

# Purple Hack

## Character Creation

### Roll Your Stats

Roll 3d6 down the line for each of the skills below. You can swap one set of stats.

- **Strength** measures physical might. It affects your lifting, carrying, and grappling. Any Str modifier is applied to your melee and thrown weapon attack damage.
- **Dexterity** measures agility, reflexes, and hand-eye coordination. Any Dex mod is applied to your Armor Class, as long as you can move freely.
- **Constitution** measures endurance and vitality. Any Con mod is applied to your Hit Point total at the start of the game and each time you go up a level.
- **Perception** measures your observational acuity. Any Per mod affects your ability to see through illusions, and to spot traps, secret doors, and ambushes.
- **Willpower** measures discipline and mental endurance. Any Will mod affects your ability to resist enchantment, fear, mind control, possession, and other mental attacks, as well as to avoid death.
- **Arcana** measures your connection to magical forces. Any Arc mod is applied to chances to learn spells and to saving throws to resist spell damage.

### Choose a Character Race & Make Any Adjustments

- **Humans:** The most flexible & common. +1 to one stat of your choice.
- **Dwarf:** +1 Con, -1 Dex. Add Con mod to saves vs poison. Cannot wield large weapons.
- **Elf:** +1 Per, -1 Str. 90% resistance to sleep and charm spells. Immune to ghoulish paralysis.
- **Half-Elf:** 30% resistance to sleep and charm spells.
- **Halfling:** -1 Str, +1 Dex. +1 bonus to missile weapon attacks. +2 AC vs large enemies. Cannot wield large weapons.

### Note Ability Score Modifiers

Ability Score	Modifier
2-3	-3
4-5	-2
6-8	-1
9-12	0
13-15	1
16-17	2
18-19	3

### Choose Your Class & Note Hit Die

#### Warrior

1d8 Hit Die (8hp+Con mod at 1st level). Receive attack bonus of +1 every level, starting at level 1, stopping at +15 at level 15. Can use any weapon or armor, so long as they meet its strength minimum, if any (see [equipment](#)). Every name level, warriors add an extra weapon die of damage to their armed combat attacks and an additional feat. At 1st level, warriors select one style, reflecting their preferred manner of fighting:

- **Arcanist:** You can read Mithric and gain access to two schools of magic of your choice. You can cast spells in armor as well as when being jostled. You cannot create or cast from scrolls, though you can copy spells from them. You have half the spell slots of a mage of your same level (rounded down, to a minimum of 1 slot). You start with a spellbook and spells the same way a mage does, but no schools or spells are automatically acquired through gaining levels. The source of your power must be defined.
- **Hordeslayer:** If you kill an opponent with an attack, you can immediately make a bonus attack of the same kind (melee or ranged). You can make a maximum number of melee bonus attacks per round equal to your level, and a maximum number of missile bonus attacks equal to your number of name levels plus 1.
- **Smite:** Once per combat encounter, you can declare a smite after you score a hit, melee or ranged, which doubles the number of damage dice rolled. If a smite was announced on a critical hit, the extra weapon dice do not automatically deal maximum damage.

#### Mage

1d6 Hit Die (6hp+Con mod at 1st level). Can cast one spell per round. Can use any weapon or armor, so long as they meet its strength minimum, if any, but they can't normally cast spells in armor. Receive attack bonus of +1 every two levels, starting at level 2. All spells are divided into eight schools (see [Magic & Spells](#)). By default, mages have access to four schools (one chosen, and three rolled randomly). After rolling, a mage can trade away access to one school (up to two maximum) in exchange for one of the following special abilities (each can be chosen only once, and only at character creation):

- **Battlemage:** You can cast spells while wearing light armor, and your class attack bonus improves to +1 every level, starting at level 1, stopping at +15.
- **Focused:** Select one additional mage feat.
- **Innate:** While you can still use them, you need not own a spellbook or consult one to prepare your

spells.

- **Specialist:** Choose one school you can already access. You have one additional spell slot at each spell level, to fill with a spell from this school. When you gain a level, you learn one extra random new spell from this school. Spells from this school are easier to bind.

**Starting Spells:** Mages start with one random 1st-level spell from each school to which they have access. Specialists then select one extra 1st-level spell of their choice from their specialty school. Mages can prepare a limited number of spells each day, and gain further spell slots as they gain levels (see [Magic & Spells](#)).

**New Spells:** Mages learn one random new spell each time they gain a level. You also gain access to a new school of your choice at each name level. When this happens, you learn random spells of that school, one at each spell level you can cast.

### Note Your Saving Throw Bonus

Saving throws are based on a 1d20 roll, adding the relevant stat modifier, and adding your saving throw bonus. At 1st level, this bonus is 0, but goes up by +1 every even level (so +1 at level 2, +2 at level 4, etc.).

The default save is Hard (14+ to succeed); instant-death effects are usually Daunting (11+). A natural 20 always saves, and a natural 1 always fails.

### Choose Alignment

Your character may align themselves with one of each of the great cosmic ideologies (and the forces that lie behind them): either Law or Chaos, and either Good or Evil. A character may choose just one alignment (e.g., a commitment to Law, but neither Good nor Evil), or one of each (i.e., Lawful Good, Lawful Evil, Chaotic Good, or Chaotic Evil).

- **Law:** Fervently believe in order and stability. Disorder is anathema.
- **Chaos:** Thrive on mutability and change. Stagnation is anathema.
- **Good:** Fervently believe in altruism, compassion, and justice.
- **Evil:** The only restraints are imposed restraints; actions are usually weighed solely on how they benefit oneself.

Characters may instead forego an alignment and choose to be **Unaligned**. This does not mean the person is neutral or incapable of taking a position on something. Neither does it mean that they cannot serve the cause of the aligned, simply that they lack their fervent, formal commitment.

Players can choose to conceal their choice of alignment (or lack thereof) from outsiders or even the rest of their party, but must tell the referee what they've picked.

### Choose Languages

You start play knowing your native language(s). Additionally, roll 1d6. On a 5, you gain one more language.

On a 6, you gain two more languages. Mages also know Mithric (the language of magic), plus one additional language of their choice.

### Choose Feat(s)

All characters receive one feat at 1st level, and another feat at each name level. A feat can only be taken once, unless noted otherwise. No ability score can be raised above 19 through feats.

#### Warrior feats

- **Brawler:** If your melee opponent is no more than one size level larger than you, and your attack roll against them is a natural 18 or 19, then in addition to your regular damage you can either:
  1. Disarm them
  2. Trip them (they become prone; two-legged creatures only)
  3. Drive them directly back 5 feet, if the space is available to do so. You may follow up immediately with a free 5-foot move of your own, even if you have already made your full move this turn or are otherwise locked in combat.If none of those are possible or desired, then instead you bash them for an additional 1d4 damage (+2 per name level).
- **Captain:** Some are born to command. Your party gains a +1 initiative bonus. Add a +1 attack bonus to all other party members and associated NPCs, raised to +2 at level 10 or higher (this does not benefit yourself). Apply +2 to friendly Morale checks. These bonuses apply only as long as your orders can be understood and the individuals benefiting are willing to be led by you. Multiple captains in a group do not stack these benefits.
- **Defender:** If you decide that none will pass, then *none will pass*. You ignore all magical commands to move aside, flee, surrender and the like, and are immune to all fear-based effects, magical or not. You gain a 4-point modifier in your favor when resisting any other effect that would result in you being involuntarily moved. Also, in combat, you can always choose to receive the effects of the Guard combat stance, even if using another stance. If you actually choose the Guard stance, you can intercept up to four enemies instead of two.
- **Great-Weapon Fighter:** When attacking with a two-handed melee weapon, your critical hit range improves by 1, plus 1 per name level (e.g. you score critical hits on a natural to-hit roll of 19-20 at level 1, 18-20 at level 5, etc.).
- **Marksman:** If firing into melee, you can pick your target instead of rolling randomly. Your ranged to-hit penalties are reduced by 2 points, plus 2 per name

level. Your rate of fire with small thrown weapons increases from 1 to 2.

- **Read Scrolls:** You can read Mithric, as well as cast from scrolls containing spells from four schools of your choice; if an Arcanist, two of these schools must be the two schools you already know. This does not grant the ability to create scrolls.
- **True Grit:** You may reroll failed death saves.
- **Whirlwind:** +2 AC (and a further +1 AC per name level). If not casting a spell that round, you receive the effects of the Dash combat stance (this does not count as your stance pick for the round). You are not locked in melee combat unless in melee with at least three opponents. To gain these benefits, you must be able to move freely, not wearing medium or heavy armor, and cannot be encumbered.

## Mage Feats

A mage can combine multiple feats on a spell. The spell adjustments from these stack (e.g. a *Silent Magic Missile* spell with extended range would in all ways be treated as a 3rd level spell). A feat cannot take a spell over 6th level. Note that a spell cannot be both Silent and Stilled.

- **Concentration:** You can cast spells while being jostled (e.g. on a ship or a horse).
- **Dextrous:** You can cast 1st-level spells using only one hand. For each name level you have, the level of spells that can be cast in this way increase by one.
- **Familiar:** You acquire a Tiny or Small mundane creature appropriate to the area that obeys your commands. You can see through its eyes, and gain a small power appropriate to the creature while doing so (e.g. +2 visual Perception for a bird). Regardless of its normal statblock, the creature has 2 Hit Dice. Its death applies one level of fatigue to you for the next week, after which you may take a new familiar.
- **Metamagic:** You can double the duration of your spells (not concentration, permanent, or instant spells), or you can double the base range of spells with Short, Medium or Long range (range increases due to gaining levels are unaffected). Preparing a Metaspell uses up a spell slot one level higher than the spell's normal level for each alteration you make (e.g. duration is +1 spell level; duration & range is +2).
- **Quickcast:** Casting times of your spells are reduced by 1 (see [magic phase](#)). This can take them to 0 or below. This feat may be taken up to twice.
- **Spell Silence:** You can craft your spells to require no vocal component. Preparing a Silent spell uses up a spell slot one level higher than the spell's normal level. This feat may be taken twice. The second time removes the vocal component from your spells permanently, with no level adjustment to them required.
- **Stillcasting:** You can craft your spells to require no somatic components. Preparing a Stilled spell uses up a spell slot one level higher than the spell's normal level. This feat may be taken twice. The second time removes the somatic component from your spells permanently, with no level adjustment to them required.
- **Undeniable:** Once an Undeniable spell is declared, loss of concentration does not disrupt it (unless you are killed or otherwise rendered incapable of casting). All other restrictions apply. Preparing an Undeniable spell uses up a spell slot one level higher than the spell's normal level.

