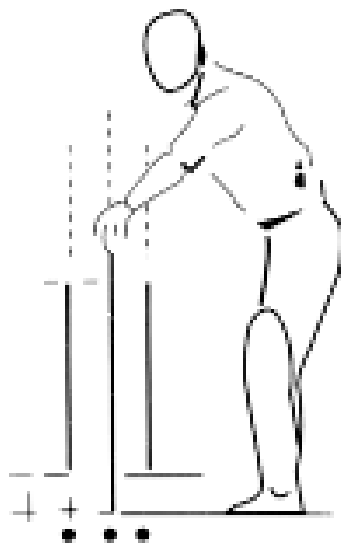


Taking Guard

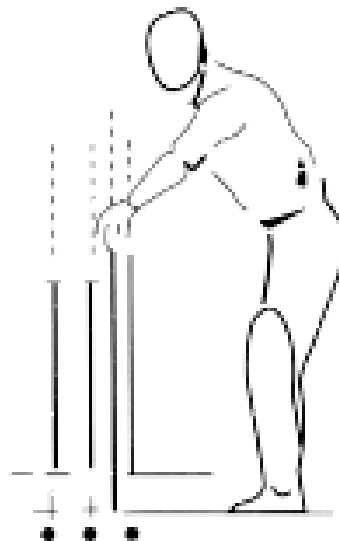
On arriving at the batting crease the first thing to do is take guard. Hold the bat upright with the toe (bottom tip) of the bat touching the ground. The side edge rather than the front edge faces towards the umpire who is standing at the other end of the pitch. The reason for taking a guard is to get a bearing of the stumps behind you when batting.

There are three common guards - leg, middle and leg, and middle or centre - one of which the umpire will indicate on request. When the umpire has given the guard requested, mark the pitch with your boot or the tip of your bat, so that throughout your innings you will know exactly where to stand in relation to the stumps.

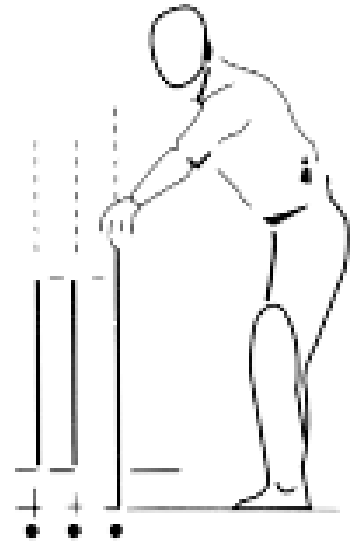
For a young player, middle or centre is a good position to take. As the batsman becomes more experienced, he will decide upon the guard that is most suited to his style of play.



Middle



Two leg or
middle & leg



Leg stump or
one leg