

Dancing Calls/terms

What you will hear callers saying - they may also sometimes use French -we hope this will help

English	Meaning
Lady / <i>dame</i>	
Gentleman / <i>monsieur</i>	
Honours (less often called Reverence, usually for earlier dances)	Curtsey for lady and bow for man - to ones partner at the beginning and end of the dance - be alert - sometimes the music just jumps in and no time for honours is given - the caller will let you know.
Honours (Lady)	Step sideways, closing in first position, bend both knees. Look at partner on commencing honour, then lower eyes until completed. Not exaggerated or too deep.
Honours (Gent)	Step sideways, and bow from the waist (i.e. keep hips on the vertical) , close foot behind. Look at partner on commencing honour, then lower eyes until completed. Not exaggerated or too deep.
Left / <i>Gauche</i>	eg. moulinet right - dancers will extend their right hands to perform the move physiognomy dictates that they will dance clockwise
Right / <i>Droit</i>	eg moulinet left - the left hand will be extended which dictates that the circle will be danced anti-clockwise
Circle / <i>Rond/Grand Rond</i>	Persons identified by the caller join hands and dance in a circle
Allemande turn	Right Allemande - standing sideways to partner, extend your right arm to behind your partner's back (linking elbows) to hold the hand waiting there, while at the same time putting your left arm behind your own back. to receive your partner's extended hand. Turn round each other - maintaining eye contact . Reverse for a Left Allemande.
the line	usually the dancers who are standing side by side with each other for example down one side of a longways set or one side of a three couple set
Star / <i>Moulinet</i>	Circular move in which the dancers link hands in the centre and dance round. Usually in a group of four. Take the hand of your diagonal, not bunching all hands together. 1st gentleman and 2nd lady have their hands above the other two
<i>Chassé Croisé</i>	Sideways steps. Facing into the set, the lady always dances crossing in front of the gentleman , he dancing right, and she dancing left, as they dance in opposite directions to each other. They then dance back into their original positions. When facing each other, they dance out to their respective rights and back to face each other again.
<i>Jeté</i>	A small spring forward from one foot, landing lightly on the toe of the other
Hop	A small spring up from one foot landing on the same foot
<i>Assemblé</i>	Small jump in which the back foot is brought round to the front and the dancer lands on both feet often associated with a jeté immediately beforehand
<i>Tems Levé</i>	brief hop on one leg with no transfer of weight often as the other leg is being raised and extended eg. at the start of a move
Balance / <i>Balancez</i>	A step to the side transferring weight onto the other foot and then sideways back again . The exact movement depends upon the step and music timing used.

English	Meaning
set	A movement on the spot - small hop onto R foot with L foot following, transfer weight briefly to L foot and then back to R. Repeat in the opposite direction
hey	There are various forms - this is the essential to know. Most usual is in the line of three. Top dancer (no.1) looks down the set, the other two (2 and 3) look up. They weave amongst themselves, essentially tracing a figure of 8 on the floor.
Cross Hey	A specified dancer crosses to the other side of the set and performs a hey with the opposite side dancers and returns to place
Mirror Hey alternately known as Grimstock Hey	both sides of the set hey at the same time with partners alternately coming together to go between or parting to go outside a couple coming in the opposite direction - in at the middle, out at the ends.
ladies hey	Usually in a square dance. Ladies move into the centre of the set and half left moulinet so as to move towards the opposite position. They are received by the man waiting there (having moved sideways into his partner's place) who right hand turns her to go back into the middle. Ladies return to the middle where they half moulinet left to return to their own side. They are received by their own partner who right hand turns them both to place.
Foot it - Back step	Hop on L foot, passing R foot behind
Foot it - Single	Hop on L foot, passing R behind, then make a gentle spring sideways left on L, closing R behind (one bar)
Foot it - Double	Hop on L foot, passing R behind, then make a gentle spring sideways left on L, closing R behind. Then make two further side springs on L closing R behind
Petronella	An anti-clockwise turn single during which the dancer moves from one line to another - usually to the adjacent side of the set on the left.
<i>Poussette</i>	Facing partner holding by both hands dancers move up and down the set by pushing out and pulling back into line in a different place - there are a number of types, the most common being ordinary poussette (effectively the couples do a dos á dos move) and drawn poussette (one partner leads and the other follows)
Hole in the wall	Partners move towards each other meeting in the middle of the set turning face to face and then moving on to occupy the place of the other
Turn	Move with two dancers taking either one or two hands and making a small circle round each other. The caller may direct full turns or fractions of a turn as the dance requires. Direction of the turn is dictated by which hand is being used, Two hand turns go clockwise.
turn single	Dancer turns alone either on the spot or in a tight circle - men usually turn over their left shoulder and ladies over their right but this may vary if the dancer is facing out of the set
Square hey/rights and lefts	In your set of four, a sequence where starting with your partner you dance across the set and, turn the person opposite you a quarter R turn (1) turn the next person a quarter turn in the line (2), crossing the set again and turn the next dancer a quarter turn (3) and finally in the line the next person (4) to end up back in place.

English	Meaning
<i>Tiroir</i>	In a square dance inside the set, you dance with your opposites across the set as a couple and back again. Phase 1 : One couple join hands and cross together while the other couple separate and cross the set outside the others. Phase 2: Both couples turn and reverse rôles (inside and outside) to dance back to place
Grand Square / <i>Grand Carré</i>	Heads link inside hands and take two steps forward, meeting in the middle. Take two hands with vis á vis and take two sideways steps out of the set, drop hands and take two steps back, then two steps sideways back into position, each dancer having moved in their own square. While this is being performed, the sides do the opposite, ie moving sideways out of the set as the heads are going in, forwards to meet vis á vis as the heads are going out, sideways into the centre as the heads are going sideways on the outside, and then backwards to meet partner as the heads are coming in sideways to partner. Often the whole process is then repeated in reverse.
Heads	In Cotillion or Quadrille, the two couples facing each other who are closest and furthest away from the top (eg. North and South)
Sides	In Cotillion or Quadrille the other two couples facing each other on the side (eg East and West)
Go down	move away from the top of the set
go up	move towards the top of the set
Cross	move from your place across the set towards the opposite line - if partners are crossing at the same time they usually pass by their right shoulder
cast	man turns over left shoulder, lady turns over right shoulder and move down the outside of the set for however many positions may be directed. one can also cast up in which case the shoulder over which you turn is reversed. Dancers may cast individually or at the same time as may be directed.
Acknowledge	Engage eyes and slight inclination of the head - usually to your opposite (vis à vis)
Opposite / <i>vis à vis</i>	person standing directly opposite you in a square set where your partner would be if you were standing there as a couple
	You may hear the following mentioned by a caller- these will best be covered in detail in our masterclass series of videos and so not covered here.
Drop step/ <i>Allemande</i> step	
<i>Chassé</i> step	
<i>Fleuret</i> also called <i>Pas de Bouré</i> step	
Waltz step	
Strathspey step	
Scottish / <i>Schottische</i>	
Long balance	
Rigadon/ <i>rigaudon</i>	

English	Meaning
<i>Balloté</i>	
<i>Comratems</i>	

Notes:

1. All steps should be done on the half or three-quarter toe.
2. All leaps or hops should land on the half or three-quarter toe, the heel then sinking gently and silently to the floor.
3. Feet off the floor should have toes pointed.