## Unrestricted Feats

- **Anointed:** You are zealous for your god or extraplanar benefactor. Spells or effects targeting your alignment always affect you, even if they normally only affect creatures that are supernatural (e.g. *Protection from Law*). You cannot be Unaligned.
  - Your weapon attacks against creatures of one opposing alignment that are undead or extraplanar add +1 weapon die of damage (add/gain another if level 10 or higher). This always counts as a magical attack.
  - When resisting spells and effects that would place you in direct conflict with your patron's known tenets and goals, the saving throw difficulty is one level lower.
  - Gain a small power appropriate to your patron (e.g. healing touch once per day for a god of life or healing).
- **Conditioning:** Gain +2 to a chosen ability score. This feat can be taken only once for a given ability score.
- **Fieldcraft:** Gain +1 Constitution. Pick two broad terrain types (forest, desert, swamps, jungle, tundra, mountains, etc.). In these terrain types, your difficulties for tasks such as stealth, tracking, and concealing tracks are lowered, and you:
  - Heal +2 HP per day, and still heal even if marching in terrain that normally prevents such.
  - Succeed more often when hunting.
  - Are less likely to get lost, have random encounters, or be surprised.
- **Lockpicking:** Gain +1 Dexterity. You have the tools and expertise to pick locks. Your search for traps on a lock are one difficulty level lower.
- **Tough:** Your hit die is one die higher (i.e. a warrior will use a d10, and a mage will use a d8).

## Choose Skills

Skills represent specialized knowledge of or training in a particular field. All characters select two skills at 1st level, and another at each name level.

It's assumed that characters possess all the skills and knowledge appropriate to their background, along with a host of everyman abilities that nearly all possess, such as climbing, hiding, or moving silently. Skills for adventurers' purposes are almost always specialized (like reading lips) or non-intuitive (like lockpicking), and reflect special training, deep knowledge, or intense & focused practice in that particular narrow area. Broad interaction (e.g. Conversation), social skills that achieve a result otherwise possible only through roleplay (e.g. Deception or Intimidation), skills that boil down a non-linear non-standard task down to a simple roll (e.g. Dungeoneering or Investigation) or skills that allow for ready identification of magical items cannot be taken. **Skills are largely meant to measure a proficiency over and above what one could reasonably be expected to have, NOT to define what is possible!**

Concretely, skills might, depending on the circumstances, allow you to:

- Avoid what might otherwise involve a roll.
- Lower the difficulty of a check or negate penalties.
- Lessen the consequences of failure.
- Gain information not obvious to the average observer.

Sample skills include: Acrobatics, Blindfighting, Climbing, Disguise, Etiquette, Gambling, Herbalism, Jumping, Language (*choose one*), Lockpicking (*a character*

*cannot have both the skill and the feat*), Lore (*specific subject*), Performing, Pick Pockets, Read Lips, Riding, Running, Seafaring, Shadowing, Stealth, Swimming, Tracking, Wrestling.

## Buy Equipment

Roll 6d6 and multiply the number by 10. That's your starting silver pieces (sp). See the [equipment](#) list for things to buy (don't forget armor!) or choose a [quick pack](#). Make a note (an asterisk is a good way) of what items you're declaring as "readied" (see [readied items](#)).

If you plan to cast Turn Undead, be sure to buy a holy symbol! If you're a thief, you'll want lockpicks. A magic-user needs a book to use as a spellbook.

## Note a Motivation or Motto

*Why is your character risking their life for adventure? This can be one word, or a short sentence. Examples:*

- Rejected from his clan, Gorend is on a mission to prove himself.
- Percival always has to be the hero.
- Cedric can't resist a good story.
- Spread the faith
- Earn glory
- Amass wealth
- Take revenge
- Master a skill
- Obey duty
- Discover truth
- Do good
- Help others
- Instill chaos

## Armor, Weapons, and Equipment

### Item Slots

We're using "item slot" encumbrance, measuring both weight and awkwardness.

Assuming proper carrying gear, you can carry 10 + your Str mod slots of items.

- **Small** items (like chalk or potions) fit four to a slot.
- **Medium** items (most things) are 1 slot.
- **Large** items like 2h weapons and medium armor are 2 slots. Heavy armor takes 3 slots and is bulky (see below).

Coins & gems stack 500 to a slot. A typical body (willing or unconscious), fills 9 slots, before gear, and is bulky.

### Encumbrance Effects

Slots Over	Encumbrance Level	Combat Speed	Hex Point Allowance
0	–	Full	–
1-3	Light	-0.25	-1
4-6	Medium	-0.5	-2
7-10	Heavy	-0.75	-3
11+	Immobile	0	N/A

Each encumbrance level also raises the difficulty of applicable tasks, such as climbing, by one level.

**Bulky:** Bulky items, such as worn heavy armor, impose a greater encumbrance than just item points. Each automatically adds one encumbrance level *after* calculating the bearer's item slot load.

### Basic Gear

The following base gear is automatically added to your character for free and does not count against your slots:

- One weapon of your choice (+ 20 arrows/bolts if missile weapon)
- Backpack, pouches, waterskin, tinderbox (for lighting torches or small fires)
- Misc tiny items (within reason); worn items/clothing

After this, you can have whatever basic gear you wish (within reason, as determined by the referee), which does fill slots normally. Some common basic adventuring items include but are not limited to (size listed after each):

- **Bedroll (M):** A blanket that can double as a sleeping bag. Helps protect against the cold when [sleeping in the wilds](#).
- **Caltrops, bag (M):** Small metal spikes sufficient to cover a 5' × 5' area. Creatures moving through have a 2-in-6 chance of treading on a spike for a 50% penalty to movement rate for 24 hours (or until magically healed). Intelligent creatures can move cautiously through areas with known caltrops, which requires their entire Movement Phase to travel 5', but eliminates any risk of impalement.
- **Candle (S):** Dimly illuminates a 5' radius, and burns

for 4 hours.

- **Chalk (S):** Useful for marking trails in dungeons.
- **Crowbar (M):** Makes it easier to force open doors, and doubles as an improvised medium weapon.
- **Hammer (S):** Doubles as an improvised small weapon.
- **Iron spike (S):** One of these can be hammered in to block one typical door.
- **Lantern (M):** A lantern can be closed to hide its light, burns one flask of lamp oil every 4 hours, and illuminates a 20' radius.
- **Oil flask (M):** Fuels lantern 4 hours. Poured on ground and lit burns for 1 turn. Thrown on monster (roll to hit) & set on fire does 1d6 damage each round for two rounds.
- **Pickaxe (L):** This excavating tool doubles as an improvised medium weapon.
- **Pole, 10' (L):** Often used to prod potential dangers at a safe distance. When wielded during cautious exploration, has a 2-in-6 chance of setting off most traps.
- **Rations, iron (M):** One day of food and water. Also called trail rations. As long as kept dry, will keep almost indefinitely.
- **Rations, standard (L):** One day of food and water. Fresh, and will not keep for more than 1d4 days, fewer if in poor conditions like high heat. The type of rations that hunting provides. More appealing to monsters than iron rations if dropped during pursuit.
- **Rope, hemp (L):** Can hold the weight of roughly three human-sized beings. 50' long. Comes with grapnel.
- **Scrollcase (M):** Each holds up to 10 spell levels in spell scrolls.
- **Shovel (L):** Excavating tool doubles as an improvised medium weapon.
- **Sledgehammer (L):** Excavating tool doubles as an improvised medium weapon.
- **Torch (M):** Burns for 1 hour, illuminating a 40' radius. Will remain lit if dropped to the ground or thrown. Can be used as a small weapon without dousing it; some targets take further damage due to the fire. Also useful to burn away rot grubs, green slime, and webs.
- **Twine ball (100') (S):** Can hold no more than 10 lbs of weight before snapping.
- **Vial (S):** Glass. Holds 4 oz of liquid.



## Armor

100cp=10sp=1gp

Armor	AC	Cost
Shield (M)	1	20sp
Leather or Furs (M)	12	80sp
Ring (L)	13	130sp
Scale/Lamellar (L)	14	180sp
Chainmail (L)	15	280sp
Splint (L*)	16	580sp
Plate (L*)	17	850sp

\*Heavy armor (L\* = 3 slot) requires minimum 9 Str to wear. A Shield also provides a +2 save bonus vs non-gaseous breath weapons.

## Costed Items

Item	Cost
Acid, vial (S)	50sp
Arrowhead, silver	5sp
Book, leatherbound, 64pgs (M)	30sp
Chain, 10' (L)	45sp
Garlic, bulb	1cp
Holy symbol, iron	5sp
Holy symbol, silver	50sp
Holy symbol, wooden	1sp
Holy water vial (S)	25sp
Mapping kit (M)	10sp
Mirror, small, bronze (S)	2sp
Rope, silk, 50' (M)	50sp
Tent (L)	20sp
Thieves' picks & tools (M)	12sp
Wolfsbane sprig (S)	1sp

**Acid, vial:** Can splash contents on a target within 5' or hurl it as a small thrown weapon; it shatters on impact. A hit deals 1d6+1 acid damage. A vial can also be used to open most mundane locks in 1 turn.

**Garlic:** Repels vampires.

**Holy symbols:** Wooden symbols incur -1 penalty to Turn Undead hit dice roll; silver symbols receive +1 bonus.

**Holy water:** Can splash contents onto an undead creature within 5' or hurl it as a small thrown weapon; it shatters on impact. Causes 2d4 damage when thrown on most undead.

**Mapping kit:** A cased roll of parchment plus quills and vials of ink, sufficient to map all but the largest areas.

**Rope, silk:** Lighter and stronger than hemp, can bear the weight of five human-sized beings. Comes with grapnel.

**Tent:** Protects against adverse weather when adventuring in the wilds. See [sleeping in the wilds](#).

**Wolfsbane:** If a lycanthrope is hit by wolfsbane, it must make a Very Hard (17+) save or run away in fear. The sprig must be swung or thrown as a weapon.

## Weapons

### Melee Weapons

Weapons are divided into three basic damage categories: small, medium, and large.

- Small** weapons deal 1d4 damage, are one-handed, and include knives, daggers, and small handaxes. Can be dual-wielded for +1 to hit (doesn't grant additional attacks). Average cost: 12sp.
- Medium** weapons deal 1d6+1 damage, are one-handed, and include most swords, spears, maces, flails, and battle axes. Can be wielded two-handed, which adds +1 damage. Average cost: 20sp.
- Large** weapons deal 1d8+3 damage, are two-handed, and include polearms and pikes, as well as large swords, spears, axes, and maces. A minimum Str of 9 is required to wield large weapons. Average cost: 75sp.

