

Performing Art–VOCABULARY

ADAGE	From the musical term <i>adagio</i> , meaning at ease. slow and graceful movements.
AIR, en l'	In the air. When working leg is in the air.
ALLEGRO	Taken from the Italian musical term meaning fast and lively. Quick movements.
ALLONGE	Extended or outstretched.
ARABESQUE	A pose on one leg with the other leg extended behind and the body forming a graceful curve.
ARRIERE, en	Backward. When a step is performed backwards, away from the audience.
ASSEMBLE	Assembled. A jump in which the legs are brought together in the air before landing in fifth position.
ATTITUDE	A pose on one leg with the other leg lifted either backward or forward and bent at the knee.
AVANT, en	Forward. When a step is performed forwards, towards the audience.
BALLET BLANC	White ballet. Any ballet in which the ballerinas wear traditional long white dresses.
BALLET d'ACTION	A ballet with a story.
BALLON	Bounce. The elastic quality of a jump.
BALLONNE	A bouncing jump in which the dancer lands on one leg in a <i>demi-plie</i> with the working foot <i>sur le cou de pied</i> .
BARRE	The hand rail used by dancers to help them balance while exercising.
BARREWORK	Exercises of daily classroom work, performed at the barre.
BATTEMENT	Beating. A beating action of the working leg when extended or bent. There are many types of battement, small and large.
BATTEMENT FRAPPE	A strong striking movement of the working leg away from <i>cou de pied</i> to a low extended position in front, to side, or behind.
BATTEMENT TENDU	A movement in which the working leg is stretched along the floor to a fully extended position.
BATTEMENT TENDU JETE	A movement in which the working leg is "thrown" into the air at a low height.
BOUREES	A series of tiny steps which give the impression of gliding across the floor.
CENTRE PRACTICE	Exercises performed in the center of the room, away from the bar.
CHARACTER DANCING	A style of dancing derived from national, traditional, or folk dances.

CHANGEMENTS DE PIEDS	Changing feet. A small or large jump in which the feet change position in the air.
CHOREOGRAPHER	The person who invents a ballet or dance, and arranges the steps.
CHOREOGRAPHY	The actual steps and patterns in a ballet or dance.
CHOREOLOGY	The recording of ballet in notation form.
CLASSICAL BALLET	The traditional ballet technique. A ballet from the second half of the 19th century that displays classical technique.
CONTEMPORARY DANCING	A modern style of dancing that allows the dancer to be more free and expressive than classical ballet.
CORPS DE BALLET	A group of dancers who perform together in a company.
COU DE PIED	Neck of the foot. A position of the working foot on or around the ankle of the supporting leg.
CROISE	Crossed. A position in which the body is turned slightly and the line of the leg is crossed towards the audience.
DEDANS, en	Inward. When a movement, step, or turn of the body is toward the supporting leg.
DEGAGE	Disengaged. When the foot is pointed in an open position with a fully arched instep.
DEHORS, en	Outward. When a movement, step, or turn of the body is performed away from the supporting leg.
DEMI-PLIE	Half-bend. A position in which the knees are half bent.
DEMI-POINTES	Half-pointes. When a dancer stands on the ball of their feet.
DERRIERE	Behind. When a movement, step, or placement of an arm or leg is done behind the body.
DESSOUS	Under. When the working foot passes behind the supporting foot.
DESSUS	Over. When the working foot passes over the supporting foot.
DEVANT	In front. When a movement, step, or placement of the arm or leg is done in front of the body.
DEVELOPPE	Developed. An unfolding movement of the working leg into an open position in the air.
DIVERTISSEMENT	Diversion, enjoyment. Short dances inserted into classic ballet to display talents of individuals or groups of dancers.
ECARTE	Separated or thrown wide apart. A basic pose in which a dancer's leg is in second position, but the whole body is placed diagonally to the audience.
ECHAPPE	Escaped. A movement of both legs into an open position, performed on the floor or in the air.

