powder and any loose hair. Discard the towel and remove the chair cloth from the client. Make out the price check and thank the client as it is handed to him.

### *Points to Remember in Shaving*

1. Use a smooth, steady cutting movement with the point of the blade leading.
2. The experienced barber-stylist will observe the hair slope and shave with it—never against it.
3. A heavy growth of beard requires careful lathering and special razor technique.
4. The lather should not be scattered carelessly over the face.
5. The fingers of the left hand should be kept dry in order to grasp and stretch the skin and hold it firmly.
6. Hot towels should not be used on excessively sensitive skin, nor should they be used when the skin is chapped or blistered from cold or heat.
7. Take special precautions in shaving, especially beneath the lower lip, lower part of the neck, and around the Adam's apple, as these parts of the face and neck are usually the most tender and sensitive, and are easily irritated by very close shaving.

COMPLETED LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE #7—  
SAFETY AND SANITATION