*Note: You can get a weapon "silvered" for 3x its base cost.*

### Missile Weapons

Missile weapons have a rate of fire of 1 shot per attack (except for small thrown weapons with the marksman feat). Loading does not require an action if ammunition is readily at hand (except for heavy crossbows, which require an action to load). All missile weapons have three range brackets (Short, Medium, Far). Attacks made against targets at a given range apply the attack penalty listed.

Weapon	Size & Damage	Cost	Hands	S:0	M:-4	F:-8
Bow, short*	M	40sp	2	45'	90'	180'
Bow, long* (req 9 Str)	M	60sp	2	90'	180'	360'
Crossbow, light	M	50sp	2	45'	90'	180'
Crossbow, heavy**	L	75sp	2	90'	180'	360'
Holy Water	***	25sp	1	10'	20'	30'
Javelin/Spear	M†	16sp	1	20'	40'	60'
Sling	S	1sp	1	45'	90'	180'
Small thrown weapon	S†	12sp	1	10'	20'	30'

\*If fired indoors, halve all ranges.

\*\*+2 attack bonus, reload requires action.

\*\*\*See costed equipment list below for details.

†Plus user's Str modifier.

### Animals & Mounts

Animal	Cost	Size	Combat Speed	Daily Hex Pts	Item Slot Limit
Donkey/Pony	70sp	L	50	5	20
Dog, hunting	35sp	M	50	-	-
Dog, war	65sp	M	50	-	-
Hawk	40sp	S	80	-	-
Horse, draft	150sp	L	50	5	25
Horse, riding	100sp	L	80	6	20
Horse, war	300sp	L	65	5	25
Mule	90sp	L	65	5	30
Ox	120sp	L	50	4	30

Item	Cost
Barding	x4
Cart	50sp
**Feed, per day	2sp
Stabling, per day	1sp
Wagon	1,200sp

**Barding:** Animal armor. The cost is equal to four times the cost of a normal human-sized armor set of the same type and provides the same AC benefit. Encumbers a mount just as armor does for characters.

**Cart:** Open, road-bound, two-wheeled vehicle. Pulled by 1-2 beasts of burden. Capacity: 2x of the animals drawing it.

**Encumbrance:** A rider counts against a mount's item slot limit at a rate of 3 slots per the rider's size level, starting at Tiny (so 9 slots for a Medium rider), plus the rider's own carried slots, if any. A mount can carry no more than two typical riders. An animal, cart, or wagon 1 point over its item limit gains one encumbrance level. Every 3 slots past that adds another (or every 8 points past that for a cart or wagon).

**Wagon:** Open, four-wheeled, road-bound vehicle for heavy loads. Pulled by 4-6 beasts of burden. Capacity: 2x of the animals drawing it.

**War:** An animal not trained for combat may panic in

battle. If it's wounded, its owner must make a Hard (14+) check to keep it from fleeing or tossing its rider.

## Quick Packs

- **The Gygax** (10 slots, 25sp cost): Hempen rope (L), 10' pole (L), Iron spikes x2 (S), Hammer (S), Lantern (M), Oil flask x2 (M), Holy water vial (S, 25sp), Iron rations x2 (M).
- **The Generalist** (6 slots, 10sp cost): Candle (S), Chalk (S), Hammer (S), Iron spike (S), Crowbar (M), Iron rations (M), Oil flask (M), Lantern (M), Mapping kit (M, 10sp).
- **The Cautious** (6 slots): Candle (S), Chalk (S), Hammer (S), Iron spikes x4 (S), Wolfsbane (S), Caltrops (M), Iron rations (M), 10' pole (L).
- **The Delver** (6 slots): Candle x3 (S), Hammer (S), Iron rations (M), Pickaxe (L) or Shovel (L) or Sledgehammer (L), Hempen rope (L).
- **The Scholar** (6 slots, 10sp cost): Chalk (S), Vial x3 (S), Iron rations (M), Oil flask (M), Lantern (M), Mapping kit (M, 10sp), Scrollcase (M).
- **The Torchbearer** (6 slots): Iron rations (M), Oil flask (M), Torches x4 (M).

## Checks & Saves

**Checks** are a single roll against a target number, used to resolve situations with interesting stakes that would either be too tedious or difficult to describe, or involve a strong element of chance. Even if it comes down to a die roll, players will be rewarded for thinking the action through, and sometimes penalized for not. For example, if a player thinks to first apply some lamp oil to the chain and gearing responsible for raising a stuck gate, this would reduce the difficulty.

First, the referee decides how difficult a check is:

Difficulty Level	Result Needed
Moderate	8
Daunting	11
Hard	14
Very Hard	17
Heroic	20

The player rolls 1d20 (unless success or failure would not be obvious, in which case the referee rolls instead, in secret). If

an ability score modifier is relevant, the check will note this (e.g. "Hard (Con x2)" means apply double the character's Con mod). If the modified total equals or exceeds the result needed, the check succeeds. Rolling under indicates failure. A natural 20 is not an automatic success for a check.

**Saving throws** or **saves** represent an attempt to resist a notable threat, such as magic, poison, or disease. A creature can always choose to fail a saving throw. A save is a check with any relevant ability score listed as normal (e.g. "Save: Hard (Con)"). The default save is Hard (14+). The exception is saves for instant-death effects (known as "death saves"); their default save is Daunting (11+). Unlike a regular check, a natural 20 always saves, and a natural 1 always fails. See also [item saving throws](#).

**Check Bonuses:** Characters gain +1 to regular checks at each name level.

**Save Bonuses:** Characters gain a +1 save bonus for every 2 full Hit Dice they have.

## Combat

### Surprise

If a creature is not in combat, the opportunity exists to surprise it. Some creatures can naturally reliably ambush prey. Others can do so via careful planning or magical effects. Once combat has begun, true surprise is impossible; at best, an attacker could achieve a rear attack. There are two major ways for characters to surprise enemies: laying an ambush, and moving silently to backstab a target.

### Ambushes

No check is required to set an ambush; either the circumstances exist for one to be set, or it's impossible (e.g., there's no available cover). Instead, the targets make a check to see if they notice before it's too late.

A typical ambush requires a Hard (14+) group Perception check to detect if the ambushers are visually concealed (camouflage, heavy cover, or invisibility). This rises to Very Hard (17+) if most noise is drowned out as well (e.g., high winds or other strong ambient noise)–Heroic (20+) if the ambushers are magically silenced. Some creatures have innate surprise abilities, which override the values above. If the party is outdoors and has one or more members with the Fieldcraft feat for the terrain they're in, the difficulty of their group check to notice an ambush is one level lower than normal.

If the detection roll fails, the group is surprised (see below). If the roll succeeds, the group realizes they are about to be ambushed; what this means depends on the circumstances, especially the terrain and relative placement of the ambushers and targets.

### Backstab

A move silently check is needed to move behind a target and launch a surprise attack. Failure means that the attempt has been noticed, and the target can react as appropriate. Success means the target is surprised (see below).

### Effects of Surprise

Surprise lasts one round. In that round, those that are surprised cannot move, act, or apply Dex-based AC modifiers, and attacks on them gain a +4 bonus. Attacks against surprised targets from behind also ignore any shield modifiers, and raise the chance for a critical hit. Killing surprised foes might force a Morale check.

### Reactions

Some encounters are essentially pre-determined due to the nature of the creatures or the encounter itself, and will end up in combat no matter what (e.g., intelligent undead and sentinels like golems will almost always attack).

However, when any creatures are encountered, if their nature or the circumstances don't automatically dictate their behavior, the referee *always* rolls to see how they react to the players *before* actions are taken.

If the players do not immediately attack, the referee rolls on the Reaction Table, applying -2 to the roll if the creatures encountered are Evil, and rerolling Hostile results if the creatures are Good:

2d6	Behavior
2	Hostile
3-6	Unfriendly (unintelligent: Hostile)
7-8	Neutral/uncertain
9-11	Unthreatening
12	Actively helpful (unintelligent: Unthreatening)

### Attacking

To attack, the attacker rolls 1d20 and adds their attack bonus and all applicable modifiers. If the result equals or exceeds the target's Armor Class (AC), the attack hits. The most common attack modifiers are:

- Attacker is striking from the rear: +2
- Target is surprised: +4 (replaces above)
- Attacker declared an offensive stance: +2
- Attacker cannot see target: -4
- Attacker is fatigued: -2 (light) or -4 (heavy)
- Attacker is on a mount, target is upright: +2
- Attacker is using improvised weapon: -2
- Target is prone, attacker is in melee: +4

For PCs, a natural 20 is always a hit. The attack is also a critical hit, unless the attacker could only hit by rolling a natural 20. Melee and short-range missile attacks against sleeping, paralyzed, willing, and similar targets always hit and deal maximum damage. Such targets include PCs at 0hp.

### Dealing Damage

An attacker's Strength modifier is applied to melee and thrown weapon attack damage. Modifiers cannot drop a successful attack below 1 point of damage. A successful charge or set vs. charge adds two weapon dice to the attack. Attacks against helpless targets automatically deal maximum damage.

An **unarmed strike** deals 1d2 damage (a critical hit does 4 damage), plus the attacker's Strength modifier. Weapon dice do not apply.

If a PC rolls a natural 20 on an attack, a **critical hit** is scored: the attack deals its maximum possible damage. However, you cannot score a critical hit if you can only hit by rolling a 20. The critical hit range is increased by 4 for all attacks from behind against a surprised target.



## Combat Phases

Each combat round is 10 seconds and has seven steps, taken in the following order:

- **Declarations:** All spellcasting and combat stances for the round must be declared *before* anything else in the round happens.
- **Missile:** Combatants with readied missile weapons can fire. Players who chose the Dash combat stance fire first, then all remaining missile attacks from all sides are resolved simultaneously.
- **Initiative:** 1d12 is rolled by each side involved, with the side that rolled the highest winning (re-roll ties). Only determines movement order, not action order.
- **Movement:** Everyone on the side that won initiative for the round can move, followed by any movement by the losing side.
- **Melee:** Combatants that did not fire a missile weapon can attack with melee weapons (or take a miscellaneous action). Players who chose the Dash combat stance act first, and then all remaining actions from all sides are resolved simultaneously.
- **Magic:** Spells are canceled if desired, and then all spells declared and not disrupted are cast.
- **Morale:** The referee may need to make morale checks for opponents, retainers, and other NPCs.

