

DANCE TERMS + DEFINITIONS

Adagio (ah DAHZHO): A series of exercises in slow, controlled movements to develop balance

Allegro (a LAY groh): A sequence of steps done to a quick tempo

Allongé (a lawn ZHAY): Extended, outstretched

Arabesque (ah ra besk): A position of the body supported on one leg with the other leg extended behind

Assemblé (ah sahm BLAY): Assembled, joined together

Ballerina (bahl leh reenah): Principal female dancer

Barre (bar): A horizontal bar which a dancer holds for support

Battement (bat MAHN): Beating

Battement Piqué (bat MAHN pee KAY): To prick

Bourrée (boo RAY): Quick steps in relevé

Bras (brah): Arms

Cambré (Kahm-BRAY): Arched; Bending of the body from the waist to the side or back.

Chaîné (sheh-NAY): Chain or link

Chassé (sha-SAY): Chased

Corps de Ballet (core duh ba-LAY): The dancers in a ballet who do not appear as soloists

Cou-de-pied (koo duh PYAY): Neck of the foot; ankle

Coupé (koo PAY): Cut

Danseur (dahn-SUHR): Male dancer



Danseuse (dahn-SUHZ): Female dancer

Dégagé (day-ga-ZHAY): Disengaged

Demi (duh mee): Half

Demi-Plié (deh-me plee-yay): A bending of the knees

Derrière (deh-RYEHR): Behind, back

Devant (duh VAHN): In front

Développé (day-vel-o-PAY): Developing movement

Échappé (ay-sha-PAY): Escape

Élevé (el uh VAY): To rise

En Bas (ahn bah): Low

En Croix (ahn krawah): In the shape of a cross

En l'Air (ahn lehr): In the air

Fondu (fawn DEW): To melt

General Space: The space we travel through

Grand Jeté (grahn zhuh-TAY): Large jeté or thrown

Hop: A jump on one foot, landing on the same foot

Jump: Jumping on both feet, landing on both feet

Leap: A jump beginning on one foot and landing on the other foot

Pas de Bourrée (pah duh boo RAY): Step of bourrée

Pas de Chat (pah duh shah): Step of the cat

Passé (pa SAY): Passed; a movement in which the foot of the working leg passes the knee of the supporting leg

Petite (puh TEET): Little, small

Piqué (pee KAY): A step onto pointe or demi-pointe

Pirouette (peer WET): Whirl or spin

Plié (plee AY): A bending of the knees

Port de Bras (pour duh brah): Carriage of the arms

Positions of the Head: Erect, Inclined, Turned, Raised, and Lowered

Relevé (ruhl VAY): Relifted; raising of the body to demi-pointe or pointe

Retiré (ruh-tee RAY): Withdrawn

Révèrence (ray-vay-rahns): Curtsey or bow

Rond de Jambe (rawn duh zhahnb): Circular movement of the leg

Sauté (soh TAY): Jumped

Seconde, à la (ah lah suh GAWND) : To the second

Self Space: The space your body takes up

Temps Lié (than lyay): Connected

Tendu (than-DEW): Stretched

Terre, à (a tehr): On the ground

Tombé (tawn BAY): Fallen