# Chapter 6: Movement and combat

During the game, characters will journey and adventure into exotic and dangerous locations where they will find themselves in hard situations.

Day to day events like waking up, changing clothes, cooking, taking a bath, enjoying a stroll in the park, etc. are not important to the story so there is no need to keep track of them. But when the action turns chaotic and everything moves really fast, thing blow up, ledges crumble under your feet, bullets fly everywhere, and the life or death of the character depends on mere fractions of second, then the action time needs to be tracked and combat begins.

### Encounter actions

Each encounter has the following sequence.

#### Ready shot

A modern weapon has a higher security and can be kept loaded and ready for longer periods, even resisting heavy action.

#### ***Exorcism***

A character may try and clean a negatively charged place (exorcise) by doing a Religion skill check. The result of the check should provide a skill result Modifier greater or equal than the Death level. If the check fails, the next attempt by the same individual is done with a cumulative -5 penalty to the skill rank. If the check succeeds the

For example, to exorcize a house with a Death charge of 4 a character should make a Religion check with a result over 20 which provides a +4 Modifier.

#### Targetting

The character can spend APs in order to increase his accuracy. For each 4 APs spent he gains a +1 to his ranged attack rank. The maximum Modifier which can be gained in this way is +2 (8 APs).

## Damage

Once you have defined if the attack was successful, then damage must be computed. As the character accrues damage his health is reduced. When his health reaches 0 the character is dying (read *Character status*).

Damage can be categorized by element: Weapon and physical (Earth), Acid and Combustion (Fire), Light and Electrical (Air), Drain and Poison (Death), Venom (Life) and Psychic and Stun (Water).

### Acid damage (Fire)

Acid damage follows the rules of combustion damage except it is always considered continual damage until the acid is neutralized and stops burning.

Armor which loses all protection bonuses will just fall in pieces.

If the acid is in vaporous form, like a cloud, it won’t damage the skin or equipment but it will burn the lungs or eyes of the target. Armor provides no protection against it, however a closed helmet will provide a couple rounds of protection at the GM discretion.

### Combustion damage (Fire)

Fire damage can be caused by an intense source of heat like a burning house, volcano lava, or some spells. There can be two types of damage, explosions and continual damage.

Fire damage cannot be soaked by the Earth attribute. Armor can soak normally but it will suffer damage and break apart.

#### Explosions

Fire explosions are sudden bursts of fire that destroy everything in an area like fireballs or fire bolts which act for an instant and disappear.

Armor can soak explosion damage but with each explosion the armor permanently loses one point of protection until it is destroyed.

#### Continual fire damage

Continual fire damage occurs when an area is on fire, like a burning house. Any character entering the area will suffer fire damage depending on the intensity of the fire.

Armor will protect against continual fire damage for a while allowing a normal soak but will get damaged and lose one point of protection per round spent inside the fire.

If the armor loses all the protection due to continuous fire, it ignites and starts dealing damage at a rate of 1 point of damage per round (in addition of any other surrounding damage). Drenching the armor in water will stop the burn damage but at that point armor will probably be destroyed.

### Drain damage (Death)

Drain damage occurs when the life force is sucked out of a living creature. The character armor and Earth attribute won’t protect the character against drain but the character can soak the damage using his Death attribute. It is basically a contest of willpower between the attacker and the defender.

Even when the drain is a contest of willpower, the damage is very much physical and can wipe health or even attributes depending on the specific attack.

#### Drain power

Some powerful creatures, like vampires or succubi, have a drain power. The creature is usually required to touch his target by using a melee attack or maybe enchanting and tricking them into accepting caress and comfort.

Regardless on how it is executed, the attack has a drain level which is equivalent to the damage. The opponent can soak the damage using his Death attribute.

#### Haunted places

Haunted places are not common in nature but may exist. Places where terrible things have occurred are charged with a negative aura that sucks the life from the earth and prevents plants from growing and plants already in the area wither, blacken and die. Only fungus or lichen may grow if anything. People feel gloom and sorrow in the area, and will be most comfortable leaving it, but they won’t be otherwise affected.

From all this cursed places, only a few where the most abhorrent acts have been committed can produce anything near a Death energy level that may affect a large living being. Animals or creatures of low intelligence stay clear of such places and won’t come nearby unless forced, and even then they will try to flee at the first opportunity.

