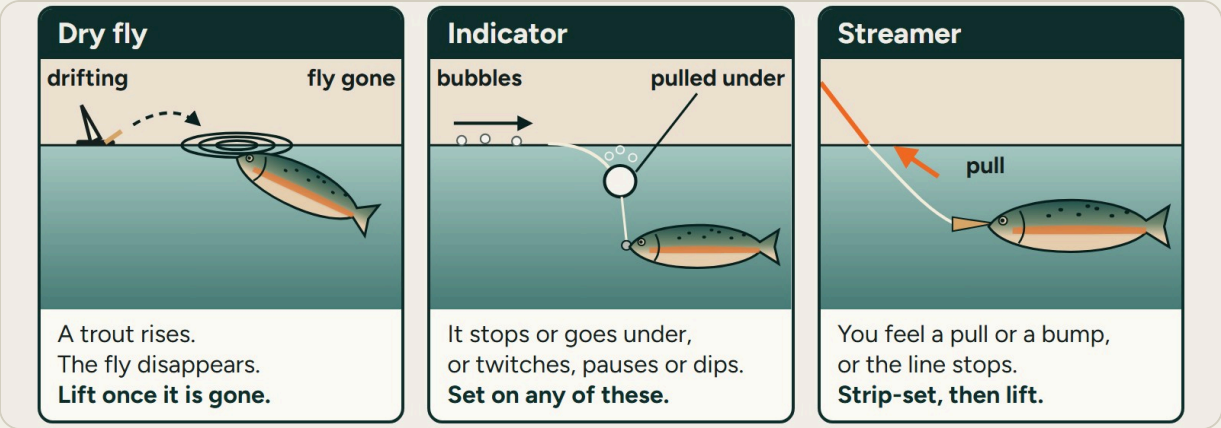
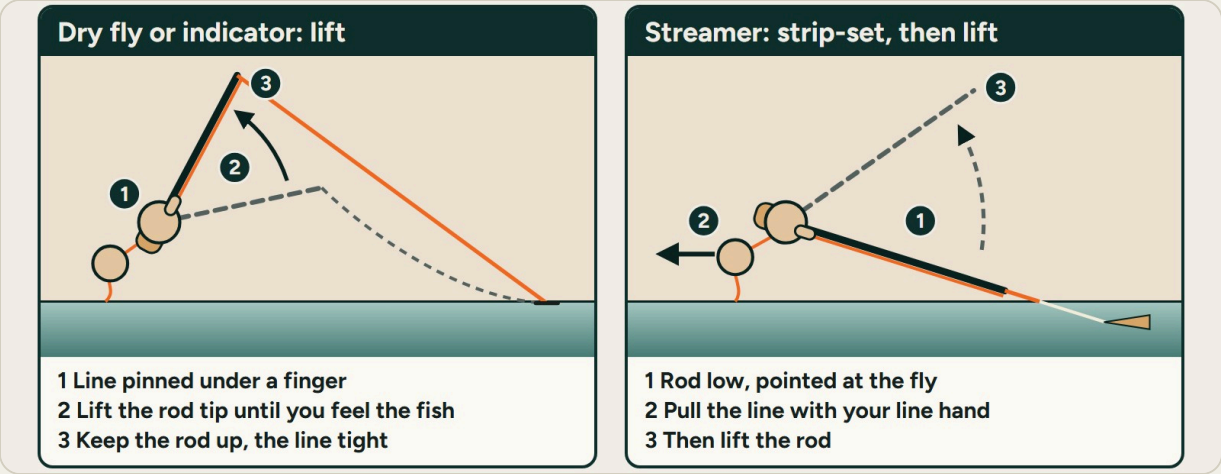
# HOW DO I KNOW A TROUT TOOK, AND HOW DO I SET THE HOOK?

**A dry fly disappears in a rise. An indicator stops, goes under, twitches, pauses or dips. On a streamer, you feel a pull or the line stops. Set the hook as soon as you see the sign: lift the rod tip firmly until you feel the fish and keep the line tight. On a streamer, pull the line with your line hand first, then lift.**

## WHAT A TAKE LOOKS LIKE




## TWO WAYS TO SET THE HOOK




The streamer signs and both ways of setting are anglers' method, not research findings. Drawn, not to scale.
Illustration: Fly Findr

## STEP BY STEP

1. **Keep slack small.** Mend, strip in loose line as the fly drifts toward you, and keep the line under a finger of your rod hand.
2. **Dry fly or indicator: lift.** Raise the rod tip up, quickly and firmly, until you feel the fish.
3. **Keep the rod up and the line tight.** Anglers landed 63% of trout hooked on barbless flies against 76% on barbed (one study); keep steady tension.
4. **Streamer: strip-set.** Rod low and pointed at the fly; pull the line with your line hand, then lift.
5. **Missed? Keep fishing.** Let the drift finish or keep stripping, then cast again. Check the knot after a snag.
6. **Fish on.** Let a running fish take line, bring it in promptly and unhook it in the water.

**Not sure? Set the hook.** On an indicator, or a dry used as one, when the nymph ticks the bottom, some signs are rocks. A snag costs a fly; a missed take costs the fish.

**What the studies don't settle.** How to set the hook, how hard, or how long to wait on a dry fly: Fly Findr's research has no study of it. In one lab study, rainbow trout struck and then rejected unfamiliar food more often than familiar food; flies were not tested.