**Classification of firearms**

Firearms can be broadly found as-

1. Shot guns-

Shotgun, smoothbore shoulder weapon designed to fire a number of pellets, or shot that spread in a diverging pattern after they leave the muzzle. It is used primarily against small moving targets, especially birds. The barrel varies in length from 55-72cm and the bore may be from 4-20cm.

1. Rifles-

This firearm is with a rifled bore i.e., having shallow spiral grooves cut inside the barrel to impart a spin to the projectile, thus stabilizing it in flight. A rifled barrel imparts much greater accuracy to a projectile, as compared with a smoothbore barrel. Although field guns, pistols, and machine guns have rifled barrels, they are not normally referred to as rifles. It is actually the grooving inside the barrel that provides the gyratory motion to the projectile during the flight. Its effects are-

* It stabilizes the bullet flight.
* It increases the effective range of firing.
* It decreases the effect of air resistance.

1. Revolvers-

The name is termed to be revolver due to the presence of revolving cylinder bearing the cartridges to be fired in circular motion. Each cartridge is placed in front of firing pin with the help of action mechanism and ready to fire one after the other. They are less expensive simple in design, on the other side revolvers are limited to six or several shots that are relatively slow to reload. The gap between the barrel and cylinder makes them less efficient and trigger pull is greater. This gap allows gases to escape depositing the gun shot residues. Frames are usually made of plated steel/ stainless steel or light weight alloys.

1. Pistols-

These firearms are small enough to be held in one hand when fired. It usually fires a single projectile or bullet, and additional ammunition may be available in a mechanism or magazine. They may be used for target shooting, hunting small game, or personal self-defense. It basically follows a spring mechanism. They generally carry 15-19 rounds of projectiles.

1. Improvised firearms-

These firearms use the standard parts but create them into a new shape or firearm. Parts of different standard firearms can be collected to form one single firearm.

1. Country made firearms-

These firearms do not possess any standard for the manufacturing of their barrel, action and stock. Any object or any accessory can be used to manufacture different types of country made firearms.

These firearms are classified into multiple categories on the basis of-

1. Bore
   1. Smooth bore
   2. Rifled
2. Action
   1. Automatic (1 trigger pull for all fires)
   2. Semi-automatic (1 trigger pull for 1 fire but automatic loading)
   3. Manual (1 trigger pull for 1 fire, manual loading)
3. Loading and Unloading
   1. Lever Action
   2. Bolt Action (Kundi)
   3. Pump Action
4. Hold
   1. Hand guns
   2. Shoulder guns
   3. Stand
5. Mode of firing
   1. Single shot (1 shot and load)
   2. Double shot (2 shots and load)
   3. Repeater (multiple fires and load)
6. Loading
   1. Muzzle
      1. Flint lock
      2. Match lock
      3. Wheel lock
   2. Breech
   3. Magazine
      1. Simple
      2. Roll magazine
7. Use
   1. Licensed
   2. Sports
   3. Service rifles
   4. Illegal/ Prohibited firearms