

4. BLOCK OUT GREEN-READING “NOISE”

THE ONLY SLOPE that matters is the one between you and the hole

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Good green readers work off level—they look for a horizontal line somewhere in the background, then compare how much the green around them tilts in comparison. Even on severely undulating greens, horizontal lines are easy to spot. Look for:

- **The eaves and windows on the clubhouse or halfway house**
- **Benches**
- **Bodies of water**

If you can't locate a horizontal standard, then use the brim of your cap or visor. Better yet, curl your hands around your face, with your fingers above your eyebrows and your palms blocking out your peripheral vision. Not only does this create a pure horizontal directly above your eyes, it eliminates a lot of the background noise that could potentially confuse your reads.



No noise is good noise.

Cup your hands around your face and cap like **Henrik Stenson** and dozens of Tour players do to eliminate background noise and establish a horizontal against which you can judge the slope.

Tour players do this all the time. It looks as if they're playing peek-a-boo, but it's giving them a clear, clutter-free view of the line. For best results, **drop the brim of your cap or your fingers to the back edge of the cup to eliminate your view of the green beyond the hole.** Why? Anything past the hole means squat. Often, the apron or the crowns of nearby bunkers lips will tilt in a completely different direction than the ground you're standing on. Don't be fooled by something that won't affect your putt.

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