No need to fret when you try out your first crochet pattern—we’ve got definitions, explanations and quick tips in this beginner-friendly video.

- **Good to Gauge:** It’s a good idea to crochet a gauge swatch to check the tension of your stitches. The swatch will help you determine whether or not your gauge is the same as the pattern. If it’s not, you can adjust your hook size accordingly.

- **Abbreviations, Oh My!**

When you’re learning to read a pattern, try this: Write out the full names of abbreviated words over and over until you know them from memory.

- **The Big Finish:** The “finishing” section of your pattern contains everything you need to know about putting the final touches on your project—that could be anything from finishing an edge to adding embellishments.