

BALLET GLOSSARY – YOU MUST LEARN THE WORDS FROM YOUR GRADE AND REVISE WORDS FROM PREVIOUS GRADES

GRADE 1

Degage – disengage/to release the foot from a closed to an open position
Demi – half
Plié – bend
Battement – beat
Tendu – stretch
En croix – in the shape of a cross
Grand – large
Retiré – draw up
Adage – slow movements
Coupé – cut/to cut the weight of the body from one foot to the other
Chassé – slide
Fondu - melt/a bend on the supporting leg
Glissade – glide
Petit – small
Jeté – throw
Sauté – spring
Echappé – escape
Posé – step
Temps levé – hop
Devant – front
Derrière – back
En avant – travelling forwards

GRADE 2

Assemblé – assemble/join together
Soutenu – sustain/hold
En arriere - travelling backwards
En dehors – outwards
En dedans – inwards
Relevé – rise/a snatching of the feet
Ports de bras – carriage of the arms
Croisé – crossed
Ouvert – open
En face – facing the audience
Passé – pass
Enchaînement – chain of steps/linking of two or more steps together
Changement – change
Soubresaut – simple jump without change

GRADE 3

Rond de jambe – circle of the leg
A terre – on the ground
Arabesque – represents the shape of a bow/a position on one leg, the other in 4th opposite 1st a terre or en l'air
De côté – facing the side
Demi-detourné – half a turn towards the back foot
Pas de chat – step of a cat
Pas de bourée – small running steps/consisting of three movements 5th, 2nd, 5th.
Pas de basque – a step from the Basque country representing the swirl of a skirt
Sissone – a scissor movement from two feet onto one foot

GRADE 4

Developpé – unfold
Frappé – strike/hit
Pirouette – a spin on one leg
En l'air – in the air
Attitude – a position on one leg, the other in 4th opposite 5th a terre or en l'air

GRADE 5

Sur le cou-de-pied – on the neck of the foot
Epaulement – use of the shoulders with one shoulder forward the other back, the head over the front shoulder. The turn occurs across the upper back
Ballonné – bounce
Compose – a compound step with the accent on the outward movement
Simple – a simple ballonee with the accent on the inward movement
Demi contretemps – temps leve in arabesque followed by a chasse passe en avant
Battu - beaten