

# FRENCH TECHNICAL TERMS

Basic French - English technical terms

THE FRENCH TERMS ARE AS USED IN A BALLET CLASS AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE A TECHNICAL TRANSLATION

Students are expected to be able to combine movement and to have a knowledge of these French terms.

A French-English Dictionary of Technical Dance terms by Cyril Beaumont can be purchase from Rochelle dancewear shop, this has been compiled solely for the use of students of dance. French is the language of the dance and it is essential that students should fully understand the meanings of the terms they employ, particularly as the Knowledge often takes them half way towards the execution of a step or movement.

## STAGE 1 GLOSSARY - For Grade 1 & 2

**Demi** - Half  
**Plie** - Bend  
**Battement** - Beat  
**Tendu** - Stretched  
**Round de Jambe** - Round of the leg  
**Assemble** - Assemble/Join together  
**Soutenu** -Sustain/Hold  
**Degage** - Disengaged, disengaging step  
**En Croix** - In the shape of a cross  
**Grand** - Large/Big  
**Retire** - Draw up  
**Releve** - Rise, Relift or raised - The body is to be raised on the point or half-point.  
**Adage** - Slow Movement  
**Port De Bras** - Carriage of the arms  
**Attitude Grecque** - Greek arm position  
**A la Seconde** - To the second  
**Chasse** - Slide  
**Passe** -Passed  
**Demi-Detourne** - Half a turn towards the back foot  
**Petit** - Small  
**Allegro** - Brisk movement  
**Jete** - Throw  
**Saute** - Jump  
**Changement** - Change of the feet  
**Glissade** - Glide  
**Soubresaut** - Sudden Leap  
**Pas de Chat** - Step of the cat  
**Echappe** - Escape  
**Pose** - Poised Step  
**Temps Leve** - Hop - Time Raised  
**Balances** - Step rocked  
**Devant** - Front  
**Derriere** - Back  
**En Avant** - Travelling forwards  
**En Arriere** - Travelling backwards

## STAGE 3 GLOSSARY - For Grade 5 & 6

**Fouette** -whipped  
**Entrechat** - Interweaving  
**Cloche** - Like a bell

## STAGE 2 GLOSSARY - For Grade 3 & 4

**Frappe** - Strike  
**A Terre** - On the ground  
**Fondu** - Melt/ A bend on the supporting leg  
**Sur Le Cou-De Pied** - Neck of the foot or Instep  
**Developpe** - unfold - Developed  
**En Dehors** - Outwards  
**En dedans** - Inwards  
**Attitude** - a particular position  
**Arabesque** - A particular position  
**En l'air** - In the air  
**Croise** - Crossed  
**Ouvert** - Open  
**Efface** - Shaded, placing of the body, see dictionary for full indication  
**Ecarte** - Large Separation, placing of the body, see dictionary  
**En face** - Opposite/Facing forward  
**De cote** - sideways  
**Epaulement** - Shouldering  
**Pas** - Step  
**Temp Lie** - Time linked  
**Coupe** - Cut/ to cut the weight of the body from one foot to the other  
**Sissonne** - Scissor -like jump in which a dancer jumps from both feet onto one foot.  
**Pas de basque** - Basque step - A characteristic step in National dances  
**En Tournant** - In a turn  
**Batterie** - Feet beating together - Battery  
**Ferme** - Closed  
**Contretemp** - Against time  
**Pas de Bourees** - Step of bourree - Stuffing step  
**Enchainment** - Chain of Steps/ linking together of two or more steps  
**Ballonne** - Ball like