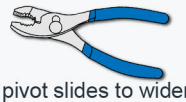
Which Pliers, When?

Pliers look alike but do different jobs. Knowing which pair you're holding is most of the battle.

Match the pliers to the job, and the job gets easier.

Slip-Joint Pliers



The everyday pair

Classic pliers shape. The pivot slides to widen or narrow the jaw opening.

Reach for it: General gripping, holding, light bending, gentle nail-pulling.

Not for: cutting wire cleanly or gripping something round and stubborn.

Linesman Pliers



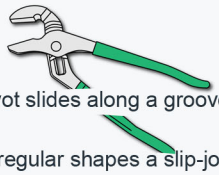
Built to cut and twist wire

Heavier duty, with a wire cutter built into the jaws. Short, thick handles add leverage.

Reach for it: Cutting wire cleanly instead of crushing it, and twisting wire.

Careful: power off first, even for a "small" job.

Channel-Lock Pliers



Wide grip for pipes and big fasteners

Also called groove-joint pliers. The pivot slides along a grooved channel for a much wider opening.

Reach for it: Pipes, large nuts, and irregular shapes a slip-joint can't reach around.

Careful: set the jaws to the object before gripping. A loose fit slips or damages the fastener.

Locking Pliers

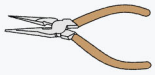


Hands-free holding

Often called vise-grips. A toggle locks the jaws shut without constant hand pressure.

Reach for it: Staying clamped on its own, freeing both hands for the work.

Needle-Nose Pliers

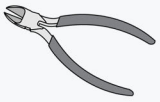


For tight spaces

Long, slim jaws made for small, precise work.

Reach for it: Reaching into tight spaces and handling small objects a standard jaw can't get near.

Diagonal Cutting Pliers



Also called dikes

A cutting pliers for snipping wire.

Reach for it: A cleaner wire cut than a linesman pliers can manage in certain spots.

Match the job

When you need to…	Reach for
Grip, hold, or bend something lightly	**Slip-joint**
Cut wire cleanly	**Linesman (or diagonal cutters in some spots)**
Twist wire	**Linesman**
Grip a pipe or a big nut	**Channel-lock**
Keep something clamped, hands free	**Locking**
Reach a tight spot or hold something small	**Needle-nose**

Building the set: what to buy first

1. Slip-joint pliers first. Right for almost anyone.
2. Linesman pliers when electrical work shows up.
3. Channel-locks when plumbing or big fasteners do.

Those three cover most home DIY.

Safety basics

- Confirm power is off before gripping any wire, gloves or not.
- Wear safety glasses when cutting or twisting.
- Match the pliers to the job. Forcing the wrong pair damages the tool, the fastener, or both.
- Keep pliers clean and rust-free. A slipping tool is usually a dirty one.

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General guidance only. Follow tool and electrical safety practices.