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FENCING



ЛЬВІВСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ ФІЗИЧНОЇ КУЛЬТУРИ

Кафедра української та іноземних мов

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методична розробка
з англійської мови

для самостійної та аудиторної роботи
з теми
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для студентів III курсу
денної та заочної форми навчання
за напрямом підготовки «фізичне виховання» та «спорт»

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FENCING

Text A

Pre-text exercises

1. Read and learn the active vocabulary.

Bout (<i>combat</i>), <i>n</i>	- бій, сутичка (поєдинок)
centre line	- середина
cut at head	- удар в голову
defender (<i>defending fencer</i>)	- захисник, відбиваючий удар
electric epee (<i>electric foil</i>)	- шпага з електрофіксатором, рапіра
epee, with electrical scoring equipment	- шпага з електричним обладнанням для визначення уколів
epeeist, <i>n</i>	- фехтувальник на шпагах, шпажист
epee, a thrust weapon	- шпага
fencing master (<i>fencing instructor</i>)	- інструктор, майстер фехтування
fencing measures	- фехтувальні дистанції
first position for fencer's salute (<i>initial position, on guard position</i>)	- реверанс, вихідне положення, привітання фехтувальника, (позиція початку бою)
foil, <i>n</i>	- рапіра
grip, <i>n</i>	- рукоятка
guard	- гарда
guard line	- стартова лінія поєдинку, попередження
piste, <i>n</i>	- фехтувальна доріжка
sabre, <i>n</i>	- шабля
scoring	- рахунок, кількість набраних очок
scoring lights	- лампа для підрахунку уколів
stab, <i>n</i>	- удар, укол
straight thrust (<i>a fencing movement</i>)	- прямий випад у фехтуванні
strip (<i>piste</i>), <i>n</i>	- доріжка

2. Translate without using a dictionary.

Actual, apparatus, category, character, classical, collective, design, discipline, electronic, metal, minimize, modern, original, Paralympic sport, period, personal, realistic, referee, special, standard, theoretical, tradition, variant.

3. Read and translate the text.

FENCING

Fencing is the art of armed combat involving cutting, stabbing, or bludgeoning weapons directly manipulated by hand, rather than shot, thrown or positioned. Fencing is one of the four sports which have been featured at every modern Olympic Games.

Three types of weapon are used in Olympic fencing: foil - a light thrusting weapon; the valid target is restricted to the torso. Epee - a heavy thrusting weapon; the valid target area covers the entire body. Sabre - a light cutting and thrusting weapon; the valid target area includes almost everything above the waist. Every weapon has a blade and a hilt. The hilt consists of a guard and a grip. The guard is a metal shell designed to protect the fingers. The grip is the weapons actual handle. All of the weapons used for modern competition have electrical wiring which allows them to register a touch on the opponent.

A fencing bout takes place on a strip, or piste, which, according to the current FIE regulations, should be between 1.5 and 2 meters wide and 14 meters long. There are at least three people involved: two fencers and a referee. The referee may be assisted by two or four side-judges (*also known as corner-judges*). Under current FIE rules, a fencer may ask for two side-judges if he thinks that the referee is failing to notice some infringement of the rules on his opponent's part.

To begin a bout, the referee stands at the side of the piste. The fencers walk on piste fully dressed, aside from the mask. If necessary, they plug their body wires into the spools connected to the electronic scoring apparatus and test their weapons against each other, to make sure everything is functioning. They then retreat to their on-guard lines. Prior to starting a bout, the fencers must salute first the referee, then each other. Refusal to do so can result in a fencer's suspension or disqualification. They may also choose to salute the audience and/or the referee's assistants (when they are present).