### Declaration Phase

Any character not surprised or casting a spell must pick a stance. A character casting a spell must pick the exact spell at this time, and cannot do anything else that round (i.e., no moves, attacks, actions, etc.).

### Combat Stances

- **Offensive:** +2 attack bonus
- **Defensive:** +2 Armor Class
- **Dash:** Your action occurs before those of the enemy (exceptions: charging a set opponent; attacking a pike/spear wall; grapple attempts)
- **Guard:** Pick a 5' square. If you remain within 10' of it and can move freely, the first two enemies you are in the way of that try to move up to or make a ranged attack against anything in that square must engage you instead. Enemies already within 5' of the square or whom you are not in the way of are unaffected. Additionally, if an enemy can't be locked in melee, you cannot block its move. The effects of a stance last only for that round. Monsters and NPCs do not use stances.

### Missile Phase

Missile attacks can be made if you have a ranged weapon readied at the start of the round, are not locked in melee, and the target is not blocked (by one or more creatures along direct line of sight, unless the target is one or more sizes larger than any blockers).

Missile attacks use all relevant modifiers above, except the bonus for being on a mount or the target being prone.

Missile-specific modifiers include:

- Target is prone, attacker is at range: -2
- Firing from a moving or unsteady position: -4
- Low visibility (gloom, smoke, fog, etc.): -2
- Target has cover: -2 (half cover) or -4 (heavy cover)
- Target is at medium range: -4
- Target is at long range: -8

A miss is generally presumed to hit no other target. Other considerations:

- **Crossbows** can be fired while kneeling or prone.
- **Firing into Melee:** To pick a target that is in melee, the target must be one or more sizes larger than all those with which it is in melee (unless the attacker is a warrior with the marksman feat). Otherwise, the attacker randomly rolls to see who in that melee (friend or foe) they roll their attack against. A target's melee opponents do not provide it cover.
- **Holding Fire:** Instead of firing in the Missile Phase, an attacker can choose to wait until the end of any other Phase. This allows the use of thrown weapons "on the run" at the end of the Movement Phase at short range, just before being locked in melee.
- **Magic Devices:** Ranged effects and spells from magic items are treated as missile attacks, except for line of sight.
- **Poor Conditions:** If in very windy conditions, or if the target is above the attacker, long-range missile attacks cannot be made. If both, medium-range missile attacks also cannot be made.

### Movement Phase

In an encounter, a creature can move once per round up to its combat speed (for unencumbered PCs, this is 40'). One can move through creatures that allow it and aren't in a tight formation. Modifications include:

- **Backwards Movement** applies a x2 movement cost penalty (e.g. 5' of clear terrain costs 10' of movement).
- **Charging:** An attacker with a lance, pike, large spear, or similar large pole weapon and no more than lightly encumbered can charge. So too can creatures with large horns/tusks. A charge must be in a straight line from at least 30' away, in non-difficult terrain, and not uphill. The attacker's first strike on the round it makes the charge adds two weapon dice if it hits.
- **Difficult Terrain** applies a x2 movement cost penalty (or x3 if moving backward).
- **Encumbrance:** Being encumbered reduces your combat speed.
- **Holding Movement:** A combatant on the side that won initiative can choose to move after the enemy in the round.
- **Jumping** ends your move that round.

- **Prone:** To stand up, a prone creature must use all their movement for the round.
- **Set vs. Charge:** If armed with a pike, spiked polearm, or large spear, a combatant not prone or locked in melee can choose not to move that round and instead hold their weapon firm, braced against the ground. A set combatant attacks first against the first charge made against them (even if the attacker has the Dash stance), and adds two weapon dice if it hits.

### **Locked in Melee**

A creature within 5 feet of one or more enemies (three or more if it has the Whirlwind feat) is **locked** in melee with those enemies. Locked combatants cannot use missile weapons or leave their location unless they make a fighting withdrawal or flee.

- **Blind** creatures can only lock opponents in melee if surrounding them.
- **Flight and Teleportation** allow one to leave melee without penalty, even if surrounded.
- **Invisible** creatures are not locked unless their melee opponents can see them or otherwise fully ignore invisibility, or are surrounding them.
- **Prone** creatures cannot lock opponents in melee.
- **Size:** A creature more than two sizes large than any of their melee opponents is not locked, even if surrounded.

### **Fighting Withdrawal**

A creature locked in melee can move out of that melee if they didn't make a missile attack that round, but all their movement for the round must be backwards (applying the standard x2 movement cost penalty). They can take no actions that round.

### **Fleeing**

A fleeing creature can move as normal, but must leave the melee they're in. However, any enemy with which they were in melee prior to fleeing may first choose to take its attack(s) for the round against the fleeing creature, instead of in the Melee Phase. Such attacks gain the +2 rear attack bonus, while the fleeing creature loses all shield and stance AC bonuses.

### **Running**

If a combatant did not act in the Missile Phase and commits to taking no actions this round, they may **run**. This raises their movement this round by 50% (rounded down to the nearest 5'), or by 100% with the Running skill.

### **Melee Phase**

In the Melee Phase, a combatant can take one action: a single attack against an opponent with which they are in melee, or a single non-attack action. All actions in this phase are simultaneous, not affecting any other action that phase, unless specifically stated otherwise. Considerations include:

- **Dash:** Choosing this combat stance allows a PC to act first that round, instead of simultaneously.
- **Grappling:** The attackers (or attacker) make

individual to-hit rolls. The grapple is resolved among those who hit: Each combatant rolls their total hit dice. If the sum of the attackers' dice is higher than the defender's total, the defender is grappled. If the sums are exactly equal, everyone is struggling, and none of them can attack with a weapon. If the defender wins, the attackers are beaten back and stunned for a number of rounds equal to the number of points by which the defender beat them. Breaking free of a grapple requires another HD contest; all currently grappling together are counted as automatically having hit.

- **Polearms** (spears, pikes, etc.) in the second rank of a battle formation can attack by reaching through the first rank.
- **Spacing & the Second Rank:** Only daggers, shortwords, spears, and polearms can be used three-abreast in a 10' area. All other one-handed weapons require five feet of room (two-abreast in a 10' area), and non-thrusting two-handed weapons require a full 10' space to wield.
- **Two-weapon fighting:** A combatant can use two melee weapons at once, which grants a +1 attack bonus (but no additional attacks).

### **Magic Phase**

If a caster wants to cancel a spell they're casting that hasn't been disrupted by having been attacked or jostled, they must do so before any spells are resolved.

After spells are canceled, spells still being cast are revealed and cast in the order of their **casting time**, which is equal to their spell level, unless stated otherwise. Spells with the same casting time are cast simultaneously, unless stated otherwise. For each instance of the Quickcast feat that they have, a mage reduces their spells' casting times by 1. Other feats raise a spell's level, raising its casting time to match. Spells cast from scrolls add 2 to their casting time.

### **Morale Phase**

Monsters and NPCs (but not PCs) have a **Morale threshold** between 1 and 20, representing how likely they are to fight or flee; the lower the threshold, the better.

Creatures with a Morale of 20 only fight if cornered and always flee if able, while those with a Morale of 1 never retreat unwillingly, but can be convinced to (if intelligent), and are still susceptible to magical fear. A score of – means the creature ignores the Morale rules altogether, just like PCs.

The referee makes a Morale check—rolling 1d20, applying any situational modifiers (light fatigue gives -2, heavy fatigue gives -4, etc.)—at the end of a round for each of the following that occurred that round:

- Half or more of the side present at the battle's start has been incapacitated or killed.
- The last of the side (or its only member) was reduced to 1/4 or less of its full Hit Point total.

- A group with a Morale of 12 or higher that has any of its members killed during the surprise round.
- Any other unusually trying circumstance, at the referee's discretion. If the roll is lower than the Morale threshold, the check fails: the creature or side attempts to flee.

## Escaping an Encounter

If a side has none of its members locked in melee after the movement of that side for the round has been resolved (whether or not the other side has moved yet), that side can choose to try to escape the encounter.

If the enemy follows, **pursuit checks** are made. The referee rolls 1d12 for each group of enemies with a different combat speed, while the players roll 1d12 for their entire party. Apply any relevant modifiers. If only some of the PCs have modifiers, only those PCs apply them, giving them a result different from their base party result.

Fleeing Side	Modifier
Is faster	+1 per 5' of combat speed faster
Is invisible	Auto escape
Drops caltrops or flaming oil	+4
Drops desirable items (food/treasure)	+2 or +4
Is lightly fatigued	-2

Pursuing Side	Modifier
Is faster	+1 per 5' of combat speed faster
Has senses hindered	-4
Is lightly fatigued	-2

**Faster Side** assumes that side can use their full speed, which isn't a given. **Hindered Senses** usually involves difficulties using one's primary tracking sense. Hunting dogs compensate for some of these instances.

Each individual in a pursuit has one **pursuit action** each pursuit round. However, neither mapping nor spellcasting can

occur.

- **Dropping Items:** Any pursued as their action can drop items to apply a bonus to their side's pursuit check. Dropping desirable items like food or treasure can be effective, but this depends on how the pursuers view what is dropped, how much is dropped, and how many pursuers there are compared to what is dropped; the referee must arbitrate this. If enough food is dropped & desired, iron rations (+2) are always less effective than fresh rations (+4).
- **Missile Attacks:** After each pursuit check, if the pursuit is not over, then missile attacks can be made by those who have not used their action. Assume a range of 20'.

## Ending Pursuit

A side automatically wins if they are either six points of modifiers or more ahead of all their opponents, or score a higher result than the other side twice in a row.

If the pursuers catch the fleeing side, a new combat round begins in the Melee Phase, with the two sides locked in melee, positioning and so on to be determined by the referee.

## Death

When a player character's hit points reach 0, the character is unconscious and must make a Daunting (11+) Con saving throw. On a failure, the character dies. On a success, the character will die in 1d4 rounds, rolled in secret by the referee, unless magically healed or aided by another player character. Each PC may attempt to aid once, requiring a successful Very Hard (17+) check.

Even after returning to 1 or more hp, the character will remain in a coma for 1d6 turns and must rest for a minimum of one week before resuming any sort of strenuous activity, mental or physical.

Characters who are slain may be raised from the dead if a Mage of sufficient level is available to perform the casting. Each time a character is brought back from the dead, their CON score is reduced by one point.

## General Adventuring

### Climbing

No roll is required for simple climbs, like a basic rope or tree. A more difficult climb might require a Moderate (Dex) check. A climber must make one check before every 40' section to be climbed or portion thereof. A failed check indicates a fall from halfway up that section.

