

Ballet Vocabulary

adagio (a-DAHZH)
at ease or leisure

allégro (ah-LAY-grow)
lively, brisk

arabesque (air-ra-BESK)
name of a Moorish ornament, longest line body can make from fingertips to toes

assemblé (ah-som-BLAY)
assembled, joined together

attitude (at-te-TUDE)
position standing on one leg with the other leg lifted in back, bent at knee

balancé (ba-lan-SAY)
rocking

ballet (bal-LAY)
artistic dance in which music, movement and mim are used a spart of a theatrical performance suggesting a story, idea, or mood

barre (bahr)
bar

battement (bat-MAW)
beating

chaînés (sha-NAY)
chains, links

changement (shahnzh-MAW)
change

chassé (sha-SAY)
chase

coupé (coo-PAY)
cut, cutting

dégagé (day-ga-ZHAY)
disengaged

developpé (dev-la-PAY)
to unfold; develop; extend

ééchappé (ay-sha-PAY)
escaping

en bas (ahn BAH)
in low

en haut (ahn OH)
on high

en l'air (ahn LAIR)
in the air

frappé (frah-PAY)
struck

grand jeté (grahn zeh-TAY)
big, large throw or leap

jeté (zeh-TAY)
throw or leap

pas de bourrée (pah duh boo-RAY)
series of three steps done in any direction and/or turning.

passé (pa-SAY)
pass

petit (peh-TEE)
little, small

piqué (pee-KAY)
pricked

pirouette (pier-WET)
whirl or spin

plié (plee-ay)
bent, bending

Ballet Vocabulary

port de bras (pour duh BRA)
carriage of the arms

préparation (prey-pa-ray-SHAWN)
preparation

relevé (rel-a-VAY)
to rise

révérence (rev-ah-RAHNS)
curtsy, bow

rond de jamb (ron duh zham)
round of the leg

sauté (so-TAY)
jumped, jumping

sous-sus (soo-SEW)
under-over

tendu (tahn-DEW)
stretched

turn-out (tern-out)
position of the feet and legs obtained
by rotating the leg from inside the hip
joint

tutu (too-too)
classical skirt worn by female dancers
made of many layers of net, a short
skirt or calf-length romantic skirt

7 Movements of Ballet

- **plié** – to bend
- **étendre** – to stretch
- **relevé** – to raise
- **glisser** – to glide
- **sauté** – jump
- **élancér** – to dart
- **tourner** – turn