

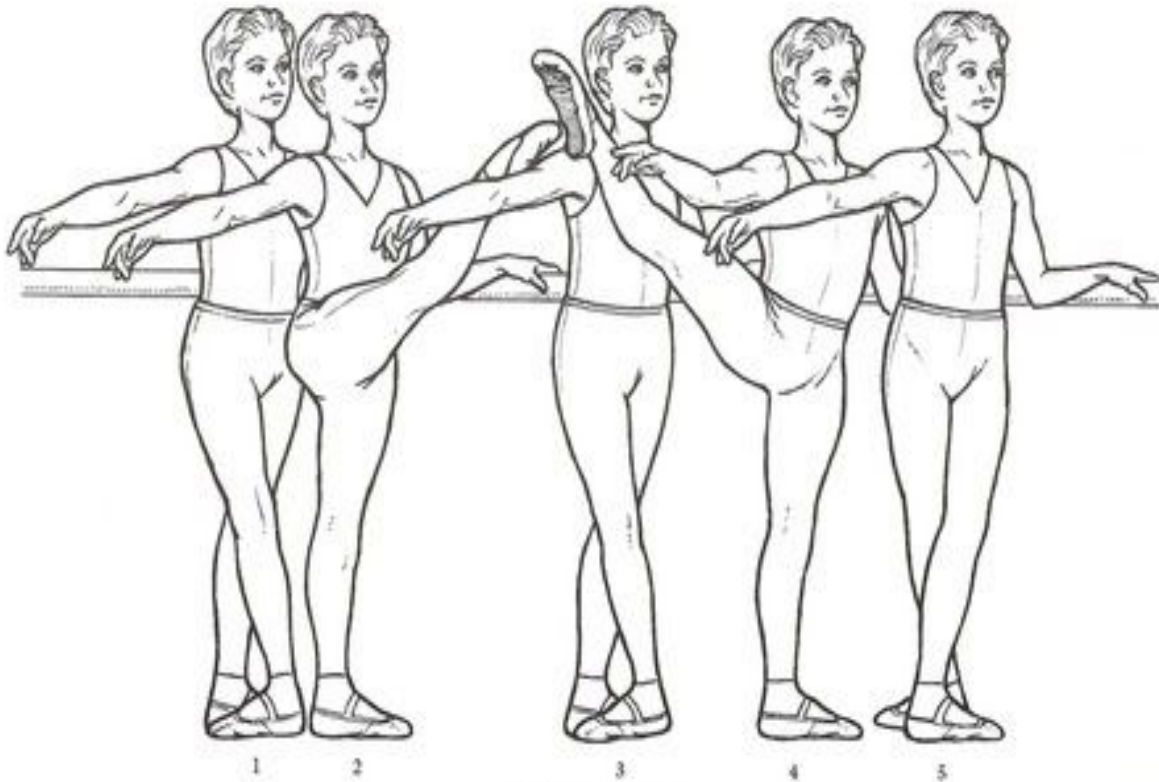


NORTH POINTE BALLET

Grand Battement

[grahn bat-MAHN]

Large battement (or beating). An exercise in which the working leg is raised from the hip into the air and brought down again, the accent being on the downward movement, both knees straight.



GRAND BATTEMENT

Grand battement is a large movement of the leg. It is done to strengthen the leg and increase extension (how high the leg reaches upward). Grand battement requires much strength and control. This student, with correct posture, feet in fifth, and right arm in second (1), does a grand battement en avant (to the front) (2), then à la seconde (to the side) (4) before returning to his starting position, with his left foot now in front (5). Grand battement may also be

done en arrière (to the back). As the dancer executes this step, the leg goes through battement tendu, then is lifted rapidly and strongly, and lowered slowly with much control. Throughout, the body is held correctly and still, the hips level and forward, the shoulders and arms steady and in place. Both legs have been held firm, straight, and turned out. In figure 4 we see a good example of turn out of the leg from the hip.