The fencers start and stop the light at the referee's command. Generally, referees interrupt the fight, whenever the electronic apparatus registers a touch (either on or off-target), whenever one or both of the fencers break the rules of the game, or whenever they feel that the action is just becoming too dangerous or too difficult to follow. If a point has been awarded, then the competitors return to their on-guard lines; if not, they remain approximately where they were when the bout was interrupted but with at least two blades' distance between them. The referee will then restart the bout. This procedure is repeated until either one of the fencers has reached the required number of points or until the time allowed for the bout runs out.

Fencing bouts are timed: the clock is started every time the referee calls "Play!" and stopped every time he calls "Halt!" The bout must stop after three minutes of fencing (or 8 touches in sabre). In 15 point bouts, a 1 minute break occurs in between the three minute intervals. If 9 minutes of fencing time elapse in a 15 touch bout, or 3 in a 5 touch bout, the bout is over, and the current scores are taken as final. If the score is tied when time runs out, then the fencers go into an extra minute, at the beginning of which the referee randomly assigns "advantage" to one of the fencers. The first touch within the extra minute wins the fight. If neither fencer makes a touch during the extra minute, the winner is the fencer who had "advantage".

At international events, all refereeing is in French, which is the official language of international fencing. At domestic events, referees typically use the language of the country.

(Originated from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Post-text exercises

1. Give Ukrainian equivalents to the following phrases.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) the art of armed combat | 6) prior to starting |
| 2) electronic scoring apparatus | 7) corresponding hand gestures |
| 3) aside from the mask | 8) at domestic events |
| 4) their on-guard lines | 9) the valid target |
| 5) the current scores | 10) thrusting weapon |

2. Match the definitions to the following notions.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1) attack | a) an offensive movement made by crossing the back foot in front of leading foot, usually leading by a short run; |
| 2) ballestra | b) a defensive action made with the weapon to prevent a touch being scored; |
| 3) bout | c) initial offensive action made by extending the arm and threatening the opponent's valid target; |
| 4) counterattack | d) the position taken by a fencer signaling a readiness to fence; |
| 5) feint | e) to move backward to open the distance from an opponent; |
| 6) fleche | f) a forward or a backward movement employing a jump before the lunge; |
| 7) on guard | g) an offensive action of the fencer who has parried an attack; |
| 8) parry | h) a contest between two individuals; |
| 9) retreat | i) offensive or defensive - defensive action made in response to the offensive action of the opponent; |
| 10) riposte | j) a movement of a blade designed to draw a parry or other reaction from the opponent. |

3. Combine the following words and translate them.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) electronic | a) time |
| 2) fencer's | b) minute |
| 3) target | c) apparatus |
| 4) extra | d) suspension |
| 5) fencing | e) area |
| 6) domestic | f) regulations |
| 7) current | g) events |
| 8) light | h) cutting |
| 9) modern | i) kind |
| 10) traditional | j) competition |

4. Insert the prepositions where necessary.

of (6) at (2) by after until for in (2) out into between during

1. Fencing is one ... the four sports which has been featured ... every modern Olympic Games.
2. The referee may be assisted ... two or four side-judges.
3. ... domestic events, referees typically use the language ... the country.
4. The bout must stop ... three minutes ... fencing
5. The procedure is repeated ... either one ... the fencers has reached the required number ... points.
6. All ... the weapons used ... modern competition have electrical wiring.
7. A 1 minute break occurs ... the three minute intervals.
8. If the score is tied when time runs ..., then the fencers go ... an extra minute.
9. If neither fencer makes a touch ... the extra minute, the winner is the fencer who had "advantage".
10. Refusal to do so can result ... a fencer's suspension or disqualification.