Base climbing speed is 5' per round. Add 5' if the climber has the Climbing skill or is using rope (not cumulative).

The following each raise the difficulty by one level: high winds, extreme cold, smooth surfaces, slippery surfaces, each encumbrance level. The aid of appropriate equipment—a rope and grapnel, or pitons and a hammer—will lower the difficulty.

### Doors

Along with puddles, the bane of adventurers' existence.

### Listening at Doors

While exceptions can occur, it's assumed that player characters cannot hear through the typical dungeon door. If the situation is such that noise would carry through the door, the referee will notify players that they hear something without the need of the players to ask.

### Spotting Secret Doors

Requires a Perception check, with the difficulty based on how well-concealed the door is. During cautious exploration, this is a group check made automatically by the referee in secret for each secret door within 10'.

A character can also actively search a 10' square area for secret doors. This takes one turn; more than one person cannot search the same area at the same time.

Spotting the average secret door is Very Hard (17+) during cautious exploration, and Daunting (11+) via an active search. Finding one does not necessarily reveal how it opens. Describing narratively how one is searching might bypass the Perception check if the searching technique would logically reveal the door.

### Stuck Doors

Upon discovering that a door is stuck, a character may attempt a Strength check to pull the door open as swiftly and quietly as possible. Only the strongest character in the party may attempt (representing the party's best efforts). On a failure, the party may decide to work with crowbars or other tools to wrench the door open anyway. This takes a turn and will trigger a wandering monster check.

Locked doors need keys, thieves' tools and someone trained in lockpicking, or a battering ram (or axes). Any failed attempt to open a stuck or locked door will prevent surprise on any creature on the other side of the door.

You should also know: Doors tend to close on their own. Iron spikes are invaluable for keeping doors open or closed (it takes a round and some noise to hammer a spike in).

### Dungeon Random Encounters

Random encounters occur in almost all dungeon areas. These are typically monsters inclined to hostility (you're in their home) and with no treasure (it's back in their bedroom). To make a check, the referee rolls 1d12 at the end of the appropriate turn: on a 2 or less, an encounter occurs.

If an area doesn't have a preset encounter rate, how often the referee checks to see if a random encounter occurs varies, based on the nature of the area being explored:

- Organized defenders, alert sounded: every turn
- Organized defenders, no alert sounded: every 2 turns
- No organized defenders: every 3 turns

Even if players hide somewhere (e.g. a disused storeroom), the encounter roll is still made. Only if the hiding place is exceptional are encounter checks avoided.

**Noisy:** If the party makes an unusual amount of noise while exploring (yelling, spiking a door; combats do not count), their next encounter check is made at -4, and the party cannot surprise creatures so encountered except via unusual means.

### Equipment Wear & Tear

Equipment can be worn down! If you are hit by an attack where the attacker rolled a 20, your armor gains a **notch** of damage (usually denoted by an x on your character sheet next to the weapon). Each notch reduces your AC total by 1. Weapons gain a notch when you roll a 1 on an attack with them. Each weapon notch reduces by one step the damage die you roll with that weapon (i.e. d8 > d6 > d4 > 1).

Items can be repaired by an appropriate craftsman, costing 10% of the item's original price per notch. Armor and weapons can take no more than 10 notches of damage before they're destroyed.

Magic weapons and armor take ½ notches instead of full notches.

### Experience & Leveling

You gain experience primarily through recovering treasure and then **spending it**. 1sp spent = 1XP. Money spent on purchasing or repairing equipment, spellcasting services, and on monthly upkeep costs does not count toward XP. Money spent on acquiring retainers and personally conducted magical research does count towards XP. In general, you can flavor this spending as martial training, carousing, philanthropy, greasing palms, investing in local faction relations, or any number of other in-world expenditures, limited only by your imagination.

XP from magical research is earned when the research is completed. Failing at magical research does earn XP.

Each new dungeon room or hex **explored and mapped** grants 10 XP per character. Each hex or room past the fifth in a given delve or adventure begins to grant cumulative XP (i.e. room #6=20XP, room #7=30XP, etc.). The referee can

optionally multiply this per-room number by the dungeon's level or hex's distance from civilization to account for the party's growth & added difficulty. Once the party returns to safety to heal and restock, the counter resets. A room or hex can only ever be "explored" for XP in this way once.

The table below indicates what a character's XP total needs to reach to advance to each level:

Level	Total XP	Warrior Hit Dice	Mage Hit Dice
1	0	1d8	1d6
2	2,000	2d8	2d6
3	4,000	3d8	3d6
4	8,000	4d8	4d6
5	16,000	5d8	5d6
6	32,000	6d8	6d6
7	64,000	7d8	7d6
8	120,000	8d8	8d6
9	240,000	9d8	9d6
10	360,000	9d8+2	9d6+2

Each level beyond 10 requires an additional 120,000XP and adds only a flat 2HP per level, with no Con modifier being applied.

## Falling

Damage from falling is determined as follows: Falls of less than 5 ft do no damage in game terms, falls of up to 10 ft cause 1d6 damage, falls of up to 20 ft cause 3d6 damage, falls of up to 30 ft cause 6d6, 40 ft is 10d6, 50 ft is 15d6, and falls of over 50 ft cause 20d6 points of damage.

## Fatigue

Fatigue represents a serious depletion of body, mind, or spirit.

Fatigue Level	Effect
Light	-2 to attacks, checks, and Morale checks
Heavy	Raise above to -4, halve all movement
Exhaustion	Halve HP, halve movement again

Possession four or more levels of fatigue results in death. Fatigue levels from different sources stack.

A character exposed to any of the causes of fatigue below gains one fatigue level at the increments listed next to each cause (e.g. every full day without water applies one level).

Cause of Fatigue	Fatigue Level Increments
Unable to breathe	30 seconds (3 rounds)
Lack of water	Days 1/2/3/4
Lack of sleep	Days 2/4/8/*
Lack of food	Days 2/10/20/30

\*A lack of sleep can only apply up to three fatigue levels, i.e. it cannot kill you alone.

Per positive Con modifier point, a character can ignore 30 seconds without air, or one day of a lack of water, sleep, and/or food.

If total exposure to a cause of fatigue is avoided (e.g. a bit of water drank, a fitful nap here or there), the current fatigue level increment is doubled.

## Healing

Natural healing rates are dependent on the [lifestyle](#) you lead. A character leading a Comfortable lifestyle will recover 1 HP by resting overnight in a safe and comfortable location, and HP equal to their level per day of uninterrupted rest. A Poor lifestyle reduces your healing rate from daily to every two days, and a Wealthy lifestyle doubles your healing rate. 30 days of rest will return any character to full HP.

## Item Saving Throws

Generally, only creatures make saving throws. However, some items are especially fragile, and some rare effects (like area-effect attacks or puddings/oozes) specifically target objects. A failed item save results in the item's destruction, while a successful save results in no damage or effect.

If a creature must make a saving throw and it passes, no item carried by that creature needs to make a save unless the effect specifies otherwise.

**Fragile items** can be almost anything (not including weapons, armor, or typical adventuring gear), but most notably include potions, scrolls, and wands that have been **readied** (kept close at hand, so that they're usable in combat without requiring an action to draw). The price of having such useful items at hand for immediate use is that they're vulnerable to destruction. For example, a potion in a backpack is not available for drinking in combat, but at the same time, if its owner is hit by a fireball, the potion is safe. Fragile items are the exception rather than the rule, and tend to be consumable, creating a risk to their use.

- **Area-effect Attacks:** Affect any item that's both fragile and readied. Daunting (11+) save.
- **Bashing Containers:** Potions in a container require a Hard (14+) save, while scrolls, wands, and gemstones require a Moderate (8+) save.
- **Disintegration:** Affects all readied items, fragile or not. Very Hard (17+) save, Hard (14+) if the item is magical.
- **Falls:** Affects carried potions (readied or not), requires a fall of at least 20' onto a hard surface. Hard (14+) save, -1 penalty for each additional full 10' fallen over 20'.
- **Magic Items:** Any that provide magic attack, save, or AC bonuses apply this modifier to any save such items are forced to make.
- **Shields:** If used to provide a save bonus against a breath weapon attack, and the shield's wielder fails their save, the shield must save as well. The save is Moderate (8+).
- **Water:** Affects paper and papyrus, Heroic (20+) save. Standard spellbooks (with vellum pages and magical inks) and scrolls in scroll cases always pass their save.
- **Other Cases:** Cases not covered above are a Hard (14+) save.

## Jumping

A long jump lets you safely clear 10 feet (20, with the jumping skill), if you run at least 10 feet first (if not, halve the result). With a 10-foot run, a vertical high jump gives you a reach with your hands of about 5 feet (a standing high jump gives you a reach of about 3 feet). If encumbered, apply the combat speed penalty to your jump distance. In combat, a jump ends your move.

## Lifting

The encumbrance rules are the standard way to measure how much a PC can carry around (see p. 30). However, to quickly calculate the maximum a character can lift or push, use their Strength  $\times$  15 in pounds.

## Light & Vision

A party needs one light source for approximately every three members of the party. For every missing light source, PCs incur a -1 penalty to attack, up to -4. Note that light sources can be seen from much further away than the illumination they shed for those holding them. Approaching light will warn intelligent creatures of the approach of surface-dwellers, perhaps giving them a chance to prepare; creatures around a corner can see a light source whose radius projects around that corner, while two corners between prevent its detection.

## Lockpicking

Characters with the proper tools and either the Lockpicking feat or skill can attempt to pick locks. This is a Dex check, the difficulty scaling with the locks' complexity. If a character's lockpicking ability is from a feat rather than a skill, the difficulty should be a level lower.

A lockpicking attempt requires 1 turn. If a character fails, they can try again, but after two failed attempts, the character cannot try that lock again until they gain a level.

## Trapped Locks

Noticing a trap on a lock requires a successful Perception check (having the Lockpicking feat reduces the difficulty to notice such traps by one level). Only an active search for traps can reveal such traps without triggering them. In the case of multiple traps on a single lock, the referee will roll a separate Per check for each trap.

A successful lockpicking attempt disarms all detected traps in addition to opening the lock, but undetected traps will be set off automatically before any lockpicking roll is made, unless specified otherwise.

## Magic & Spells

### Creating Potions

Potions can be crafted by any mage of 5th level or above, with the aid of an alchemist (or with the Skill), and only one potion may be made at any one time.

