

DANCE RESOURCES BY GEORGINA BUTLER

Intermediate

Ballet Vocabulary



Intermediate Vocabulary

In addition to the vocabulary listed for **Intermediate Foundation**, you are expected to have knowledge of the following:

Assemblés

Assemblé: “to gather; gathered”: A jump in which one lands on two feet. The legs are assembled fully stretched in 5th position in the air before landing on two feet. In a basic *assemblé*, the arms are carried to *demi-seconde* with the outward movement of the leg and return to *bras bas* upon landing. There is a use of *épaulement* which begins with the jump and finishes with the same shoulder forward as the foot which finishes devant.

Assemblé battu dessus

“gathered step; beaten; over”: An *assemblé* performed with the back foot sliding to 2nd and closing behind to beat without a change of feet in mid-air before landing with a change of feet (ie: with the working foot 5th devant).

Assemblé porté de côté dessus

“gathered step; travelling; in a sideways direction; over”: An *assemblé* in which the working foot starts behind, slides to 2nd and closes 5th devant. The step travels sideways in the direction of the working leg. The legs aim to join at the height of the jump and may be slightly toward the working side.

Attitudes

Attitude derrière en croisé

Battements fondus

Battement fondu: “beating; melted”: A smoothly coordinated bending and stretching of both the supporting leg and the working leg. An essential exercise for developing strength and control for jumps. From 5th position or *dégagé*, the working foot is placed *sur le-cou-de-pied* while the supporting leg bends to the depth of a *demi-plié*. The working leg then opens through a small *attitude* to extend to 45°, as the supporting leg simultaneously straightens.

Battement fondu devant, to 2nd and derrière at 45°

Battements frappés

Battement frappé: “beating; hit”: A striking action of the foot directed towards the floor using a strong extension of the leg. An exercise

Battement frappé devant and derrière
Battement frappe fouetté to 2nd position

to develop speed and precision in the use of the foot and ankle. The flexed working ankle begins with the heel placed *sur le cou-de-pied* before the metatarsals strike the floor and the leg and foot finish in a fully stretched position at *glissé* height.

“beating; hit; whipped”: An inward whipping action of the lower leg. (45°).

Battements jetés

Battement jeté: “beating; thrown”: A sharply thrown action of the working leg opening to 45° and returning strongly to a closed position. Used for developing strength and turnout, and important in the preparation of *allegro* steps.

The foot slides along the floor as in *battement tendu* and the leg is thrown out in the required direction to a fully stretched position at 45°. The leg returns firmly with strong use of the foot along the floor to a closed position.

Battements jeté to 2nd position

Battements tendus

Battement tendu: “beating; outstretched”: The opening and closing of a stretched working leg *à terre*. Practised to strengthen the use of the foot and to activate all the leg muscles on both the outward and inward movements.

Battement tendu devant, to 2nd and derrière
from 5th position in 1 count

Brisés

“to break or shatter”: A travelling, beaten step consisting of an outward brushing motion *en fondu*, a jump with the supporting leg beating against the working leg, and a landing *en demi-plié* or *en fondu*.

The combination of the sliding movement of the working leg and the push-off (*demi-plié*) from the supporting leg provides the force to spring up into the air, bringing the supporting leg up to the extended leg to beat before changing to land on one foot or two. The travel occurs in the direction of the sliding movement.

Brisé dessus

“broken step; over”: A *brisé* travelling sideways in which the working leg begins and ends 5th *derrière*. As the *demi-plié* begins, the working leg begins to slide towards 2nd position at *glissé* height. The combination of the sliding movement and the push-off (*demi-plié*) from

the supporting leg provides the force to spring into the air, bringing the supporting leg up to the extended leg to beat *derrière* before changing to land in 5th position, with the working foot *derrière*.

The arms are usually held in 3rd position, with the arm corresponding to the working leg placed forward, leaning slightly over the front arm, directing the eye line out and over the centre of the forearm.

Chaînés

“chain steps”: Type of turn often performed in series *en diagonale*. The dancer begins with the foot *dégagé* devant, steps to the side along the line of dance making a ½ turn *en dedans* and steps in 1st position making a ½ turn *en dehors* to complete one full turn.

Single chaîné

Chassés

Chassé: “chased; a chased step”: One of the basic elements of centre practice. A linking movement with a sliding action of the foot beginning from either an open or a closed position and ending in an open position *en demi-plié*. Begins and ends with a *demi-plié*.

Chassé passé en avant (*with ¼ turn)

“chased; passed”: A variation of a *chassé* in which the working foot passes forward to 4th position. May be taken from a closed or open position. (*performed with a ¼ turn).

