

I was hitting it great on the range, what happened? (Uneven lies)

Although the practice range is a great place to hone your skills, it will ultimately give most players a false sense of security. The reason being is, most if not all driving ranges offer flat or if on mats, perfectly flat lies.

The good news is that there are some simple techniques to employ which can help you to get back your confidence.

Essentials

- Match your hips level to the terrain, shoulders will have a slight incline in relation to the ground
- Balance is more important than power, take more club if needed
- Widen your stance for more stability
- With up and down hill lies you are adding and decreasing loft naturally, change clubs for distance control
- You can't defy gravity, so don't try

Down hill: The urge to help the ball in the air with this shot is overwhelming for most amateurs and following these thoughts actually make the shot more difficult. To make this shot easier, except the fact that the majority of your weight will be on your front foot (foot nearest to target) and that this shot will have a lower trajectory. Also to help will contact, play the ball back in your stance.

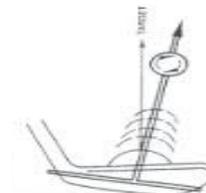
With most of your weight forward, coupled with a back ball position, this shot will typically move right to left for a right handed player. In other words, aim a little right if you are a right handed player.

Up hill: First, match your hips to the terrain and know that you are increasing the loft on your club naturally, so you may need to club up. Again you are going to have to except your surrounding conditions, so gravity is going to logically put more weight on your back foot, don't fight it. Your ball position should be played a little forward of the norm.

With most of your weight back, coupled with a more forward ball position, this shot will typically move left to right for the right handed player. In other words, aim a little left if you are a right handed player.

Ball below your feet: The tricky part to this shot is staying down. To achieve a good position, bend your knees and maintain the flex throughout the swing until after impact.

Because the lie angle is more toe down for this shot, the ball will have a tendency to fly to the right for a right handed player. Make sure to aim left of your target.



Ball above your feet: To play this shot correctly you have to understand that the distance from the ball to you has shortened. To compensate, you have to chock down on the grip. Making this change will give you better contact, but will also shorten the club, so make sure to club up.

Because the lie angle is more heel down for this shot the ball will have a tendency to fly to the left for a right handed player. Make sure to aim to the right of your target.