5. Match two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Fencing is one of the four sports ... | a) ... designed to protect the fingers. |
| 2. Fencing actions are exaggerated ... | b) ... tends to increase the pace of bouts. |
| 3. The guard is a metal shell ... | c) ... which has been featured at every Olympic Games. |
| 4. The proximity of the two fencers ... | d) ... for dramatic effect and clarity. |
| 5. The hilt consists ... | e) ... to register a touch on the opponent. |
| 6. All of the weapons allows ... | f) ... of a guard and a grip. |
| 7. The clothing in modern fencing ... | g) ... by two or four side-judges. |
| 8. The referee may be assisted ... | h) ... is made of tough cotton or nylon. |
| 9. The fencers start and stop ... | i) ... every time the referee calls "Halt!". |
| 10. The clock is stopped ... | j) ... the fight at the referee's command. |

6. Complete the sentences with appropriate words and word combinations.

1. ... are varied in their format, and there are both individual and team competitions.
2. A tournament may comprise all three ... , both individual and team.
3. ... was once part of many schools' physical education curriculum, and many schools had clubs and would compete in inter-school tournaments.
4. ... began as swords which were designed to use the point, in addition to heavy cuts.
5. The proximity of the two ... tends to increase the pace of bouts, which require considerable skill.
6. To begin a bout, the ... stands at the side of the piste.
7. The ... is a metal shell designed to protect the fingers.
8. Knee-length or thigh high ... which should cover knee and thighs.
9. Traditionally, the fencers' ... is white in colour.
10. The ... target covers everything above the waist, except the hands and the back of the head.

7. Answer the following questions.

1. What is fencing?
2. What is the piste's size?
3. How many people are involved on a strip?
4. Where does referee stand to begin a bout?
5. When does referee can interrupt the fight?
6. How many judges the referee may be assisted by?
7. What are the referee's commands during the boat?
8. What is the official language of the international fencing?
9. How many types of weapon are used in Olympic fencing? What are they?
10. What types of fencing do you know?

8. Finish the following sentences.

1. Fencing is the art of ...
2. Three types of weapon are used in Olympic fencing: ...
3. Prior to starting a bout, the fencers must ...
4. Every weapon has ...
5. The tip of the blade is ...
6. The hilt consists of ...
7. The grip is ...
8. The fencers start and stop the fight ...
9. Neither the referee nor the fencers need ...
10. Referees interrupt the fight, whenever ...

1. Read the text to find the information about.

- 1) *a popular sport in the European middle ages;*
- 2) *the basis of modern epee fencing;*
- 3) *early sport sabers;*
- 4) *the first modern Olympic games;*
- 5) *dueling after the First World War.*

Swordfighting as sport has existed since ancient Egypt, and has been practiced in many forms in various cultures since then. Although jousting and tournament combat was a popular sport in the European middle ages, modern fencing owes more to unarmoured dueling forms that evolved from 16th century rapier combat. Rapiers evolved from cut-and-thrust military swords, but were most popular amongst civilians who used it for self-defence and dueling. Rapiers were edged, but the primary means of attack was the thrust. Rapier fencing spread from Spain and Italy to northwest Europe, in spite of the objections of masters such as George Silver who preferred traditional cutting weapons such as the English broad sword. The Spanish school, under masters such as Narvaez and Thibault, became a complicated and mystical affair whose geometrical theories required much practice to master. Italian masters like Agrippa and Capo Ferro developed a more pragmatic school in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, introducing innovations such as linear fencing and the lunge. By the 18th century, the rapier had evolved to a simpler, shorter, and lighter design that was popularized in France as the small sword. Although the small sword often had an edge, it was only to discourage the opponent from grabbing the blade, and the weapon was used exclusively for thrusting. The light weight made a more complex and defensive style possible, and the French masters developed a school based on defence with the sword, subtlety of movement, and complex attacks. When buttoned with a leather safety tip that resembled a flower bud, the small sword was known as le fleuret, and was identical in use to the modern foil (still known as le fleuret in French). Indeed, the French small sword school forms the basis of most of modern fencing theory. By the mid-19th century, dueling was in decline as a means of settling disputes, partially because victory could lead to a jail term for assault or manslaughter. Emphasis shifted to defeating the opponent without necessarily killing him, and less fatal dueling forms evolved using the dueling sword, or epee de terrain, an