From a closed position, the back foot stretches with the tip of the toe contacting the side of the base of the heel of the supporting foot and the floor. It then passes through 5th devant, beginning the *demi-plié*, and slides forward along the floor to finish in 4th opposite 5th position *en demi-plié*.

From an open position, the back foot slides forward through 1st position *en demi-plié* and tracks a diagonal line to finish 4th opposite 5th position *en demi-plié*.

Coupés

Coupé: “to cut; a cutting step”: A form of transfer of weight. An action in which one foot cuts away the other. Often a transitional or linking step.

Coupé dessous en tournant

“cutting step; under; turning”: a coupé under with a turn in the direction of the foot which is released.

Courus

Courus: “small running steps”: A series of very small, rapid, even steps with the feet well crossed in 5th position and the body remaining poised over the feet.

Courus en tournant en demi-pointe

Détournés

Demi détourné en demi-pointe

Détourné with ¼ turn

“to turn away”: A *relevé* on two feet with a turn.

Développés

Développé: “to unfold; an unfolding action of the leg”: A slow and sustained unfolding action of the working leg. Can be executed with a basic port de bras, the arms and legs synchronizing during the movement.

Développé derrière

Echappés relevés

Echappé relevé: “escaped action; pulled up”: A *relevé* performed with the feet moving from a closed to an open position, and returning to a closed position.

Echappés relevé in 4th position en pointes

Echappés sautés

Echappé sauté: “escaped action; jumped”: A jump from a closed position, either 1st or 5th, to an open position, either 2nd or 4th.

Echappés sauté in 4th position

(Boys) Grand echappé sauté battu fermé

Entrechats

Entrechat: “to interweave or braid”: A jump in which the feet cross and the legs beat rapidly, one against the other, in the air.

Variations are named according to the number of actions of each leg e.g.: “four” (quatre) indicates a jump from two feet to two feet where each leg interweaves twice; “five” (cinq) indicates a jump from two feet to one foot where each leg interweaves twice and one foot ends *sur le cou-de-pied* devant or derrière.

Entrechat quatre

“entrechat; four”: A jump in which the legs change to beat and return to land with the same leg devant. There are four interweaving actions, two with each leg.

Fouettés

Fouetté: “to whip or beat; whipped; whipping action”: A turn of the body away from the extended leg which often maintains its position in space.

May be performed with the working leg *à terre* or *en l’air*, with the supporting leg pivoting flat or *en demi-pointe*, or performing a rise, *relevé* or *sauté*.

The opposite action is called *Rotation*.

Coupé fouetté raccourci en pointe

“cutting step; whipped step; shortened”: A step in which the dancer steps *en pointe*, cutting behind and replacing the supporting foot, strongly extends the working leg to 2nd *en l’air* at 45°, and finishes *en fondu*, sharply bringing the working foot to mid-calf.

Coupé fouetté raccourci sauté

“cutting step; whipped step; shortened; jumped”: A composite action in which the dancer steps on the whole foot, cutting behind and replacing the supporting foot, jumps into the air strongly extending the working leg to 2nd *en l’air* at 45°, and lands on the foot that pushed off, sharply bringing the working foot to mid-calf.

Fouetté of adage

“whipped; at ease”: A slow, smooth *fouetté* action. In its most basic form, the dancer begins in 5th position working leg front, performs a *dégagé* to 2nd and pivots - making a ¼ turn away from the working leg which maintains its position to end *derrière*. This type of *fouetté* may be done *à terre* or *en l’air*.

May be performed with a *dégagé* or a *développé* and performed starting with the leg *devant* and the body making up to a ½ turn.

Grands battements

Grand battement: “big; beating action”: A strong throwing action of the working leg. From 5th position, the movement is achieved by the use of the floor as in a *battement tendu*. This is followed by the light lifting of the leg to a height of 90° and a return through *battement tendu* with control to close in 5th position.

Grand battement in 2nd arabesque***Jetés***

Jeté: “to throw; a thrown action; a jump taking off from one leg and landing on the other”.

(Boys) *Jeté ordinaire en avant*

Pas de basques

Pas de basque: “step of the Basque”: A step consisting of transferences of weight.

Pas de basque glissé en avant

“step of the Basque; sliding; forward”: A stylised *pas de basque* executed *terre à terre* with a gliding quality and travelling forward.

Starting *en croisé*, 5th devant, the step begins with a *dégagé devant en fondu* then, continuing with a circular movement *en dehors*, the weight is transferred onto that leg *en fondu*, while turning towards the other downstage corner and bringing the freed leg to 1st with a fully pointed foot. The freed foot extends to *dégagé devant* and the weight is transferred forward onto a straight supporting leg to *dégagé derrière* before closing in 5th.