The GM must provide a Death attribute to such accursed location like it is a living entity with its own willpower. This place will drain energy depending on its Death level, dealing one point of damage per Death point to each hour to any person staying on the area. Characters can soak the damage using their Death attribute.

Even if the place does not immediately consume the person life it will cause some degree of discomfort. Every week, a person living in such place will lose one point of Earth, Water or Death for every point of Death charge permeating the house. The player decides how to reduce the abilities. Attribute damage is considered a temporary damage that can be healed with complete rest one point per week.

A character may try and clean a negatively charged place (exorcize) by doing a Religion skill check. The result of the check should provide a skill result Modifier greater or equal than the Death charge level. If the check fails the next attempt by the same individual is done with a cumulative -5 penalty.

For example, to exorcize a house with a Death charge of 4 a character should make a Religion check with a result over 30 which provides a 5 Modifier.

### Electrical damage (Air)

Electrical damage is caused by electrically charged particles in an air. Any person entering the area will act as a discharge point for the particles.

Electrical damage can be soaked by the Earth attribute.

Non-metallic armor grants protection against electrical damage but it depends if the armor is covering the point of contact. For example, if the character touches an electrically charged object with his bare hands he will receive no bonuses even if he is using a full leather body armor. However, he will receive bonuses if he uses leather gauntlets to touch the object even if he is otherwise naked.

Metal armor grants no protection against electrical damage. In addition, any metallic armor still suffers one point of damage per discharge.

In addition to the health damage, the character also receives stun damage in the same amount (read *Stun damage*).

### Light damage (Air)

Some creatures (like undead), may be extremely sensitive to light damage. Whenever exposed to a light source, they suffer Fire damage each round, using the same rules as combustion damage.

The damage cannot be soaked by Earth attribute.

Armor will protect only if the character is totally covered.

The total damage depends on the light intensity plus the character *Light sensitivity*.

### Physical damage (Earth)

Physical (Earth) damage is the damage dealt by physical objects like weapons, rocks, chairs, fangs, claws, etc. This is the most common damage players will face.

Physical damage is categorized as:

**Blunt:** Damage dealt by concussive objects or weapons like clubs, maces, hands, falling rocks. This type of damage bruises the flesh and break bones.

**Piercing:** This is damage dealt by pikes, bites, arrows, bolts. This penetrates the skin in a single point with significant force reaching internal organs.

**Slash:** Slashing damage is caused by edged weapons, claws, fangs. This damage cuts through tissue and muscle.

#### Weapon damage

Weapon damage (melee or ranged) is computed as:

**Weapon Damage = Attack result - Defense result**

Some weapons allow for multiple types of damage. You may pick the damage you want to deal and announce it.

#### Unarmed damage

The damage from an unarmed attack is computed exactly as weapon damage but when fighting unarmed the character can lower the amount of damage he inflicts all way down to 0.

When padded gloves or shoes are used, half of any unarmed damage is considered lethal damage and the other half is considered non-lethal damage. If damage is willingly reduced by the attacker then the lethal portion of the damage is reduced first. If damage is soaked the lethal portion is reduced first.

For example if a boxer is dealing 10 points of damage, 5 points are considered lethal and the other 5 are temporary. If the boxer decides to reduce the damage to 7 instead of 10 then only 2 points are lethal damage while 5 points are temporary damage.

#### Lethal and non-lethal damage

Basically all weapons are designed to deal lethal damage. Lethal damage requires longer periods of healing (read Healing ahead).

However, some weapons are designed to reduce the damage and deal non-lethal damage. This is the case of boxing gloves or some police weapons.

Non-lethal weapons deal half their damage as lethal and the other half as non-lethal. So, a non-lethal weapon may be easier on the target but it still can kill.

Non-lethal damage is easier on the target. The damage is still counted the same way as lethal damage and can disable an opponent when he gets to 0 points of health, but the non-lethal damage goes away (or heals) at a rate of 1 point per minute. So a knocked out character may recover relatively quickly.

### Poison damage (Death)

Poison damage follows the same rules as Venom damage (read below). The difference is that while venoms are produced by living organisms, poisons are manufactured, distilled and refined for specific purposes.

While venoms are natural and always leave the character body given enough time, poisons can be designed to remain in the body (i.e. heavy metals like mercury or lead) so the effects are cumulative. The character can’t naturally eliminate those poisons and only a *Healing* skill check can help removing the toxins.

