

**Absence of blade :** [Absence de fer](#).

when the blades are not touching; opposite of engagement.

**Advance :** [Marche](#).

a movement forward by step, cross, or balestra.

**Attack :** [Attaque](#).

the initial offensive action made by extending the sword arm and continuously threatening the valid target of the opponent.

**Attack au Fer :** [Attaque au fer](#)

an attack that is prepared by deflecting the opponent's blade, eg. beat, froissement, pressure.

**Beat :** [Battement](#)

an attempt to knock the opponent's blade aside or out of line by using one's foible or middle against the opponent's foible.

**Black Card :** Carton noir

used to indicate the most serious offences in a fencing competition. The offending fencer is usually expelled from the event or tournament.

**Bout :** [Match](#)

an assault at which the score is kept.

**Corps-a-corps :** [Corps à corps](#)

lit. "body-to-body"; physical contact between the two fencers during a bout, illegal in foil and sabre.

**Counter-attack :** [Contre-attaque](#)

an attack made against the right-of-way, or in response to the opponent's attack.

**Counter-parry :** [Contre-parade](#)

a parry made in the opposite line to the attack; ie. the defender first comes around to the opposite side of the opponent's blade.

**Counter-riposte :** [Contre-riposte](#)

an attack that follows a parry of the opponent's riposte.

**Direct :** [Coup droit](#)

an attack or riposte that finishes in the same line in which it was formed, with no feints out of that line.

**Disengage :** [Dégagement](#)

a circular movement of the blade that deceives the opponent's parry, removes the blades from engagement, or changes the line of engagement.

**Engagement :** [Engagement](#)

when the blades are in contact with each other, eg. during a parry, attack au fer, prise de fer, or coule'.

**En Garde :** [En garde](#)

also On Guard; the fencing position; the stance that fencers assume when preparing to fence.

**Feint :** [Feinte](#)

attacking into one line with the intention of switching to another line before the attack is completed.

**FIE :** FIE (Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime)

Federation Internationale d'Esgrime, the world governing body of fencing.

**Foil :** [Fleuret](#)

a fencing weapon with rectangular cross-section blade and a small bell guard; any sword that has been buttoned to render it less dangerous for practice.

**Forte :** [Le fort de la lame](#)

the lower, strong part of the blade.

**French Grip :** Poignée droite

a traditional hilt with a slightly curved grip and a large pommel.

**Guard :** [Coquille](#)

the metal cup or bow that protects the hand from being hit. Also, the defensive position assumed when not attacking.

**Invitation :** [Invite](#)

a line that is intentionally left open to encourage the opponent to attack.

**Line :** [Ligne](#)

the main direction of an attack (eg., high/low, inside/outside), often equated to the parry that must be made to deflect the attack; also point in line.

**Lunge :** [Fente](#)

an attack made by extending the rear leg and landing on the bent front leg.

**Mal-parry :** [Parade insuffisante](#)

also mal-paré; a parry that fails to prevent the attack from landing.

**Parry :** [Parade](#)

a block of the attack, made with the forte of one's own blade.

**Phrase :** [Phrases d'armes](#)

a set of related actions and reactions in a fencing conversation.

**Piste :** Piste

the linear strip on which a fencing bout is fought; approx. 2m wide and 14m long.

**Pistol Grip :** Crosse; poignée orthopédique

a modern, orthopaedic grip, shaped vaguely like a small pistol; varieties are known by names such as Belgian, German, Russian, and Visconti.

**Plastron :** [Plastron](#)

a partial jacket worn for extra protection; typically a half-jacket worn under the main jacket on the weapon-arm side of the body.

**Point :** [Touche](#)

a valid touch; the tip of the sword; an attack made with the point (ie. a thrust)

**Priority :** [Priorité](#)

in sabre, the now-superseded rules that decide which fencer will be awarded the touch in the event that they both attack simultaneously; also used synonymously with right-of-way.

**Prise de Fer :** [Prise de fer](#)

also taking the blade; an engagement of the blades that forces the opponent's weapon into a new line. See : bind, croise, envelopment, opposition.

**Quarte :** [Quarte](#)

parry #4; blade up and to the inside, wrist supinated.

**Red Card** : Carton rouge  
used to indicate repeated minor rule infractions or a major rule infraction by one of the fencers; results in a point being given to the other fencer.

**Referee** : [Arbitre](#), [Président](#)  
also director, president; the mediator of the fencing bout.

**Remise** : [Remise](#)  
immediate replacement of an attack that missed or was parried, without withdrawing the arm.

**Retreat** : [Retraite](#)  
step back; opposite of advance.

**Right-of-way** : Raison, [Priorité](#)  
rules for awarding the point in the event of a double touch in foil or sabre.

**Riposte** : [Riposte](#)  
an attack made immediately after a parry of the opponent's attack.

**Salute** : [Salut](#)  
with the weapon, a customary acknowledgement of one's opponent and referee at the start and end of the bout.

**Septime** : [Septime](#)  
parry #7; blade down and to the inside, wrist supinated.

**Simultaneous** : [Attaques simultanées](#)  
in foil and sabre, two attacks for which the right-of-way is too close to determine.

**Sixte** : [Sixte](#)  
parry #6; blade up and to the outside, wrist supinated.

**Thrust** : Coup de pointe, coup d'[estoc](#)  
an attack made by moving the sword parallel to its length and landing with the point.

**Yellow Card** : Carton jaune  
also avertissement, warning; used to indicate a minor rule infraction by one of the fencers.