Potion brewing requires a stocked laboratory of at least 1,000sp in value. A mage can only brew potions they have

drank or own the recipe for, and costs silver per dose to brew; the referee will have these costs.

## Gaining New Spells

Casters learn one random spell each time they gain a level from a random school they can access (plus another spell if a specialist). If the caster has just gained access to a new spell level, the spell(s) are from that level. They can also gain access to new spells via the following methods:

- **Binding:** Anyone that can read Mithric can read a spellbook or scroll to see what it is, but you cannot prepare and thus cast a spell until you have bound it to you. Only spells from schools the caster can access can be bound. Binding a spell takes 1 week + 100sp per level of the spell, and a successful Moderate (Arc  $\times$ 2) check, rolled at the end of the binding period; apply +2 if a specialist is binding a spell from their specialist school. Failure means the spell is permanently erased from the source scroll or spellbook. Success means that the spell has been copied to your own spellbook, and that a permanent bond between the caster and spell has been created: you can always write the spell into a spellbook or scroll, even if you don't have another written copy on hand to reference or have the spell prepared for casting.
- **Research:** Casters can research new spells. These can be variants of spells the caster already knows—a Hard (Arc) check—spells the caster has witnessed being cast—a Very Hard (Arc) check—or spells the caster has only heard of—a Heroic (Arc) check. Only spells from schools the caster can access can be researched, and any given spell can only be attempted once per level. Researching a new spell requires, on average and per level of the spell, 1d4+1x50sp in materials and 1 week.

## Preparing & Casting

**Preparing Spells:** Spell preparation can occur no more than once every 24 hours, requires at least 4 hours of uninterrupted rest immediately prior, and no fatigue levels from exhaustion or lack of sleep. One interrupted hour of study is then needed to prepare all spells chosen, no matter how many, but can prepare no more than two uses of the same spell at any one time (altering a spell with a feat does not make it a "different" spell). Spells, once cast, are lost from the casting character's memory and cannot be reused until the caster prepares them again.

**Spell Disruption:** If, between declaring a spell and casting it, the caster is hit by an attack or the like (even if no damage is dealt), or fails a saving throw, the spell is disrupted: it fails and its spell slot is emptied with no other effect. Note that only spells being cast can be disrupted. Spell effects from a rod, staff, wand, etc. and spell-like innate creature abilities are immune to disruption.



## Mage Spell Progression Table

This shows the number of spells of a given spell level that a mage can prepare per day (also known as their spell slots). If the mage is a specialist, they add one to each level's spell slot total, but the extra spell must be from the school specialized in. If a spell is level-adjusted through feats, that spell is treated in all ways as a spell of the level to which it has been modified.

Mage Level	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2					
2	3					
3	3	1				
4	3	2				
5	4	2				
6	4	2	1			
7	4	3	2			
8	5	3	2			
9	5	3	2	1		
10	5	3	2	2		
11	5	4	3	2		
12	5	4	3	2	1	
13	6	4	3	2	1	
14	6	4	3	3	2	
15	6	5	4	3	2	1
16	6	5	4	3	2	1
17	6	5	4	3	3	1
18	6	5	4	4	3	2
19	6	6	5	4	3	2
20	6	6	5	4	3	2

## Scrolls

Spells can be bound to scrolls; each holds one spell. Holding it with both hands and reading from it aloud casts its spell, disintegrating the scroll.

A spell on a scroll is not a prepared spell and can be cast even if the caster does not own the spell or isn't able to cast spells at that spell's level. The caster must still have access to the school to which the spell belongs, however. Spells on scrolls can't be modified through feats, though a caster can scribe a modified spell, and spells can't be prepared from scrolls.

For the purposes of range and so on, a scroll spell is treated as if the reader is casting it normally or is the minimum level required to cast it normally, whichever is higher.

Scrolls may be scribed by anyone who has the ability to both read scrolls and to cast the spell being scribed. It costs 500sp and one week per level of the spell, which can be broken up into multiple sessions. This is a Moderate (Arc x2) check, rolled in secret by the referee at the end of the week. On a roll of a 1, the referee rerolls: a result of 1-10 means that a cursed scroll has been created.

**Creating Magic Items:** Potions are created by alchemists, with the more powerful potions usually requiring the help of a Magic-User. A Magic-User seeking to create potions must

employ an alchemist. A Magic-User must be 9th level to create potions on their own, and 11th level to create other magic items.

## The Schools of Magic

All spells belong to one of eight schools of magic. A caster can only learn spells from schools to which they have access. A caster gains access to a new school of their choice at every name level, learning random spells belonging to that school, one at each level they can cast. The schools are:

- **Abjuration:** Spells protective in nature. These frequently ward against damage or hostile effects, like gas, poison, possession, etc.
- **Conjuration:** Spells that summon creatures or objects, from a simple fog to extraplanar entities that serve your every whim.
- **Divination:** Spells that reveal information, from hidden traps and chambers to items and fell secrets.
- **Enchantment:** Spells that affect the minds of others and bend life to your will—men, monsters, and even plants—making them angry or ambivalent, docile or dependent.
- **Evocation:** Spells that shape raw magic itself. Most purely offensive spells (like *Magic Missile*, *Fireball*, etc.) belong to this school, making it nearly mandatory for any aspiring battle wizard.
- **Illusion:** Spells that deceive; imaginary sounds, smells, objects, creatures, and even entire environments are possible.
- **Necromancy:** Spells manipulating the energies of life and death, covering both healing the living and interactions with the dead (and undead).
- **Transmutation:** Spells that alter the properties of a creature, object, or environment. One can fly, breathe underwater, or gain great strength, alter the size of a creature or object, or transmute one type of material into another. Sometimes called "Alteration."

## Spell List

Spells are as in [Simulacrum](#).

## Mapping

Maps are usually best made simply: boxes and lines are sufficient to keep you from getting lost. The players' map represents an actual in-game object. If the players at the table are making a map, then a character must also be making one and have the tools to do so. This has several corollaries: the party must have light (they can only map what they see) and mapping supplies (something to write with and something to write on), and they must be moving at a cautious exploration rate. Perhaps most importantly, a map being actively made is a fragile item (see [item saving throws](#))—if something happens to the map in-game, it happens to the players' map as well! If the party wants backup copies, the players must actually draw them. If the entire party dies in the dungeon, the only way their maps will survive is if copies were left on the surface.

## Moving Silently

Anyone can attempt to sneak. A check is called for when attempting movement that normally attracts attention, such as slipping past a guard, or maneuvering behind a target for a surprise attack.

Moving silently requires a successful Dex check, the difficulty of which is set by the referee, and which is rolled in secret by the referee. While a failed move silently check will alert the enemy in some fashion, it does not necessarily give away your position, let alone imply a bumbling, noisy disaster.

A move silently attempt reduces your movement to 1/4 (normally, to 10' per round). Every additional 10' per round added to that movement rate raises the difficulty by one level.

- **Alert Enemies:** The attention of most intelligent undead (e.g., skeletons, zombies) and constructs (e.g. golems) never wavers. As such, the difficulty of move silently checks against them is one difficulty higher.
- **Armor:** If wearing non-magical medium or heavy armor, increase the difficulty by one level.
- **Group Checks:** If a group attempts to sneak together, this is a group check, with the difficulty based on the group's least stealthy member.
- **Surprise:** Moving silently can be used to set up surprise attacks.

## NPC Spellcasting

Non-player characters may be hired to cast spells or perform other services. As a general guideline, spells cost *roughly* the following, and will be subject to a host of in-the-fiction considerations:

Spell Level	Cost per Casting
1st	50sp
2nd	100sp
3rd	250sp
4th	500sp
5th	1,000sp
6th	2,500sp+

Paying for spellcasting services does not count towards XP.

Sages or alchemists not employed by a PC will often charge around 100sp to identify a potion (which takes an hour or so), or 200+sp to identify a magical item (which can take upwards of a week).

## Perception Checks

Perception checks are always made in secret by the referee. There's no requirement for players to constantly state that they're doing basic investigative tasks that are repetitive and/or obvious, like "I'm looking at the floor" or "I'm listening for noises." The slow pace of cautious exploration accounts for these.

However, sometimes a scenario involves something unusually subtle or a creature has the abilities or has taken the effort to evade typical scrutiny, and calling out a specific

action might be required.

Overall, checks aren't made just to use one's eyes or ears or otherwise notice the obvious. A Perception check only occurs when the rules call for one (e.g. looking for traps or secret doors), or if the referee decides one is needed.

For a group Perception check, the referee applies the group's average Per modifier, if any, rounding normally. For checks by individuals with a positive Per modifier, *twice* the searcher's bonus is applied.

## Readied Items

Small, easily accessible items (e.g., sheathed daggers, wands, or potions) on your character can be declared as **readied**. A scroll in a scroll case, or something buried in your backpack, could not be readied. A readied item takes no action to draw. For example, you could take out a readied wand and fire it in the same Missile Phase.

The downside is that readied items are vulnerable to destruction. If a creature fails certain types of saving throws (most notably, against an area-effect attack), most readied items then have to make saves of their own to avoid destruction. See [item saving throws](#) for more details.

## Retainers

Retainers cost 50sp on initial hire (+50sp to request a class), plus ½ share of treasure. They will be level 1d3, but cannot be higher than the hiring PC's level. Retainers' starting Morale typically ranges from 18 (the craven) to 6 (the elite), and can be randomly determined at hiring with a 2d6+6 roll.

Loyalty is checked with a Morale roll after each adventure, if the retainer is reduced to 1/4 or less of its full HP total, or if their loyalty is severely tested. If a success is rolled, the retainer's Morale threshold decreases by one to a minimum of 6. On a failure, the retainer departs.

Porters/torchbearers come with no equipment. Equipment purchased by the PC is kept by the PC. Retainers come with the same basic starting equipment as PCs, but no starting silver. Stats, specializations & feats are rolled randomly, and no skills are included (but can be chosen if a player ends up playing the retainer as a replacement for a lost PC, for example).

Starting armor is based on class. Mages roll 1d6-1;

Warriors roll 1d6+1:

- 0-1=No armor (AC 9)
- 2-3=Leather (AC 12)
- 4-5=Ring (AC 13)
- 6=Scale (AC 14)
- 7=Chainmail (AC 15)

Choose a weapon option:

- Option A: One medium melee weapon & a shield
- Option B: One large weapon
- Option C: Two medium one-handed weapons (+1 to hit)
- Option D: One medium melee weapon & one ranged weapon (plus ammo)

If appropriate, the referee can choose to roll on the Offer Reaction Table below—applying modifiers based on party reputation, the mission description, or lavish or miserly rates of pay if desired—to decide the potential retainer’s reaction:

2d6	Reaction to Offer
2	Hostilely declines*
3-5	Declines
6-11	Accepts
12	Eagerly accepts**

\* The reaction is so bad that the NPC spreads negative rumors about the PC and/or party, resulting in a -2 on further hiring rolls on this table if the PC and/or party attempt further recruitment in this area.