unedged variant of the small sword. Later duels often ended with crippling thrusts to the arm or leg, and fewer legal difficulties for the participants. This is the basis of modern epee fencing. Cutting swords had been used in bloodsports such as backsword prizefights at least as far back as the 17th century. Broadswords, sabres, and cutlasses were used extensively in military circles, especially by cavalry and naval personell, and saw some dueling application in these circles as well. Training was performed with wooden weapons, and stick fighting remained popular until Italian masters formalized sabre fencing into a non-fatal sporting/training form with metal weapons in the late 19th century. Early sport sabres were significantly heavier than the modern sport sabre and necessitated a strong style with the use of moulinets and other bold movements. As with thrusting swords, the sabre evolved to lighter, less fatal dueling forms such as the Italian sciabola di terro and the German schlager. Hungarian masters developed a new school of sabre fencing that emphasized finger control over arm strength, and they dominated sabre fencing for most of the 20th century. Dueling faded away after the First World War. A couple of noteworthy duels were fought over disputes that arose during Olympic games in the 1920s, and there have been rare reports of sword duels since then. In October 1997, the Mayor of Calabria, Italy, publicly challenged certain Mafiosos to a duel. German fraternity dueling (mensur) still occurs with some frequency. The first modern Olympic games featured foil and sabre fencing for men only. Epee was introduced in 1900. Single stick was featured in the 1904 games. Epee was electrified in the 1936 games, foil in 1956, and sabre in 1988. Early Olympic games featured events for Masters, and until recently fencing was the only Olympic sport that has included professionals. Foil fencing experienced similar upheavals for a decade or two following the introduction of electric judging, which was further complicated by the new, aggressive, athletic style coming out of eastern Europe at the time. Women's foil was first contested in the 1924 Olympic games, and Women's epee was only contested for the first time in 1996, although it has been part of the World Championships since 1989. Women's sabre made its first appearance in the 1998 World Championships as a demonstration sport. More recently, women's sabre is slated to make its first appearance as an Olympic medal sport in the 2004 Athens Games.

(Originated from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

2. Are the sentences true or false? Correct any false sentences.

1. Swordfighting as sport has existed since ancient Greece, and has been practiced in many forms in various cultures since then.
2. Rapiers evolved from cut-and-thrust military swords, but were most famous amongst civilians who used it for self-defence and dueling.
3. The first modern Olympic games featured foil and sabre fencing for men and women.
4. Epee was electrified in the 1936 games, foil in 1956, and sabre in 1988.
5. Hungarian masters developed a school based on defence with the sword, subtlety of movement, and complex attacks.
6. Early Olympic games featured events for Masters, and until recently fencing was the only Olympic sport that has included professionals.
7. Early sport sabres were significantly lighter than the modern sport sabre.
8. In October 1997, the Mayor of Calabria publicly challenged certain Mafiosos to a duel.
9. Italian masters like Agrippa and Capo Ferro developed a more pragmatic school introducing innovations such as linear fencing and the lunge.
10. More recently, women's sabre is slated to make its first appearance as an Olympic medal sport in the 2004 Athens Games.