EFFACE	A position in which the body is turned slightly, and the line of the legs is open to the audience.
ENCHAINEMENT	Linking. A number of steps linked together.
EPAULEMENT	Shouldered. A particular and artistic placement of the shoulders, head, and body as a dancer turns a little towards or away from the audience.
FACE, en	Facing. When a dancer faces straight out to the audience.
FERME	Closed. When the feet are in a closed position.
FOLK DANCING	A type of dancing that has developed through the traditions of a culture, and been passed down from generation to generation.
FONDU	Melting. A smooth melting movement.
FRAPPE	Struck. (like in <i>battement frappe</i> .)
GRAND	Large. Smoothly up onto pointe.
GRAND ALLEGRO	The larger jumps and traveling steps of <i>allegro</i> .
GRAND BATTEMENT	A quick and energetic "throw" of the leg into air.
GRANDE ECHAPPEE	A version of the jump <i>echappee sautee</i> , in which the legs are opened only at the moment of the return to the floor.
GRANDE JETE	A big jump from one leg to the other, with legs outstretched in the air.
GRAND PLIE	A position in which the legs are fully bent.
JAMBE	Leg.
JAZZ DANCING	A style of that developed in North America, from a mixture of African and European folk dances.
JETE	Thrown.
MODERN BALLET	A type of ballet from the twentieth century.
MODERN DANCE	A type of contemporary dance with much more free movements than ballet.
NOTATION	Various systems of recording the choreography of ballets in writing, including Benesh notation and Labanotation.
OUVERT	Open. When the feet are in an open position to the audience.
PARTERRE	On the ground.
PAS	Step.
PAS DE BOURREE	Step of the bourree.
PAS DE CHAT	Step of the cat. A jump in various forms that resembles the steps of a cat.
PAS DE COURU	Running step.

PAS DE DUEX	A dance for two people.
PENCHE	Leaning or tilted. When the raised leg goes very high as the body leans forward.
PETIT	Small.
PETIT ALLEGRO	The smaller jumps and traveling steps of <i>allegro</i> .
PETIT BATTEMENT	Fast, small beats of the working leg in front of and behind the supporting leg.
PETITE ECHAPPE	When the legs are opened in the air before returning to the floor.
PIED	Foot.
PIROUTTE	Spinning top. A way of turning on one leg.
PLIE	Bent. A bending of the knees.
PORT DE BRAS	A movement of the arms to and through various positions.
POINTE TENDUE	Point stretched. When the leg is extended and stretched so that only the toes touch the floor.
POINTES, SUR LES	The raising of the body onto the toes.
POSE	A pose or particular position of classical ballet.
PREPARATION	Preparation. The movement with which a dancer prepares to dance.
PRINCIPAL	A leading dancer in a ballet company.
RELEVE	Raised. A movement in which the body is raised up onto pointes or demi-pointes.
RETIRE	Withdrawn. When the toes of the working leg are raised from a closed position to a pointe just below the knees.
REVERENCE	Curtsey. A curtsy or bow performed at the end of class or performance.
ROMANTIC BALLET	A style of ballet from the first half of the 19th century.
RONDE DE JAMBE	Circle of the leg.
ROSIN	A powder from the sap of fir trees, which dancers put on their shoes to prevent them from slipping.
SAUTE	Jumped. When a movement is performed with a jump.
SECONDE, a la	To the second. When the leg is in second position on the floor or in the air.
SIMPLE	Ordinary.
SISSONE	A special sort of jump from two feet that can be danced in many ways.
SOUTENU	Sustained.
SPOTTING	The movement of the head in pirouettes and other particular ways of turning.
SUR PLACE	On the spot.

SYNCOPATION	The stressing of the weak parts of the rhythm of a piece of music .
TAP DANCING	A style of dancing developed in North America, involving quick tapping of the toes and heels on the floor.
TEMPS LEVE	Time raised. A hop on one foot.
TEMPS LIE	Time bound together. A sequence of movements connected together smoothly.
TENDU	Stretched.
TOUR EN L'AIR	Turn in the air.
TOURNANT, EN	Turning. When a step is done moving around.
TURNOUT	The way the feet and legs should be turned out from the hip joints to give the freedom of movement necessary to perform the steps of classical ballet.