

abanico - fan

a palo seco - without accompaniment

bailaor, bailaora - flamenco dancer (male, female), as opposed to 'bailarin', which is any other dancer.

baile - flamenco dance; other (non-flamenco) types are referred to as 'danza'

bata de cola - dress with a train (literally: "gown [of/with] a tail")

braceo - a dancer's use of the arms

cantaor, cantaora - flamenco singer (male, female); other singers are often called a 'cantantes'

cante - flamenco song; other (non-flamenco) songs are cantos

castanuelas - castanets

cierre - close of a series of steps or a line of song

compas - a measure or bar; flamencos use the word to mean both (a) the name of the type of twelve-count and (b) the rhythmic skill of a performer

contratiempo - cross-rhythms, counter time

cuadro - a flamenco troupe

desplante - technically, a point in the dance that marks the end of a section. In fact, a high point, a climax in the dance at which the dancer pauses and the audience applauds

duende - literally, "spirit" of "demon"; suggesting possession. Flamencos may prefer the word ángel or el age

escobilla - literally "broom"; the section of a dance in which the bailaor/a does an extended zapateados (footwork)

estribillo - short phrases sung repeatedly at the end of a song; the last section of a dance done with singing, where the cantaor/a sings while the baile is danced

falsetas - solo passages on the guitar, short melodies played at the start and between verses of a song

jaleo - vocal encouragement given to performers, when the audience calls out such phrases as ezo!, arsa!, olé!, toma!, vamo

juerga - a lively flamenco party, often with only cante a golpe.

letra - copla of a song taken at its literary value; section of a dance when the cantaor/a is singing the lyrics

llamada - literally "call"; the opening of a dance

manton - shawl

marcar - to mark time, done by bailaor(a)s, usually while the cantaor(a) is singing; 'marcajes'

palmas - hand clapping. It is intricate art, requiring skill and knowledge of compas.

palo - song form; literally, a suit of cards. Palos fall into two main categories: those done in free rhythm (sin compas) and those done in rhythm (con compas)

remate - way of ending a song, either by raising a pitch, changing to the major, or simply speeding up, in a strong decisive manner

salida - start of the baile (literally, going or coming out)

tablaó - the venue for a tourist-oriented flamenco show