3. Divide the text into paragraphs. Give headings to them.

4. Work in pairs. Ask and answer your own questions on the text.

5. Title the text and write an abstract of it.

1. Read the text. Translate it in a written form.**Rules**

Foil and sabre are governed by priority rules, according to which the fencer who is the first to initiate an attack or the last to take a successful parry receives priority. In the event of a double touch (both fencers landing a hit at the same time), only the fencer who had priority receives a point. These rules were adopted in the 18th century as part of teaching practice. Their main aim was to discourage careless tactics, which result in simultaneous hits and, in a real duel, would leave both participants dead (the least desirable outcome). In both sabre and foil, there are rules regarding what can be considered a properly executed attack or parry. Prior to the introduction of electronic scoring equipment, a director (formerly called the president of jury) was assisted by four judges. Two judges were positioned behind each fencer, one on each side of the strip. The judges watched the fencer opposite to see if he was hit. This system is sometimes called "dry" fencing (USA) or "steam" (United Kingdom, Australia) fencing. Electronic scoring is used in all major national and international, and most local, competitions. At Olympic level, it was first introduced to *épée* in 1936, to foil in 1956, and to sabre in 1988. The central unit of the scoring system is commonly known as "the box". In the simplest version both fencers' weapons are connected to the box via long retractable cables. The box normally carries a set of lights to signal when a touch has been made. (Larger peripheral lights are also often used.) In foil and sabre, because of the need to distinguish on-target hits from off-target ones, special conductive clothing and wires must be worn. This includes a *lamé*, (a jacket of conducting cloth) for both weapons, a body cord to connect the weapon to the system, a reel of retractable cable that connects to the scoring box and in the case of sabre, a conducting mask and cuff (*manchette*) as the head and arms are valid target areas. At the most basic level, fencing revolves around the opening and closing of various lines of attack and defense. In order for one fencer to hit, the other must make a mistake and leave an "opening". Fencing tactics rely on a mixture of "open-eyes" opportunism and deliberate "set-ups", where the opponent is systematically fed false information about one's own intentions.

For each weapon, the style is greatly different. There is a tendency for sabre to have the shortest bout time. Sabre requires the highest level of footwork. There is no one right way to fence sabre, with that said, there are clear strategies to sabre. With foil it falls right in between sabre and *épée*. Foil fencers can choose to fence more like sabre or more like an *épée*. *Épée* tends not to be fast.

It requires a finer level of control. The only thing that holds true for all weapons is that learning how to react to the opponent and change tactics. A great deal in fencing depends on being in the right place at the right time. In general, Olympic fencing has put a premium on balance, speed, and athleticism in footwork, somewhat diluting orthodoxies regarding the classical stances and methods. To a degree, this has led to increasing resemblance between fencing footwork and that of other martial arts, with the significant caveat that a scoring “touch” requires almost no power behind the blow, only timing and the ability to manipulate distance.

(Originated from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

2. Compile a vocabulary of fencing terms.

3. Make a presentation of fencing.

Forms of fencing

Contemporary fencing is divided in three broad categories: *competitive fencing*, *fencing as a Western martial art*, *other forms of fencing*.

Competitive fencing

There are numerous inter-related forms of competitive fencing in practice, all of which approach the activity as a sport, with varying degrees of connectedness to its historic past.

Olympic fencing (or simply “fencing”) refers to the fencing seen in most competitions, including the Olympic Games and the world cup. Competitions are conducted according to rules laid down by the Federation Internationale d’Escrime (FIE), the international governing body. These rules evolved from a set of conventions developed in Europe between mid 17th and early 20th century with the specific purpose of regulating competitive activity. They are loosely rooted in the practical requirements of fencing as a martial art. The three weapons used in Olympic fencing are foil, epee, and sabre. In competition, the validity of touches is determined by the electronic scoring apparatus, so as to minimize human error and bias in refereeing.

Wheelchair fencing, an original Paralympic sport, was developed in post-World War II England. Minor modifications to the FIE rules allow disabled fencers to fence all three weapons. The most apparent change is that each fencer sits in a wheelchair fastened to a frame. Footwork is replaced by torso or arm movement, depending on the fencer’s disability. The proximity of the two fencers tends to increase the pace of bouts, which require considerable skill. The weapons are identical to those used in Olympic fencing.

Other variants include one-hit epee (one of the five events which constitute modern pentathlon) and the various types of competitive fencing, whose rules are similar but not identical to the FIE rules. One example of this is the American Fencing League (distinct from the United States Fencing Association): the format of competitions is different, there is no electronic scoring, and the priority rules are interpreted in a different way. In a number of countries, the accepted practice at school and university level deviates slightly from the FIE format.

