

Tennis Terminology

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Basic Terms

A serve that the opponent cannot touch or return. ○ Ace

A score of 40-40 in a game. ○ Deuce

The point scored after deuce. If the server wins the point, it's "Advantage In"; if the receiver wins, it's "Advantage Out." ○ Advantage

A serve that lands outside the service box. ○ Fault

Two consecutive faults, resulting in the server losing the point. ○ Double Fault

Court Terms

The back boundary line of the court. ○ Baseline

The area a serve must land in for it to be considered valid. ○ Service Box

The area between the singles and doubles sidelines. Used in doubles play. ○ Alley

The barrier dividing the two halves of the court over which the ball must be hit. ○ Net

Shot Types

A shot hit from the racket side of the body. ○ Forehand

A shot hit from the non-racket side of the body. ○ Backhand

A shot hit before the ball bounces on the ground. ○ Volley

A powerful overhead shot, typically played close to the net. ○ Smash

A shot that sends the ball high and deep into the opponent's court. ○ Lob

Match Terms

Break Point ○ A situation where the receiver has a chance to win the game on the next point.

Break ○ Winning a game as the receiver.

Hold ○ Winning a game as the server.

Rally ○ A sequence of back-and-forth shots between players.

Let ○ A serve that hits the net but lands in the service box, requiring a replay of the serve.

Scoring Terms

Love ○ A score of zero.

Set ○ A unit of the match, won by the player who first wins six games with a margin of at least two games.

Match ○ The overall contest, won by the player who wins the required number of sets.

Tiebreak ○ A game played to decide a set when the score is 6-6. The first player to reach 7 points with a margin of two wins the tiebreak.

Positions

Baseline Player ○ A player who plays most points from the baseline.

Serve-and-Volley Player ○ A player who follows their serve to the net to volley.

All-Court Player ○ A player who can play effectively from both the baseline and the net.

Doubles ○ A match where teams of two players compete against each other.

Strategies

Crosscourt ○ A shot hit diagonally across the court.

Down the Line ○ A shot hit straight along the sideline.

Drop Shot ○ A softly hit shot that lands just over the net.

Passing Shot ○ A shot aimed to get past an opponent who is at the net.

Spin ○ Hitting the ball in a way that affects its bounce and trajectory (e.g., topspin, backspin).