Not every poison is designed to kill and some may just incapacitate without killing. Some poisons are weakening, some can cause a deep slumber, some can even heal if used as medicine.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level | Dose | Example |
| 1 | 1 litre | Beer, draught |
| 1 | 500ml | Wine, mead |
| 1 | 200ml | Rum, spirits, firewater |
| 1 | 20mg | Arsenic |

### Psychic damage (Water)

This damage affects the brain, impairing the cognitive and motor skills. There is no natural source for this type of damage, any damage of this type will be caused by spells or some power.

The spell will define the attribute it is affecting. The character can soak the damage using the affected attribute. If the character is doing nothing else but concentrating to prevent the damage he may add his Death as well.

**Psychic soak = Affected attribute + Death**

The soaked points directly reduces the effect of the spell with each soaked point reducing one effect level. It has no effect in other spell attributes like area or range. For more information on spells read the *Chapter 7*.

### Stun damage (Water)

Stun damage startles the target, confusing his mind and forcing him to lose valuable seconds. For each stun damage point the character loses 3 APs. This may take his AP total to a negative number.

If the character has a negative number of APs at the beginning of his round he must “pay” for the negative APs first with the APs he receives for the round.

### Venom damage (Life)

Venoms are substances that can disrupt the chemical processes of affected organisms.

Many creatures, animals and plants, just secrete venoms. They can be extracted and used as medicine or, most commonly, for darker purposes.

Each poison has a severity level. For every dose of poison in the organism, he will suffer 1 point of damage per poison level every hour. This damage can be soaked by the character constitution only.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level | Dose | Example |
| 1 | 0.01mg | Black widow (0.03mg/bite, lvl 3) |
| 1 | 0.3mg | Funnel web spider (1.8mg/bite, lvl 6) |
| 1 | 10mg | Death adder (100mg/bite, lvl 10) |
| 1 | 20mg | Copperhead (60mg/bite, lvl 3) |
| 1 | 15mg | Rattlesnake (90mg/bite, lvl 6) |
| 1 | 5mg | Black mamba (90mg/bite, lvl 18) |
| 1 | 10mg | Black cobra (300mg/bite, lvl 30) |
| 1 | 10mg | King cobra (400mg/bite, lvl 40) |

**Dose:** The amount of venom required to reach the indicated level of toxicity. Higher dose increase the toxicity level accordingly. Some species are very venomous not by toxicity but by the sheer amount of venom injected in the target organism. A single bite from a poisonous snake will kill the target in a matter of hours.

For example, a Black mamba injects an average of 90mg of venom per bite. One dose is 5mg so the total levels of venom injected is 90/5=18.

Venoms do not kill immediately as they require some time to set, but the target will quickly become incapacitated. The character receives a penalty of -1 in every action or skill check per toxicity level in his organism starting one minute after being injected.

In the previous example, the character has 18 levels of venom so he will receive a -18 penalty on every action starting on the second minute. After one hour has passed the character receives 18 points of damage which can be soaked by the character constitution. If the character has a constitution 5 he will receive 18-5 = 13 points of damage each hour.

Poisons will degrade and slowly leave the organism. After the first 24 hours the body will degrade a number of venom levels per hour equal to the character Life. Penalties on actions will be maintained accordingly to the remaining poison level.

The *Healing* skill can be used to reduce the severity of the venom damage.

**Advanced:** Venoms may just be debilitating, they won’t deal any damage each hour but will maintain the penalty to all actions for their duration in the organism.

**Advanced:** Some venoms, even if not lethal, may have nasty consequences. Tissue in the area of the bite may become necrotic leading to the loss of the limb.

**Advanced:** Venoms are natural toxins. Even if they can be extremely dangerous, given enough time and repeated doses the body learns to generate antibodies making the character resistance to that specific venom. In game terms this means that every time the character survives the venom and completely flushes it from his body, he develops a natural resistance to 1 dose (cumulative) for that specific venom. For example, a character with resistance 1 to copperhead venom is immune to the first 10mg of poison so if bitten by a copperhead and injected with 60mg, he is affected as by 50mg only.

This natural resistance is different to the *Damage resistance(Venom)* perk in that the character is resistant to one single type of animal venom only while the perk grants resistance to all kind of venoms.

### Soaking damage

A character suffering physical damage can soak it using his armor:

**Damage Soak = Armor soak + Earth soak stat**

Any physical damage dealt by a physical attack is reduced by this amount. Any damage left after soaking is subtracted from the target current health.