Fencing as a Western martial art

Some practitioners of fencing approach it as a Western martial art, with the goal being to train for a theoretical duel. The element of sport is absent (or nearly so) from these forms of fencing, but they all share a common origin with each other and with competitive fencing.

Classical fencing is differentiated from competitive fencing as being theoretically closer to swordplay as a martial art. Those who call themselves classical fencers may advocate the use of what they see as more authentic practices, including little or no emphasis on sport competition. There is strong interest within the classical fencing community in reviving the European fencing practices of the 19th and early 20th

century, when fencers were expected to be able to fight a duel using their training. Weapons used are the standard (non-electric) foil, standard epee (often equipped with pointes d'arret), and the blunted duelling sabre. AFI. fencing is often referred to as classical fencing, but this is a misnomer.

Historical fencing is a type of historical martial arts reconstruction based on surviving texts and traditions. Predictably, historical fencers study an extremely wide array of weapons from different regions and periods. They may work with bucklers, daggers, polearms, navajas, bludgeoning weapons, etc. One main preoccupation of historical fencers is with weapons of realistic weight, which demand a different way of manipulating them from what is the norm in modern Fencing. For example, light weapons can be manipulated through the use of the fingers (more flexibility), but more realistically-weighted weapons must be controlled more through the wrist and elbow. This difference is great and can lead to drastic changes even in the carriage of the body and footwork in combat. There is considerable overlap between classical and historical fencing, especially with regard to 19th-century fencing practices.

Other forms of fencing. This circa 1900 painting illustrates a typical mensur bout in Heidelberg, Germany. The combatants have their swords high in the air and are wearing only metal goggles to protect the eyes and nose. Finally, there are several other forms of fencing which have little in common besides history with either of the other two classifications.

Competition formats

Fencing tournaments are varied in their format, and there are both individual and team competitions. A tournament may comprise all three weapons, both individual and team, or it may be very specific, such as an Epee Challenge, with individual epee only. And, as in many sports, men and women compete separately in high-level tournaments. Mixed-gender tournaments are commonplace at lower-level events, especially those held by individual fencing clubs. There are two types of event, individual and team. An individual event consists of two parts: the pools, and the direct eliminations.

In the pools, fencers are divided into groups, and every fencer in a pool will have the chance to fence every other fencer once. There are typically seven fencers in a pool. If the number of fencers competing is not a multiple of seven, then there will usually be several pools of six or eight. After the pools are finished, the fencers are given a ranking, or "seed," compared to all other fencers in the tournament, based primarily on the percent of bouts they won, then based secondarily on the difference between the touches they scored and the touches they received. Once the seeds have been determined, the direct elimination round starts. Fencers are sorted in a table of some power of 2 (16, 32, 64, etc.) based on how many people are competing. Due to the fact that it is highly unlikely for the number of fencers to be exactly a power of two, the fencers with the best results in the pools are given byes. The winner carries on in the tournament, and loser is eliminated. Fencing is slightly unusual in

that usually no one has to fence for third place (the exception is if the tournament is a qualifying tournament with limited slots for continuation). Instead, two bronze medals are given to the losers of the semi-final round.

Team competition involves teams of three fencers. A fourth fencer can be allowed on the team as an alternate, but as soon as the fourth has been subbed in, they cannot substitute again. The modern team competition is similar to the pool round of the individual competition. The fencers from opposing teams will each fence each other once, making for a total of nine matches. Matches between teams are three minutes long, or to 5 points, and the points then carry onto the next bout, making team fencing one forty-five touch bout fought by six fencers. Unlike individual tournaments, team tournaments almost always fence for bronze.

Collegiate fencing

Collegiate fencing has existed for a long time. Some of the earliest programs in the US came from the Ivy League schools, but now there are over 100 fencing programs in the US. Both clubs and varsity teams participate in the sport, however only the varsity teams may participate in the NCAA championship tournament. Due to the limited number of colleges that have fencing teams, teams fence inter-division (teams from Division I schools to Division III), and all divisions participate in the NCAA Championships.

