

## DANCE VOCABULARY

<b>Abstraction</b>	An idea or concept conveyed through movement and removed from its original context.
<b>Accent</b>	A strong movement gesture.
<b>Aesthetic criteria</b>	Standards applied in making judgments about the artistic merit of a work.
<b>Alignment</b>	The relationship of the skeleton to the line of gravity and base of support.
<b>Axial movement</b>	Movement anchored to one spot by a body part. Only the available space in any direction is used while the initial body contact is being maintained. Movement is organized around the axis of the body and is not designed travel from one location to another. Examples include stretching, bending, turning in place, gesturing.
<b>Balance</b>	A state of equilibrium referring to the balance of weight or the spatial arrangement of bodies. Designs may be balanced on both sides of center (symmetrical) or balanced off center (asymmetrical).
<b>Ballet</b>	A form of Western classical dance that originated in the Renaissance courts of Europe. The dance form was formally codified by the time of King Louis XIV (mid-1600s), who was an accomplished dancer, responsible for extensive notation as well as support for dance.
<b>Body knowledge</b>	Awareness of one's body, and its possibilities, capabilities and limitations.
<b>Canon</b>	A passage, movement sequence, or piece of music in which the parts are done in succession, overlapping one another.
<b>Choreography</b>	Creation and composition of dances by arranging or inventing steps, movements, and pattern of movements.
<b>Contrast</b>	To set side by side to emphasize differences; in dance, two movements that differ in energy, space (size, direction, level), design (symmetrical/asymmetrical, open/closed), timing (fast/slow, even/uneven), themes, or patterns.
<b>Counterbalance</b>	A weight that balances another weight. In dance it usually refers to one or more dancers combining their weight in stillness or in motion to achieve a movement or design that is interdependent. Any limit moving in one direction must be given a counterweight.
<b>Dance</b>	Movement selected and organized for aesthetic purposes or as a medium of expression rather than for its function work or play.

<b>Dance forms</b>	The organization or plan for pattering movements; the overall structural organization of a dance or music composition (e.g. call and response, theme and variation, canon).
<b>Dance phrase</b>	A partial dance idea composed of a series of connecting movements and similar to a sentence in the written form.
<b>Dance sequence</b>	Order in which a series of movements and shape occurs.
<b>Dance structures</b>	Manner in which a dance is constructed or organized; a supporting framework or the essential parts of a dance.
<b>Dance study</b>	A short work of dance that investigates a specific idea or concept and shows a selection of movement ideas.
<b>Dynamics</b>	Energy of movement expressed in varying intensities, accent, and quality.
<b>Focus</b>	In general, a gathering of forces to increase the projection of intent. In particular, it refers to a dancer's line of sight.
<b>Folk/traditional</b>	Dance associated with a nationalistic purpose, usually performed today as a surviving portion of a traditional celebration and done for social gatherings or as recreation.
<b>Force/energy</b>	An element of dance characterized by the release of potential energy into kinetic energy. It utilized body weight, reveals the effects of gravity on the body, is projected into space, and affects emotional and spatial relationships and intentions. The most recognized qualities of movement are sustained, percussive, suspended, swinging, and collapsing.
<b>Genre</b>	A particular kind or style of dance, such as ballet, jazz, modern folk, tap.
<b>Gesture</b>	Movement of a body part or combination of parts, with emphasis on its expressive characteristics, including movements of the body not supporting weight.
<b>Improvisation</b>	Movement created spontaneously, which ranges from freeform to highly structured environments, always including an element of chance.
<b>Isolated movement</b>	Movement executed with one body part or a small part of the body. Examples are rolling the head, shrugging the shoulders, and rotating the pelvis.
<b>Jazz dance</b>	Dance marked by movement isolations and complex, propulsive polyrhythms; an outgrowth of African-American ragtime, jazz, spirituals, blues, work songs, and so forth and is considered an American style of dance.
<b>Kinesthetics</b>	Physics principles that govern motion, flow, and weight in time and space, including, for example, the law of gravity, balance, and centrifugal force.
<b>Locomotion</b>	A form of physical movement progressing from one place to another. Basic locomotion movements include walking, running, galloping, jumping, hopping, skipping, sliding, leaping.

<b>Modern dance</b>	A type of dance that began as a rebellion against steps and positions and values expressive and original or authentic movement. It is a twentieth century idiom.
<b>Motif</b>	A distinctive and recurring gesture used to provide a theme or unifying idea.
<b>Movement pattern</b>	A repeated sequence of movement ideas, a rhythmic movement sequence, a spatial design on the floor or in the air, or a specific relationship or grouping of people.
<b>Movement problem</b>	An idea or task that serves as a point of departure for dance exploration and composing, usually with specific criteria.
<b>Musical phrasing</b>	A grouping and articulation of a group of notes that form a logical unit.
<b>Musicality</b>	A dancer's attention and responsiveness to musical elements.
<b>Partner/group skills</b>	Skills requiring cooperation, coordination, and dependence, including imitation, lead and follow, echo, mirroring, and call and response.
<b>Pathways</b>	A line along which a person or part of the person, such as an arm or head, moves (e.g., her arm took a circular path, or he traveled along a zigzag pathway).
<b>Principles of Composition</b>	The presence of unity, continuity (transitions), and variety (contrasts and repetition) in choreography.
<b>Projection</b>	A confident presentation of one's body and energy to communicate movement and meaning clearly to an audience.
<b>Repetition</b>	Duplication of a movement or movements phrases within dance choreography.
<b>Retrograde</b>	To reverse the order of a sequence of dance choreography.
<b>Rhythm</b>	A structure of movement patterns in time; a movement with a regular succession of strong and weak elements; the pattern produced by emphasis and duration of notes in music.
<b>Shape</b>	A position of the body in space, such as curved, straight, angular, twisted, symmetrical, asymmetrical, etc.
<b>Skills</b>	Technical abilities, specific movements, or combinations.
<b>Social dance</b>	Dance performed in a social setting; traditionally referred to as ballroom dance, but including all popular social dances performed with or without partners.
<b>Space</b>	Al element of dance that refers to the immediate spherical space surrounding the body in all directions. Use of space includes shape, direction, path, range, and level of movement. Space is also the location of a performed dance.
<b>Spatial</b>	Of or relating to space or existing in space.
<b>Tap dance</b>	A type of dance that concentrates on footwork and rhythm. This type of dance grew out of American popular dancing, with significant roots in African-American, Irish, and English clogging traditions.

<b>Technique</b>	Physical skills of a dancer that enable him or her to execute the steps and movements required in different dances. Different styles or genres of dance often have specific techniques.
<b>Tempo</b>	The speed of music or a dance.
<b>Time</b>	An element of dance involving rhythm, phrasing, tempo, accent, and duration. Time can be metered, as in music, or based on body rhythms, such as breath, emotions, and heartbeat.
<b>Transition</b>	When a movement, phrase, or section of a dance progresses into the next.
<b>Unison</b>	Dance movement that takes place at the same time in a group.
<b>Unity</b>	A feeling of completion or wholeness in a dance achieved when all of the parts work well together.
<b>Variety</b>	A quantity or range of different things. To maintain audience interest, the choreographer must provide variety within the development of the dance. Contrasts in the use of space, force, and spatial designs as well as some repetition of movements and motifs provide variety.
<b>Work</b>	A piece of choreography or a dance.