

Ballet II Terminology

Barre

1. Plie – to bend
2. Demi plie – a partial or small bending of the knees
3. Grand plie – a full plie to maximum depth
4. Releve – to rise
5. Tendu – to stretch, a brush along the floor
6. Degage – to disengage, or leave the floor
7. Rond de jambe – round of the leg, a circular movement of the leg
8. Frappe – to strike
9. Fondu – to melt, a soft demi-plie on one leg
10. Petit battement – small beat
11. Grand battement – large beat, or kick
12. Pas de cheval – step of the horse, a small pawing motion
13. Pique – to prick or to pierce, placing weight on releve with knee straight
14. Cloche – swinging like a bell
15. Sous-sus – under-over, position with legs together, one in front of the other
16. Battu – to beat
17. Soutenu – a slow and sustained movement
18. Passé – to pass, from front to back or back to front, and sometimes used to describe the position with thigh lifted and knee bent and to the side, with little toe positioned just under the knee
19. Cou-de-pied – the neck of the foot, or the ankle
20. Sur le –cou-de-pied – around the neck of the foot, wrapped around the ankle
21. Pas de bourree – step of the peasant, a non-traveling linking step
22. Detournee - to turn
23. A terre – on the floor
24. En l'air – in the air
25. Developpe – to develop, or to grow or expand
26. Envelope – to envelop, or to enfold or close up
27. Port de bras – path of the arms
28. Cambre – to arch (the back)
29. En dehors – leg moving outward or away from center
30. En dedans – leg moving inward or towards center

Center

1. En face – full face, facing flat to the audience
2. Croise – facing the diagonal, in a crossed position
3. Efface – facing the diagonal, in an open position
4. Temps lie – connect movement, a changing of weight that connects one position to another

5. Balance – rocking step
6. Coupe – to cut or replace
7. Chasse – chasing step
8. Glissade – to glide
9. Jete – to throw or to dart, beginning on one leg and landing on the other
10. Assemble – to assemble the legs, usually in the air, movement that begins on one foot and lands on two
11. Pas de chat – step of the cat, a springing movement
12. Arabesque – taken from the term for a graceful Moorish ornament, a pose on one leg with the other leg extended behind the dancer
13. Derriere – in back or behind, refers to position of a limb or closing foot
14. Devant – in front, refers to position of a limb or closing foot
15. A la seconde – to the second (position) or the side, refers to the position of a limb
16. Pirouette – to whirl or spin
17. Eschappe – to escape
18. Sissonne – scissoring step that begins on two feet to land on one
19. Pas de basque – step taken from the Basque region, a character-based linking step
20. Chaine – chained, or chained turn
21. Tombe – to fall
22. Emboite – fitted together or “boxed”, chain of springing hops that travels, feet fitted close together or “boxed”
23. Attitude – taken from the sculpture of Mercury, a pose on one leg with the other leg extended behind the dancer and bent
24. Tour jete or jete entournant – large darting movement involving switching of legs with a change of facing
25. En avant – forward, refers to the direction in space a step is executed or travels
26. En arriere – backward, refers to the direction in space a step is executed or travels
27. Ecarte – separated, refers to diagonal facing with working leg extended in a la seconde, can be ecarte, devant, or derriere
28. De cote – sideways, refers to the direction in space a step is executed or travels
29. Fouette – whipping turn