Collegiate fencing tournaments are "team tournaments" in a sense, but contrary to what many people expect, collegiate meets are not run as 45-touch relays. Schools compete against each other one at a time. In each weapon and gender, three fencers from each school fence three fencers on the opposing team in five-touch bouts. (Substitutions are allowed, so more than three fencers per squad can compete in a tournament.) A fencer's individual results in collegiate tournaments and regional championships are used to select the fencers who will compete in NCAA championships. Individual results for fencers from each school are combined to judge the schools' overall performance and to calculate how it should be placed in a given tournament.

Fencing at the high school level has varied in popularity. Fencing was once part of many schools' physical education curriculum, and many schools had clubs and would compete in inter-school tournaments. In recent years in the United States, fencing has all but vanished from physical education classes. This has been attributed to worries about teaching children to use weapons or that it teaches violence and requires expensive equipment.

However, youth fencing has remained a club sport at some schools, and the last several years have seen an increase in fencing clubs and tournaments at the high school level. The United States Fencing Association has encouraged this through the Regional Youth Circuit program. High school fencing season is generally in winter. High school competitive fencing has grown significantly in the state of New Jersey, one of the few states where it remains a varsity sport.

(Originated from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia) Basketball Glossary

Fencing Glossary

Absence of blade - the situation in a bout when the opposing blades are not touching; opposite of engagement.

Advance-Lunge - an advance followed immediately by a lunge. The extension can occur before or during the advance, but always before the lunge. A good long-distance attack, especially in combination with Handwork. An Advance, followed by a lunge might have a tempo of 1-2---3, but an advance-lunge should have a tempo of 1--2-3.

Assault - a friendly combat between two fencers, where score may or may not be kept, and is generally not a part of any competition. Formerly, public exhibitions (spectator events) were often conducted as assaults, rather than as round-robin or direct-elimination events, especially with a few fencers.

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

Attaque au Fer - an attack on the opponent's blade, e.g. beat, expulsion, pressure.

Avertissement - (French) a warning; used to indicate a minor rule infraction by one of the fencers.

Beat Parry - deflecting the incoming attack with a sharp striking motion.

Black Card - a severe penalty. A black card is used to indicate the most serious offences in a fencing competition. The offending fencer is expelled immediately from the event or tournament, regardless of whether he or she had any prior warnings. A black card can also be used to expel a third party disrupting the match.

Bout - an assault at which the score is kept. Usually refers to a match between two fencers in a competition. This is the term used in the US to generally denote any combat between fencers, replacing the terms 'match' and 'assault'.

Change of Engagement - an engagement of the opponent's blade in the opposite line.

Conversation - the back-and-forth play of the blades in a fencing bout, composed of phrases (phrases d'armes) punctuated by gaps of no blade action.

Counter-Attack - an attack into an established attack (that already has right-of-way). In foil and sabre, a counter-attack does not have the right-of-way, and will not gain a touch if the opposing fencer's attack lands.

Counter-Riposte - a second, third, or further riposte in a fencing 'phrase' or encounter. A counter-riposte is the offensive action following the parry of any riposte.

Counter-time - an attack that responds to the opponent's counter-attack, typically a riposte following the parry of the counter-attack.

Croisé - also cross, semi-bind; an action in which one fencer forces the opponent's blade into the high or low line on the same side, by taking it with the guard and forte of his own blade.

Cross over - an advance or retreat by crossing one leg over the other;

Direct - an attack or riposte that finishes in the same line in which it was formed, with no feints out of that line. Most attacks that hit are done with straight attacks.

Disengage - a type of feint.

Displacement - moving the target to avoid an attack; dodging.

En garde - French for "on guard"; spoken at outset to warn one's opponent to take a defensive position.