\*\* Permanent -1 bonus to the retainer’s Morale threshold.

## Strongholds & Domains

Strongholds and domains are as in OSE Advanced, with clarifications and detailed procedures as in [ACKS](#).

## Swimming

All characters can swim, barring an unusual background. Assuming no current, a land-dweller swims at half their combat speed, and can do so for hours equal to 1/4 their Con score (3/4 speed and 1/2 Con with the Swimming skill); round down. If lightly encumbered, halve the amount of time a character can swim. Higher encumbrance (or wearing medium or heavy armor) causes one to sink and begin to drown if in deep enough water (see [Fatigue](#)).

## Trap Detection

Spotting a trap is a Perception check. A character can actively search a 10’ square for traps. This takes 1 turn; only one person can search a given square at any one time. Subtle but ultimately visible traps and triggers (such as tripwires) should be automatically detected by this; a failed search usually does not trigger traps.

How well a trap is concealed determines the difficulty. The average concealed trap is Very Hard (17+) to spot during cautious exploration, or Daunting (11+) if actively being searched for and not visible.

**10-foot Poles:** Prodding ahead with one or more of these and using cautious exploration gives a 2-in-6 chance of triggering area traps (safely, unless the trap specifies otherwise).

**Area Traps:** Traps that are triggered by moving into a map square (e.g. pit traps, but not trapped doors) are area traps. During cautious exploration, a separate group check is automatically made for each area trap trigger within 10 feet.

## Upkeep & Lifestyle

At the end of every in-game month, player characters must pay upkeep equivalent to a percentage of their current XP total in sp, which does not count towards XP (for example, a 1st-level character with 1,500 XP would pay 15sp at the end of a month, which would set their lifestyle to “Comfortable” for the following month). This is an abstraction of buying food, shelter, entertainment, and generally living the lifestyle of an adventurer.

There are three lifestyles: Poor, Comfortable, and Wealthy. A Poor lifestyle gives you threadbare clothing, simple food and lodgings, and a livable though uncomfortable experience. Comfortable gives you good food, well-kept lodging, respectable conditions and your basic needs readily met. A Wealthy lifestyle is the life of luxury: a spacious home, sumptuous table fare, skilled and fashionable tailors, servants, and other attendants to meet your every need.

Your lifestyle choice can have in-game consequences. Living rough might help you avoid notice, but you’re unlikely to make important connections doing so. Maintaining a luxurious lifestyle will let you access and befriend the rich and powerful, but you run the risk of attracting thieves, deceit, intrigue, and treachery.

Also, your healing rates during downtime are affected by your lifestyle (see [healing](#)).

Lifestyle	% of XP in sp
Poor	0.5%
Comfortable	1%
Wealthy	2%

## Wilderness Exploration

In a campaign where the journey is as important as the destination (or where there isn't even necessarily a main destination *per se*), overland movement comes into play.

Travel overland is measured in 6-mile hexes. **Hex points** are spent to travel through hexes, and all player characters have a base hex point allowance of **four per day**, which can be modified by mounts, encumbrance, and fatigue (applied before encumbrance). A party travels at the rate of its slowest member.

The base cost in hex points to enter a hex depends on its terrain type. Unlisted terrain features like great rivers, canyons, etc. can further raise the cost.

Terrain Type	Entry Cost
Plains, steppe, farmland	1
Hills, woods, desert, rough	2
Mountains, jungle, swamps	4

Terrain factors can affect the base entry cost of a hex:

Terrain Modifiers	Cost Modifier
Heavy rain/deep snow/thick fog	+1
Temperature extremes	+1
Good roads or excellent trails	-1

The good roads bonus can apply once per day; at least two hexes of good roads must be covered that day.

A party may choose one of two optional march types each day, reflecting its priorities: either caution or speed.

- **Cautious March:** Reduce the party's hex allowance by one, and apply a +1 bonus to all rolls for overland random encounters, and the party has a better chance of tactically favorable encounters.
- **Forced March:** Add one to the party's hex allowance, but gain one fatigue level at day's end. Can be kept up until a marcher is heavily fatigued. A day of full rest is required to remove one level of forced march fatigue from most creatures.

### Entering a Hex

If a party wants to enter a hex, but lacks some of the points needed, they points they do have are spent towards entering it, but the party ends the day in their current hex. The party only enters the new hex once its full hex point cost is paid.

### Navigation and Getting Lost

If the party has never been to a hex they've just entered, the party makes a **navigation check** by rolling 1d12. Subtract the hex's base Entry Cost, and another -6 if there's thick fog, a blizzard, a sandstorm, or the like in the hex. Remove up to 2 points of these penalties if the party has any members with the Fieldcraft feat for that hex's terrain type. This check is skipped if the party has a respectable map or knowledgeable guide, or if there is a road, trail, coastline, or river in the current hex they can logically follow to their next hex. The

party is assumed to map any hex passed through.

On a result of 1 or less, the check fails & the party is lost. To leave the hex, the party must spend hex points equal to the amount they spent to enter it originally, and then make a new navigation check. Failure means that the party is still lost.

### Searching

Entering a hex allows a party to determine its features. There are two types: **overt** and **hidden**.

Overt features require no special effort to find. Hidden features may or may not exist, but can only be found if the party searches the hex, moving off the beaten path to seek out points of interest there. A hex may have both types.

Searching a hex requires spending the same number of hex points that it cost to enter the hex, and, like entering a hex, is only complete when the full hex point cost is paid. The party then makes another navigation check; failure means the party is lost, which is resolved normally. Success reveals one hidden feature in the hex, if any.

### Camping in the Wilds

#### Building a Fire

Given a means of producing flame (e.g. a tinderbox, magic) and a stash of wood (either gathered from the forest or carried in packs), a character may attempt to build a fire.

**Good conditions:** In favorable conditions, with decent wood and a relatively dry campsite, fire-building automatically succeeds.

**Bad conditions:** In more troublesome circumstances, getting a fire going requires a Moderate (8+) check, though "Dwarves can make a fire almost anywhere out of almost anything, wind or no wind" and will automatically succeed. However, the referee may reduce the chance of success to account for extreme cold or damp.

#### Fetching Water

Finding water to drink is assumed to have happened naturally while traveling, except in an exceptionally dry environment, when it is only found on a 2-in-6 chance per hex.

#### Cooking

Given a fire, cooking pots, and ingredients (e.g. foraged food, standard rations, hunted game), someone may cook a meal, a Moderate (8+) task. Someone particularly skilled in Cooking succeeds automatically.

**If the check succeeds:** An especially tasty dish is produced. Those who eat the meal lower the difficulty of the Con check required to rest (see below), due to their hearty supper.

**If the check fails:** A palatable but not exemplary dish is produced. A natural 20 denotes a ruined meal (burned, spilled, etc.) that is utterly inedible. No Con check mod.

## Rest Checks

When camping in the wild, characters' ability to get a good night's rest is determined by their equipment (whether they have a bedroll and/or tent), their warmth (whether they have a fire burning), and the season. Non-ideal circumstances require PCs to make a Con check, with the difficulty listed below.

Fire	Bed	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
N	No bedding	Auto failure	Hard (14+)	Daunting (11+)	Hard (14+)
N	Bedroll or tent	Auto failure	Daunting (11+)	Good rest	Daunting (11+)
N	Bedroll & tent	Hard (14+)	Daunting (11+)	Good rest	Daunting (11+)
Y	No bedding	Auto failure	Hard (14+)	Daunting (11+)	Hard (14+)
Y	Bedroll or tent	Hard (14+)	Good rest	Good rest	Good rest

**If the check succeeds:** The character gets a good night's sleep and regains 1hp overnight.

**If the check fails:** The character fails to get a good night's sleep and suffers one level of fatigue due to lack of sleep.

## Hunting

In the wilderness, the party can stop and hunt for food. Hunting must be the sole activity that day (i.e. no resting or traveling), and generates a random encounter check for that hex. So long as the hex has game, hunting always feeds the party for the day, even if the hunting check fails; if successful, it also provides 1 additional standard ration for every point over the result needed.

Hunting is a Daunting (11+) check, though the Fieldcraft feat lowers the difficulty in favored terrain to Moderate (8+). However, some hexes may be more or less difficult, others might require a character with Fieldcraft and the matching favored terrain to hunt in at all, while still others are too barren for any hunter.

## Weather

At the start of each day, the referee rolls 1d8 (the travel die) and 1d6 (the combat die).

On a roll of 1 on the travel die, heavy rain, snow, a sandstorm, or other similar natural environmental hindrance appropriate to the terrain occurs: apply the standard +1 Hex

Terrain Modifier from such for all hexes entered that day. If rain is falling, the good roads hex terrain bonus does not apply that day to dirt roads (most of them), as they are rapidly reduced to mud.

On a roll of 1 on the combat die, strong winds occur: apply the poor conditions modifier to outdoor missile attacks that day, and *Fog*, *Stinking Cloud*, *Cloudkill* and any similar effects do not function outdoors.

## Storms

If both rolls have "1" results, the weather is a severe storm. In addition to the above effects, apply another +1 Hex Terrain Modifier to all hexes entered that day (+2 total). In winter, this is extreme snowfall, enough to make further movement impossible that day without proper gear or magical aid. A storm's effects may linger for a while after the storm: a +1 Hex Terrain Modifier to all hexes the next day.

## Wilderness Random Encounters

One random encounter check (aka "wandering monster check") is made each time a navigation check is made. One check is also made if the party enters a wilderness hex without need of a navigation check (i.e. they have a map), or if the party isn't lost but does not leave the wilderness hex they are in that day.

To make a check, the referee rolls 1d12, subtracts the hex's base entry cost, and applies all relevant modifiers to the roll:

Situation	Modifier
Hex is unusually dangerous	-1 or -2
Hex is safe (e.g. patrolled)	+1
Party has 1+ members with Fieldcraft for that hex's terrain type	+1
Players are moving at a cautious march	+1

On a result of 1 or less, an encounter occurs.

If the party spends the night in the wilderness, make an additional random encounter check. Subtract 1 if the party keeps a fire big enough to see by going through the night (although fire scares off some of the creatures that notice it, like bears or wolves). If an encounter occurs, the referee randomly rolls to see on whose watch (if any) the encounter takes place.

