

TENNIS TERMINOLOGY

Ace: A winning serve that an opponent is unable to return.

Ad-Court: It is the left-side service court.

Advantage: A one-point lead over a 40-40 score is called an "Advantage". It gives a player the opportunity to win a game by winning the next point.

Alley: It is a rectangular strip along the sides of a court bounded by the singles and doubles sidelines. The term "Alley" is used only for doubles.

ATP: Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) is the governing body of men's professional tennis.

Backcourt: The furthest section of a tennis court which is the area between the service line and baseline.

Backhand: Backhand shots are taken on the non-dominant side of your body. For a one-handed backhand, your dominant hand comes into action with the back side of the palm facing toward the direction of the shot while for two-handed, both of your hands are involved.

Baseline: It is the boundary marking line at each end of a tennis court.

Break Point: "Break Point" is the situation when a returner is one point away from winning a game.

Cross Court: It refers to a shot that goes diagonally to the opposite side of a court

Deuce: It is the point of equality when the score in a game is 40-40.

Deuce Court: It is the right-side service court.

Double Fault: "Double Fault" refers to two consecutive service errors.

Down The Line: It is a tennis shot that is nearly parallel to the sideline. A good down-the-line tennis shot travels close to the sideline making it difficult for an opponent to react.

Drop Shot: It is played to place a ball short with the use of backspin or the combination of backspin and sidespin. When the opponent is near the baseline, a good drop shot often results in a point.

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Foot Fault: “Foot Fault” is an error that is due to the violation of the rule, “A server must stand behind the baseline while serving”.

Forehand: Forehand strokes are taken on the dominant side of your body. Right-hand players hit forehand strokes using the right hand and arm (left hand and arm for left-handed) with the palm facing toward the direction of the shot.

Game: A game is based on total counts of points.

Game Point: “Game Point” is a terminology in tennis that refers to the situation when any of the players has the opportunity to win the game by winning the next point.

Groundstroke: Groundstrokes may be either forehand or backhand strokes that are hit slightly away from the baseline after the ball bounces on the ground.

Grip: The term, “Grip” represents the proper holding technique of a tennis racket.

Half Volley: Half-volley is a tennis shot that is taken just after the ball bounces on the ground.

Let: It is a situation when the server has to serve again. “Let” is called by the umpire if a ball touches the net but lands inside the service box.

Lob: It is an offensive/ defensive shot in tennis to place the ball high and deep enough to the opponent’s side.

Love: A game starts with “Love All” i.e. with a score of 0-0.

Match: A tennis match is usually played with the best of 3 sets or 5 sets.

No Man’s Land: It is an unofficial term that denotes the area between the baseline and the service line.

Point: “Point” is an elementary scoring term that indicates the result of a game. The sequence of “Point” is “0”, “15”, and “40”.

Rally: A rally is an exchange of shots between two players.

Serve: “Serve” is the first shot in a rally. To deliver a valid serve, the server must stand behind the baseline and the first bounce of the ball must be within the diagonally opposite service court.

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Service Box: It is an area of 21' x 13.5' within which the ball must bounce for a good service. In each half, there are two service boxes, the right service box, and the left service box.

Service Line: It is a line parallel to the net beyond which the ball must bounce for a valid serve.

Set: A "Set" consists of games and to win a set, a player needs 6 games with a minimum difference of 2 games against his opponent, like 6-2, 3-6, or 6-4. If the set arrives at 5-6, there may be two situations, either the set ends at 5-7 or the result of the set (6-6) is decided by a tie-breaker.

Slice: "Slice" is nothing but backspin or underspin which is a backward rotational movement that slows a ball in the air.

Smash: It is an offensive tennis shot that is played over the head with a downward swing of the racket.

Stance: "Stance" is the readiness before making a shot by placing feet and transferring body weight.

Tie-Break: "Tie-break" is called to decide the fate of a set when the score is tied at 6 games all (6-6).

Topspin: It is the forwarding rotation of a ball that bounces high after hitting the ground. It helps to build consistency in play.

Volley: It is an offensive shot that cuts down the reaction time of the returner by hitting the ball before it bounces on the court.

WTA: Women's Tennis Association (WTA), the governing body of women's professional tennis.