

Don't lose sight of the green

Before you settle into the bunker, make sure to walk up to the green to get an idea how much room you have to work with (right). In this instance, you have 19 yards to the flag and 36 to the back of the green, meaning you have nearly 20 yards of green beyond the hole. That makes the 54-degree wedge a logical choice because even if you hit the shot farther than you'd like you can keep the ball on the green.



Top 100 Teacher



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Now what?

Your ball is in a crater-like bunker far below the green and 20 yards from the pin. How the heck do you get out of this one?



Think "out" first

The last thing you want to do here is hit another bunker shot. With that in mind, it's best to follow the old adage, "Out first, on second, close third." While a lob wedge will get the ball up quicker, the additional loft will force you to swing much harder to generate the speed necessary to get the ball out. You are better served using your 54- or 56-degree sand wedge, opening the face some and making your normal swing, not a fast-paced swing. You'll still have plenty of loft to clear the lip of the bunker.