The arms complement the movement of the legs: from 3rd position with the arm corresponding to the front foot placed forward and the eye line to 1 (downstage), the arm opens to 2nd with the circular movement of the leg. The other arm passes through *bras bas* as the foot passes through 1st and arrives in 3rd position with the final transfer of weight. The eyes follow the movement of the opening arm, then pick up the track of the other arm as it moves from *bras bas* to 3rd. Finish with the eye line to 1.

Pas de basque sauté en avant and en arrière

Pas de basque sauté: “step of the Basque; jumped”: A stylised travelling *pas de basque* taken with a strong springing action. Taken *en avant* (forward) or *en arrière* (backward).

Pas de bourrées

Pas de bourrée: “bourrée step”: *Terre à terre* steps (toes remain close to the ground) performed in a continuous movement in any direction, demanding quick, precise footwork.

Pas de bourrée piqué sur le cou-de-pied en pointes

“bourrée step; pricked; on the neck of the foot; en pointe”

Running pas de bourrée en avant

Pirouettes

En dehors: double from *demi-plié* in 4th position

En dedans: double from 4th position *en fondu*

Posé pirouettes in series

Pliés

Grand plié in 4th position

Posés

Posé coupé de côté en demi-pointe

Posé coupé de côté en pointe

Posé de côté and en arrière to 5th en demi pointes

Posé passé en avant en demi-pointe

Poses of the body

Écarté devant

Posé: "to set or place; placed; a placed step: A movement involving a transfer of weight onto the whole foot, *demi-pointe* or *pointe*."

Écarté: "to separate or move apart; spread apart; wide": A secondary body alignment taken facing either downstage corner, with the working leg extended to 2nd either upstage or downstage.

Écarté devant: "spread apart; front: A basic pose of the body, taken facing either downstage corner, with the downstage foot *dégagé* to 2nd. A strongly extended position from corner to corner. The arms are in 4th position with the downstage arm raised and slightly opened, and the other arm placed slightly below 2nd position. The head is turned and raised so that the eye line is in front of and beyond the raised forearm."

Relevés

Relevé: "to pull up; raise; lift; or push up; a lifted or lifting action."

A leg action which begins *en demi-plié* or *en fondu*, arrives *en demi-pointes* or *en pointes* with a strong and speedy stretch of the legs and finishes again *en demi-plié* or *en fondu*.

Relevé devant and derrière en pointe

Relevé devant: "pulled up; front": the working leg lifts to *retiré devant*.

Relevé derrière: "pulled up; behind": the working leg lifts to *retiré derrière*.

Ronds de jambe

Grand rond de jambe en dehors and en dedans

Rond de jambe en l'air en dehors and en dedans, singles and doubles

"circle of the leg"

"circle of the leg; in the air; outwards and inwards"

Rotation

“rotation”: A turn of the body toward the extended leg which often maintains its position in space.

Rotation à terre

“rotation; on the ground”: One of the basic steps of centre practice. A fully coordinated movement where the body turns toward the extended leg with a pivoting action of the supporting leg.

Sissonnes

Thought to originate from “ciseau” – “scissors”: A jump from two feet to one foot, often with a scissor-like action.

Sissonne fermées, ouvertes en avant and en arrière

“sissonne; closed; open; forward and backward”

Temps levés

“time or beat; lifted”: A jump off one foot landing on the same foot.

*Temps levé in attitude derrière***Turns***Soutenu turn**(Boys) Barrel turn*

Soutenu: “to support; hold up; sustain”

Walks*Walks en demi-pointe in low parallel retiré*

Intermediate: Free Enchaînement Vocabulary

In addition to all the linking steps listed for **Intermediate Foundation**, you should have knowledge of the following steps:

Focal Step: **Pas de basque sauté en avant and en arrière**

Linking Steps: Pas de bourrées devant, derrière, dessus and dessous

Coupé chassé pas de bourrées

Changement, changement battu, entrechat quatre, relevé in 5th position

Focal Step: **Assemblés :** Assemblés battu dessus

Assemblés devant, derrière, dessus and dessous

Assemblés porté de côté dessus

Linking Steps: Glissades devant, derrière, dessus and dessous

Changement, changement battu, entrechat quatre, relevé in 5th position

Focal Step: **Sissonnes :** Sissonnes fermées de côté devant, derrière, dessus and dessous

Sissonnes fermées and ouvertes, en avant and en arrière

Linking Steps: Pas de bourrées devant, derrière, dessus and dessous

Coupé chassé pas de bourrées

Changement, changement battu, relevé in 5th position