#### Missile Cover

Missiles are fast and deadly. The best way to prevent damage is to take cover behind shields, walls, trees or anything that covers the character.

The cover will absorb part of the missile damage. For each 1cm of cover, it will absorb as much damage as the cover material quality Modifier.

### Area damage

Some spells and weapons deal area damage. The damage in the area may be in effect for an instant (an explosion) or may be ongoing damage (a house on fire).

Explosions affect each character in the area in the moment of the attack. All the characters and objects inside the area are affected unless otherwise noted by the effect description.

Ongoing damage does affect the characters and objects that start, cross or end their movement inside the affected area. A character entering and leaving the area multiple times during a single turn will be dealt damage only once from that source of damage for that turn.

#### Drowning/Asphixia damage (Advanced)

A creature which requires any form of breathing will be affected if not in his natural environment. A creature may hold his breath for one minute plus as many rounds as his Life attribute. The *Hold breath* allows for additional rounds.

After the allowed time finishes, the character will lose one point of Life per round. If his Life attribute reaches 0 the character dies.

### Damage effects (Optional)

If the character health is less than half of the character maximum, he gets a -1 penalty to all his actions and skill checks.

If the character health is less than a quarter of the character maximum, he gets a -3 penalty to all his actions and skill checks.

If the character has only one health remaining he receives a -5 penalty to all his actions and skill checks.

If the character health is 0 the character has a -10 penalty to all his actions and skill checks and any strenuous action like attacking or running will deal 1 point of damage.

If the character health is less than 0 the character falls to the ground and is dying.

## Healing

After some adventuring, there is a high chance the character will suffer some kind of damage. In order to heal that damage characters must rest.

Every week, the character heals a number of points equal to his Life attribute, but to do so, the character must keep quiet for the full week. *That means bandages, bed, nice food and no adventuring for you sir!*

### Partial healing

The character may rest less than one week but he will gain a number of hit points relative to the portion of the week he has rested rounded down. For example, a character with Life 7 recovers 7 hit points per week, then he might decide to rest for two days only and heal just 2 points of damage.

However, during those 2 days, the character must rest and take it very easy.

### Shorter healing periods

The *Healing* skill, *Medicine* perk and *Fast healing* power allows the character to severely increase his healing rate. In some cases the character may be able to heal thousands of points per week which translates into some health points being healed every hour, or even every minute.

Even if the healing rate is relatively short, the character must spend that time doing nothing. For example if the character heals 6 health points each hour, he might decide to rest 30 minutes and heal 3 health points, but he must stay very quiet and do nothing during that time.

### APs healing periods

Some creatures may even be able to heal every second. Remember 2APs is roughly equivalent of 1 second so the GM may decide that the creature loses APs and heals the appropriate number of health in that time.

For example, a creature can heal 1 health per second. So the GM may decide the creature stands doing nothing for 4 APs and recovers 2 health points.

### Fast healing and dying

If the character is able to heal at least 1 point of damage each minute, then he no longer has to roll any stabilization check when he is dying. Also, while dying, a character can’t do anything and he is considered to be resting.

Read more about dying in the *Character status* rules.

### Healing attributes

Attribute damage can be healed by extensive rest. Each week of full rest will heal one point of attribute damage.

### Non-lethal damage

Non-lethal damage is recovered at a rate of 1 point per minute. If the character can heal faster than that then the faster rate is applied.

## Character status

During the adventure the characters may fall into one of this non-normal status.

### Blind

A blinded character can’t process visual information. Blindness is a personal condition so the Low light vision power benefits does not apply.

If a creature is blinded then it is considered as having *Dark* lighting level at all times.

#### Partial blindness

The GM may rule partial blindness allowing the character to see as if he were in reduced lightning conditions.

For example if the character is in bright daylight, the GM may decide his partial blindness only allows him to see as in *Low light* at that moment.

### Deaf

The character can’t process sound waves. This will affect any reaction time as he is no longer able to react to warning sounds. This will give a -2 penalty to all skills which partially require any audio input (i.e. melee or weapon attacks in battle). And gives a -10 to those skills which heavily rely on hearing (rethoric, dancing, singing).

Skills not relying on audio signals are unaffected (i.e. writing, painting).