After determining the type of creature(s) encountered, the referee rolls on the following table, applying a +2 bonus if the party is moving at a cautious march:

## Hirelings

### Standard Hirelings

Short-term services of simple craftsmen and laborers are relatively easily procured, but it is harder to find individuals willing to take service for longer than a few days, especially if considerable travel is involved.

Hireling	Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
Carpenter, Mason, Servant	11sp	200sp
Groom, Laborer, Linkboy, Pack Handler	6sp	120sp
Cook, Leatherer, Tailor	10sp	200sp
Limner	9sp	180sp
Teamster	7sp	140sp

**Carpenter:** Skilled in the working of wood, a carpenter might be retained to construct anything from a table to a palisade. Their expertise is also invaluable for the manufacturing of shields and similar items.

**Cook:** Familiar with the preparation of various types of food, and sometimes also knows a little herblore.

**Groom:** Proficient in the care of horses, an attentive groom can usually tell a good mount from a bad; also known as an ostler or stable hand.

**Laborer:** Essentially unskilled, laborers are suitable for only the most menial sorts of work; this category includes bearers and porters, each of which is able to carry up to 12 slots of items, or twice that if a pole or other contrivance is utilized.

**Leatherer:** Capable of producing a wide range of leather goods, such as packs, belts or riding gear; a leatherer is indispensable for the making of scabbards, sheathes, shields and the other leather components of arms and armor.

**Limner:** Adept in the painting of signs and the illumination of heraldic devices, among other similar tasks.

**Linkboy:** Usually hired to bear a lantern or torch, a linkboy is typically (but not always) a youth.

**Mason:** Expert in the working of stone or plaster, masons are essential for the construction of many significant buildings and fortifications.

**Pack Handler:** Practiced in the burdening, handling and unburdening of various pack animals.

**Servant:** Typically serving as valets, butlers, maids, messengers or simple lackeys, servants are expected to look to the needs of their master.

**Tailor:** Accomplished in the repair and making of clothes or other cloth items; the services of a tailor are also required for the production of various types of textile based armor and coverings.

**Teamster:** Experienced drivers of carts and wagons, teamsters are usually experts at loading and unloading their vehicles, as well as handling the animals with which they are familiar.

### Mercenaries/Men-at-Arms

Mercenaries are as on pgs. 112-113 of *OSE Advanced*. The majority of regular men-at-arms are zero-level characters with 1d4+3 hit points. The following additional mercenaries are available (and in some cases required):

**Captain:** Equivalent to a 5th- to 8th-level warrior (1-4=5th, 5-7=6th, 8-9=7th, 0=8th). A captain may lead 20 men at arms and one lieutenant per level of experience, plus any necessary sergeants; the monthly wage demanded by a captain is equal to his level x 100sp.

**Lieutenant:** Equivalent to a 2nd- (1-7) or 3rd- (8-0) level warrior. A lieutenant may lead ten men at arms per level of experience, plus any necessary sergeants. A lieutenant serving under a captain extends the number of troops the captain can effectively command and control. The monthly wage demanded by a lieutenant is equal to his level x 100sp.

**Sergeant:** Equivalent to a 1st-level warrior. A sergeant can lead up to ten men independently or in service to a lieutenant or captain. In any given company, there must be one sergeant for every five to ten men at arms. The monthly wage required by a sergeant is ten times that of the troop type he leads.

A player character warrior of the appropriate level may serve as a sergeant, lieutenant or captain, as might an allied non-player character fighter or retainer.

### Expert Hirelings/Specialists

Obtaining the services of very skilled craftsmen and other professional servitors typically involves the expenditure of considerable time and resources. While it is possible to retain such hirelings for short periods, few will agree to a term of less than a month and most expect to serve considerably longer.

Specialist	Monthly Wage
Alchemist	1,000sp
Animal Trainer	500sp
Armorer	500sp*
Blacksmith	220sp
Engineer (Architect)	500sp*
Engineer (Artillerist)	300sp
Engineer (Miner or Sapper)	300sp
Jeweler/Gemcutter	200sp*
Sage	Special
Scribe	200sp
Ship Crew	120sp
Ship Captain	500sp
Spy	Special
Steward/Castellan	Special
Weaponsmith	300sp*

\*Cost does not include all remuneration or special fees.

**Alchemist:** Identify potions and substances. Based on a sample or recipe, an alchemist can produce a potion at twice



the normal speed and for half the normal cost (see *OSE Advanced, Magical Research, p126*). An alchemist may also research new potions, but this takes twice as long and costs twice as much as normal.

**Animal Trainer:** Specialized trainers are required for exotic animals or larger numbers of normal animals. A trainer can have up to six animals under their care at a time. It will take a minimum of one uninterrupted month to teach an animal the first new behavior or trick. After this first month, an animal has become accustomed to the trainer and can be taught additional behaviors at twice the rate (two weeks per behavior).

**Armorer:** Required for the production and maintenance of armor and shields; for every 60 men at arms or barded warhorses present, there must be at least one armorer available. Each must be provided with a workroom, forge, and assistants at an additional cost (~400sp). An armorer can use spare time (prorated based on number of supported troops) to make additional armor, helmets, or shields at 25% of their usual cost. Per month, an armorer can make three shields or one suit of armor.

**Blacksmith:** Essential for the basic maintenance of a stronghold and any resident soldiery; for every blacksmith retained the needs of up to one hundred and twenty men or horses can be met, but there must be at least one in every stronghold and a workroom and forge must be provided for each (~400sp). Besides the usual duties (horseshoes, nails, hinges, etc.) a hired smith can turn out some basic weaponry each month: 30 arrowheads or quarrel tips, or 10 spear heads, or 5 morningstars, or 2 flails or polearm heads.

**Engineer (Architect):** Necessary for the successful construction of any but the most simple of surface structures. An architect requires payment by the month, even for short projects, and expects to receive an additional sum equal to 10% of the total building costs. Unless the construction site was approved by an architect, there is a 75% chance that any structure will collapse in 1d100 months.

**Engineer (Artillerist):** Mandatory for the construction and correct operation of siege weapons, such as the trebuchet or ballista. No such engines can be made or properly used without the services of such an individual. If employment is for short term only, say a few months or less, then rates of pay and costs will be increased from 10% to 60%.

**Engineer (Miner or Sapper):** Indispensable for the overseeing of any mining operations, underground construction, or siege and counter siege works that involve trenches, fortifications, assault towers and other similar siege devices.

**Jeweler/Gemcutter:** Able to speedily and accurately appraise the value of most gems, jewelry and other precious objects, a jeweler is also capable of repairing, enhancing or newly creating ornamented items and jewelry. The total value of the materials can be increased by from 10% to 40%, depending on the skill of the jeweler. Likewise, a gemcutter might well increase the value of a rough or poorly cut stone

(those under 5,000sp base value), or the stone might be ruined in the process. Note that jeweler/gemcutters cannot be held responsible for damage. Dwarven jeweler/gemcutters add 20% to skill level determination rolls, but cost twice as much to employ.

Jeweler Skill Level	
01-20	Fair—10% increase 90% likely
21-50	Good—20% increase 50% likely, +10% otherwise
51-75	Superior—30% increase 60% likely, +10% otherwise
76-90	Excellent—40% increase 70% likely, +10% otherwise
91-00	Masterful—40% increase 60% likely, +20% otherwise

Gemcutter Skill Level	
01-30	Shaky—d12, one roll, 1 improves, 10-12 ruins stone
31-60	fair—d12, one roll, 1-2 improves, 12 ruins
61-90	good—d12, one roll, 1-3 improves, 12 ruins
91-00	Superb—d20, 1-5 improves, 20 ruins stone

*Note: Giving a gem to a jeweler/gemcutter to improve counts as “spending” it for XP purposes; you gain XP equal to the gem’s original value. Note any increase in value as “profit” in your inventory (e.g., “ring [200 sp profit]”) and log it as mercantile income for the month if/when sold.*

**Sage:** A person with a degree of knowledge on just about everything, a lot of knowledge in a few specific fields, and authoritative knowledge in his or her special fields of study. Each sage specializes in one or more minor fields of study, and a handful of special categories within a major field of study. Only fighters, paladins, rangers, and thieves are able to hire a sage, though anyone can consult one; a sage will only accept service on a permanent, lifetime basis. As a sage will bring nothing save thinking ability and knowledge, an offer of employment must consider the following:

Support & Salary per Month	200 to 1200sp
Research Grants per Month	200 to 1200sp
Initial Material Expenditure	20,000sp minimum*

*\*A 20,000sp expenditure will allow the sage to operate at 50% of normal efficiency, and for each additional 1,000sp thereafter, the sage will add 1% to efficiency until 90% is reached (upon expenditure of 60,000sp). After 90%, to achieve 100% efficiency the cost per 1% is 4,000sp (for the obviously erudite and rare tomes, special supplies and equipment, etc. - assuming such are available, of course). All told, expenditures must be 100,000sp for 100% sage efficiency in specific and exacting question areas.*

**Scribe:** Practiced in the art of writing, a typical scribe is expected to keep records, write letters and copy documents. Others may possess additional skills, such as cartography, counterfeiting, cryptography, illuminating or the ability to write, read or otherwise comprehend more than one language.

Such accomplished individuals might command up to ten times the standard wage.

**Ship Crew:** Skilled workers who can handle a ship.

Sailors can fight to defend their ship, typically being equipped with a sword, shield, and leather armor.

**Ship's Captain:** A captain is required for any large ship, is skilled like a sailor, and has an intimate knowledge of the particular coasts they frequent.

**Spy:** Recruited to secretly watch the actions of others and gather information, fees may vary wildly, from perhaps a mere hundred silver pieces to many thousands, depending on the individual and the difficulty of what is asked.

**Steward/Castellan:** Responsible for the administration of a stronghold in the absence or inability of a player character, a steward holds a position of great prestige and trust. Whilst

serving within the stronghold, a steward is capable of leading forty men at arms and two lieutenants for every level of experience he possesses, as well as the necessary number of sergeants. The monthly wage due to a steward is equal to his level x 100sp. A retainer of an appropriate class and level could be appointed as steward.

**Weaponsmith:** Required for the production and maintenance of weaponry; for every sixty men at arms present, there must be at least one weaponsmith available. Each must be provided with a workroom, forge, and assistants at an additional cost (~400sp). A weaponsmith can use spare time (prorated based on number of supported troops) to make additional weapons at a rate of five weapons per month at 25% of their usual cost.