Epée - a fencing weapon with triangular cross-section blade and a large bell guard; also a light dueling sword of similar design, popular in the mid-19th century, which was also called an 'Epée de Terrain.'

False attack - an attack that is intended to miss or fall short, so as to produce a reaction from the opponent.

Flunge - a concatenation of Fleche and Lunge - a "saber fleche". Rather the fencer starts as if with a fleche, but ends with a hop, skipping past the opponent. The rear leg is not brought in front of the front leg.

Foible - the top third of the blade.

Foil - a fencing weapon with rectangular cross-section blade and a small bell guard.

French Grip - a traditional hilt with a slightly curved grip and a large pommel.

Glide - an attack or preparatory movement made by sliding down the opponent's blade, keeping it in constant contact.

Guard - a cup-shaped metal (steel or aluminum) weapon part which protects the hand.

Indirect - an attack or riposte that finishes in a line different from that in which it was formed.

Inside - the direction to the front of the body. (The left for a right-hander.)

Insistence - forcing an attack through the parry, using strength.

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

Lamé - the electrically conductive jacket worn by Foil and Sabre fencers.

Longsword - a larger cutting sword that could be used with one or two hands.

Lunge - the most basic and common attacking movement in modern fencing.

Manchette - a special glove cover worn by sabre fencers, on their weapon hand.

Maraging steel - a special steel alloy used for making blades rated for international competition.

Neuvieme - blade behind the back, pointing down; alternatively, similar to elevated sixte. Originally used in sabre, to defend the back against a passing or overtaking opponent. Covers the outside line on the back.

Octave - blade down and to the outside, wrist supinated. The point is lower than the hand. Covers the outside low line.

Passé - an attack that passes the target without hitting.

Prime - blade down and to the inside, wrist pronated. The point is significantly lower than the hand. Covers the inside low-line (this is a rare sabre parry).

Pronation - the position of the hand when the palm is facing down. See Supination.

Quarte - blade up and to the inside, wrist supinated. The point is higher than the hand. Covers the inside high line.

Quillion - a bar that composes all or part of the guard of a sword.

Reprise - an indirect renewal of an attack that missed or was parried. This is a continuation of an attack, and does not have priority (in foil and sabre) over a direct riposte.

Retreat - the basic backwards movement. Rear foot reaches backwards and is firmly planted, then front leg pushes body weight backwards smoothly into 'en garde' stance.

Riposte - an attack with right-of-way following a valid parry. A simple (or direct) riposte goes straight from the parry position to the target. A riposte may attack in any line. Consider its equivalent in a conversation.

Seconde - blade down and to the outside, wrist pronated. The point is significantly lower than the hand. Covers the outside low line in sabre, replacing octave.

Simple - an attack or riposte that involves no feints.

Sixte - blade up and to the outside, wrist supinated. The point is higher than the hand. Covers the outside high line. This is generally the parry taught as the basic en garde position in foil and epee.

Smallsword - a light dueling sword popular in the 18th century. These were, as often as not, a fashion accessory as much as a gentleman's weapon, and were decorated as such.

Supination - the position of the hand when the palm is facing up.

Three Prong - a type of epee body wire/connector; also an old-fashioned tip that would snag clothing, to make it easier to detect hits in the pre-electric era.

Thrust - an attack made by moving the sword parallel to its length and landing with the point.

Tierce - the point is significantly higher than the hand. Covers the outside high line. This is the basic en garde position in sabre.

Trompement - the action of hitting an opponent at the end of a feint, after a successful deception.

Two Prong - a type of body-wire/connector, used in foil and sabre.

Yellow Card - used to indicate a minor rule infraction by one of the fencers.

Yielding Parry - deflecting the incoming attack by maintaining contact with the blade and changing the point of contact between the blades, moving from a position of poor leverage to one using the forte for strong leverage.

Zornhau - technique used in German Longsword (Kunst Des Fechtens), a diagonal blow from right to left, literal translation is "Wrathful Strike".

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