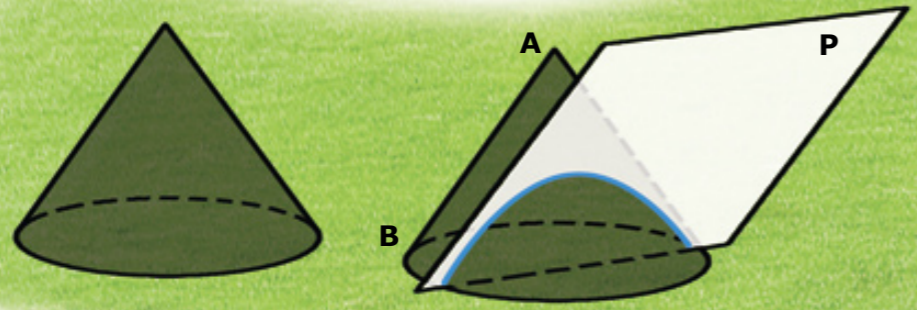


# 3 Basic principles

Pay attention: To get a parabola you have to draw a straight line between the apex **A** and **B** on the base of the cone. The cutting plane **P** must be parallel to that straight line or you'll get curves that are not parabolas.

As you can see the flatter the cone the more open the parabola is.

• Fig. 3.25



And why do we need to work with parabolas? Because, as with any other object, when we throw a golf ball and significant spin is not involved, as is the case in putting, it will describe a parabola.

• Fig. 3.26



Not a piece of a circumference, like this.

• Fig. 3.27



Not a piece of an ellipse, like this.

• Fig. 3.28



But a piece of a parabola, like this.