### Dying

If the accumulated damage takes the character HPs to less than 0 then the character falls to the ground and is dying.

A dying character is unconscious and unable to act. The character is bleeding and every round he remains unattended he must succeed a Health stabilization check with a DR equal to 4 or lose 1 HP. For example, a character with -6 health must succeed a Life check with a DR 4 or slip to -7.

Note that a character with Health attribute less than 4 will bleed to death. Only a Health attribute of 4 or greater provides a chance at a stabilization check.

Once the character saves 3 times he no longer loses HPs and is stabilized. He is still unable to act and any harsh movement (i.e. carrying him in a pallet or in a carriage) will make him bleed and force him to do more stabilization checks every round.

*Optional: the character may continue acting and fighting for as many rounds as his Willpower attribute even if his HPs are less than 0.*

If the character health goes to -10 minus the character level then the character dies. For example a level-5 character may resist until his Health reaches -15.

A character with *Fast healing* power may add his Life to this negative limit.

A dead character cannot be healed but can be resurrected by magical means.

The player may decide to drop the dead character and create a new one. In that case the new character should be created with the minimum experience for the exact same character level. In other words, the character loses any experience he gained for his current level.

### Prone

A character may fall to the ground as a result of a bad action result (i.e. a bad dodge) or an attack sweeping him to the ground. A prone character actions are affected by -4 penalty.

Standing up is a normal action requiring 6 APs.

### Unconscious

Some spells, poisons or venoms may cause the character brain to shut down and lose consciousness.

An unconscious character blacks out, loses any control over his body and falls to the ground. He is unable to act, talk, move, see or listen and has no recollection of what happened to him while being on this state. Only the autonomous nervous system still works allowing him to breathe.

An unconscious character will still be affected by any physical or area attacks that may affect him.

## Advanced Combat

Combat is not always an exchange of blows. Fighters usually have special moves they can execute to surprise their opponents. They may be used to spice the combat a little.

### Using two weapons

There is nothing as impressive as a warrior fighting with a weapon on each hand. However, to achieve this feat some training is required on the off hand.

Any attack made with an untrained limb

### Improvised weapons

A random object may be used as an improvised weapon. A character may comfortably use any object with a weight equal or less than his weapon stat.

Improvised weapons are clumsy. A player may only attack once per round when using improvised weapons. An improvised weapon will deal 2 points of damage per kg.

A player may use heavier objects as weapons up to his medium load stat. The object is not wielded but thrown or pushed so it won't be available to repeat the attack the next round. It will still deal 2 point of damage per kg. The object will affect all creatures in an area relative to its size (i.e. throw a table).

### Wrestling

Wrestling is an unarmed combat but instead of attempting to damage the opponent the attacker uses a series of arm or leg locks to pin down the target limbs. No weapon Modifier can be applied to the grappling attempt, only the attacker Melee skill rank is used but with a -4 penalty.

For each additional limb the attacker has trained with any of the *Gross or Fine Motor skills* perk, he receives a +1 Modifier to the grapple attack or +2 for a fully trained limb.

The GM may provide additional bonuses if the target has some kind of hold points like long untied hair or beard.

The target may try to parry or dodge the grapple attempt as usual. He also receives the same bonuses from additional trained limbs.

After the attack, the “damage” is computed. Soak is allowed because armor makes harder for the attacker get a tight hold, however no material or modifier bonuses are considered.

**Damage = Attack result – Defense result**

**Soak = Base armor soak (no material bonuses)**

The final “damage” after soaking does not affect the target health. Instead it represents the lock effectiveness and is the total penalty the target has on any action he attempts after the grapple. Attack, parry and dodge included.

Each round, the effectiveness of the grapple is reduced by 1. The attacker may attempt to improve the hold making additional grapple attempts. The target must defend with the penalties from the current grapple. The the resulting “damage” is the new value is used even if it is worse than the original value.

The attacker may deal damage on a held target by making grapple attempts. The target must defend with the penalties from the current grapple. If the attack is successful the damage is applied to the health of the target. Armor material is still not considered.

The target may try and break the hold doing a grapple attack but he must attack with the penalties of the current grapple.

The grapple is a heavy action so it can be maintained for minutes. Being grappled also is a heavy action.

### Trip

Trip is an attack which forces the opponent to fall prone to the ground. To do a trip the character needs to do a grapple attempt against the target. If successful he might declare he will let the target fall to the ground.