

THE DINK SHOT, Part 1

In Pickleball, the drop shot originates from near the kitchen line, goes over the net, and then drops into the opposing kitchen. The dink is a key part of the slow game.

When many beginner players start to play, they first learn to hit longer shots to get used to the paddle and learn the basic strokes. But many stay back at the baseline and rely on the power game.

It's not until much later do many evolve into an all-around player combining power with a strategic soft game (dinking).

The soft game can easily neutralize the power player even if they have a stronger shot than you. A well-placed dink can set off a long soft volley which forces the other team to play the soft game where strategy and touch usually win over power. Many times, you can force errors on these players since they tend to return the dink hard. The power hitter will either return the shot into the net or send it flying over and out of bounds, giving you the point. The soft game is one of patience—and many “bangers” just aren't patient enough. If you continue the volley with soft dinks, eventually they won't be able to resist the temptation to try to smash it past you and more often than not those hard shots end up as errors.

See you next week here when I'll continue with information on how to perfect your Dink game! Have a great week, Pickleballers!

PS: Did you see the excellent videos recently posted on our PB website illustrating the two serves: [Underhand Serve](#) and [Drop Serve](#)? Hope you'll check them out!