Glossary of Tools

adze: a tool, like an ax, used for chipping or slicing away the surface of wood.
auger: a carpenter's tool for boring holes in wood.
bellows: an instrument fashioned to furnish a strong blast of air, used to blow a fire.
bench hook: an iron hook by which a board may be gripped.
bevel square: a joiner's and mason's tool, used for setting off angles.
broad ax: chisel-edged ax used for hewing round logs into square beams.
chisel: a cutting edge with an oblique angle, the tool is worked by blows from a hammer.
draw knife: a blade between 2 handles, it cuts by being drawn towards the cutter's body.
felling ax: large ax designed for cutting down trees.
firmer chisel: a thin all-purpose chisel (sometimes called a forming chisel).
froe: tool used for splitting out shakes (sometimes called a splitting froe).
gouge: a chisel for cutting rounded holes in wood.
hatchet: a small ax with a short handle.
hoe: a tool used to break up the surface of the ground.
holdfast: something that holds, such as a hook, clamp or bolt.
mortise & tenon: a square hole (mortise) into which the shaped end (tenon) of some other part of a framework is fitted so as to form a joint.
pickax: a digging tool with a chisel edge on one end and a point on the other.
plane: a tool used to smooth the surface of woodwork by paring shavings from it.
ploughshare: the large pointed blade of a plow which cuts a slice of earth.
reap hook: a hook with a cutting edge used for cutting grain.
rule: a graduated strip of metal or wood used for measuring length.
saw: a cutting tool, one edge of which is a series of continuous teeth.
sickle: a hook with a serrated edge used for cutting grain.
spade: a digging tool, the handle is grasped and the foot used to push the blade into the ground.
square: a tool used for determining right angles.
steelyard: a weighing instrument that uses balances and counterweights.
wedge: a piece of wood, thick at one end and tapering at the other, used as a tool for splitting wood.
whipsaw: a long narrow 2-handed saw.