

Ballet Terminology

Packet 2



Ballet Terminology Handout #2:

Direction and Quality of Movement

À terre

/a tehr/

On the ground

En l'air

/ahn lehr/

In the air

Adagio

/a-DAHZH-ee-oh/

At ease or leisure. A series of exercises consisting of a succession of *slow and graceful movements, performed with fluidity and apparent ease*. These exercises develop a sustaining power, sense of line, balance and the beautiful poise which enables the dancer to perform with majesty and grace.

Allégro

/a-lay-GROH/

Brisk, lively. A term applied to all bright and brisk movements. All steps of elevation come under this classification. The most important qualities to aim at in allégro are *lightness, smoothness, and ballon*.

Ballon

/ba-LAWN/

Bounce. Ballon is the light, elastic quality in jumping in which the dancer bounds up from the floor, pauses a moment in the air and descends lightly and softly, only to rebound in the air like the smooth bouncing of a ball.

De côte

/duh koh-TAY/

Sideways. Indicating that a step is to be made to the side.

En arrière

/ah na-RYEHR/

Backward. Used to indicate that a step is being executed moving away from the audience.

En avant

/ah na-VAHN/

Forward. Used to indicate that a step is being executed moving toward the audience.

En dedans

/ahn duh-DAHN/

Inward. In steps and exercises indicates that the leg moves in a circular direction, counterclockwise from back to front. In pirouettes indicates that a pirouette is made inward toward the supporting leg.

En dehors

/ahn duh-AWR/

Outward. Indicates that the leg moves in a circular direction, clockwise from front to back. In pirouettes indicates that a pirouette is made outward toward the working leg.

En tournant

/ahn toor-NAHN/

Turning. Indicates that the body is to turn while executing a given step. (Ex. assemblé en tournant)

En manège

/ahn ma-NEZH/

Circular. Indicates that the dancer is to travel around the room in a circle while performing a combination of steps or turns.

Ballet Terminology Quiz #2: Direction and Quality of Movement

1. What is the term for the type of movements this phrase describes? “Slow and graceful movements performed with fluidity and apparent ease”

a) Adagio

b) Allégro

2. Name one of the most important qualities to aim at when performing allégro.

3. If I am performing a pirouette toward my supporting leg, which direction am I turning?

a) En dehors

b) En dedans

4. If I am using **ballon**, is my movement quality:

a) Light

or

b) Heavy

5. If I asked you to perform piqué turns **en manège**, what shape would you be making with your direction of travel?

a) Circle

b) Diamond

c) Square