

Iaido Terminology

Equipment

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Gi / dogi | Martial arts shirt/jacket |
| Hakama-shita | Kimono-style iaido gi |
| Juban | Undergarments worn under gi |
| Hakama | Pleated traditional pants |
| Bokuto | Wooden sword |
| Iaito | Dull/non-sharpened metal sword |
| Shinken | Sharp/live sword |
| Saya | Sword sheath |
| Tabi | Split-toe socks |

Dan Ranks and Titles

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Iaidoka</i> | A student of iaido |
| <i>Kohai</i> | Newer student (than you) |
| <i>Sempai</i> | Older student (than you) |
| <i>Mudansha</i> | One without dan rank |
| <i>Yudansha</i> | One with dan rank |
| <i>Shidachi</i> | Lit. “receiving sword”, receives attack & wins |
| <i>Uchidachi</i> | Lit. “attacking sword”, initiates attack & loses |
| <i>Shodan</i> | 1st dan |
| <i>Nidan</i> | 2nd dan |
| <i>Sandan</i> | 3rd dan |
| <i>Yondan</i> | 4th dan |
| <i>Godan</i> | 5th dan |
| <i>Rokudan</i> | 6th dan |
| <i>Nanadan</i> | 7th dan |
| <i>Hachidan</i> | 8th dan |
| <i>Kyudan</i> | 9th dan |
| <i>Sensei</i> | Head teacher of dojo |
| <i>Renshi</i> | Certified Instructor (must be rokudan) |
| <i>Kyoshi</i> | Certified Sr. Instructor (must be nanadan) |
| <i>Hanshi</i> | Certified Master Instructor (must be hachidan) |
| <i>Sensei</i> | Teacher |
| <i>Soke</i> | Overall Head of a style of iaido |

Start/End of class

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Shinzen ni rei</i> | Bow to shrine |
| <i>Sensei (Sempai) ni rei</i> | Bow to sensei (sempai) |
| <i>Onegaishimasu</i> | Please (teach me) |
| <i>Mokusou</i> | Meditation |
| <i>Otagai ni rei</i> | Bow to each other |
| <i>Domo arigatou gozaimasu</i> | Thank you (for teaching us) |

Events

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Keiko</i> | Practice (through contemplation & understanding) |
| <i>Renshuu</i> | Practice (through drilling & repetition) |
| <i>Taikai</i> | Formal event |
| <i>Embukai / Embu</i> | Formal demonstration |
| <i>Shinsa</i> | Dan examinations |

Stances & Techniques

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Waza</i> | Technique |
| <i>Kata</i> | Predefined technique |
| <i>Zanshin</i> | Presence of mind / awareness |
| <i>Metsuke</i> | Vision / awareness |
| <i>Nukitsuke</i> | Drawing sword from sheath |
| <i>Yokogiri</i> | Side cut |
| <i>Kirioroshi</i> | Downward vertical cut |
| <i>Kesagiri</i> | Downward diagonal cut |
| <i>Gyaku kesagiri / Kiriage</i> | Upward diagonal cut |
| <i>Furi kaburi</i> | Raising sword above head |
| <i>Sune gakoi</i> | Blocking at the leg (protecting leg) |
| <i>Sayabiki</i> | Movement of the saya |
| <i>Sayabanare</i> | Kissaki leaving saya koiguchi |
| <i>Chiburi</i> | Movement of sword to remove blood |
| <i>O-chiburi</i> | Circular chiburi |
| <i>Yoko-chiburi</i> | Short, sideways chiburi |
| <i>Chinugui</i> | Wiping sword from blade |
| <i>Noto</i> | Resheathing sword into saya |
| <i>Hayaosame</i> | Faster version of noto (during Tachiwaza, Oku waza, etc.) |
| <i>Hane age</i> | Flipping sword up (as in Oroshi) |
| <i>Gedan-no-kamae</i> | Lit. "lower level posture", sword front, tip towards knee |
| <i>Jodan-no-kamae</i> | Lit. "upper level posture", sword raised above head |
| <i>Chudan-no-kamae</i> | Lit. "mid-level posture", sword front, tip at throat height |
| <i>Hasso-no-kamae</i> | Lit. "8 direction posture", sword held upright at shoulder |
| <i>Waki-gamae</i> | Lit. "side posture", sword held at hip, tip facing back |

Sword parts

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Kissaki</i> | Tip of the sword |
| <i>Boshi</i> | Curved edge at tip of the sword |
| <i>Monouchi</i> | Top third of the blade (where contact is made when cutting) |
| <i>Mune</i> | Back of the sword |
| <i>Hi</i> | Goove |
| <i>Ha</i> | Cutting edge |
| <i>Hamon</i> | Pattern along cutting edge |
| <i>Habaki</i> | Blade collar |
| <i>Tsuba</i> | Hand guard |
| <i>Seppa</i> | Spacers on either side of tsuba |
| <i>Tsuka</i> | Handle |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Fuchi</i> | Collar of tsuka (adjacent to tsuba) |
| <i>Kashira</i> | Pommel of tsuka |
| <i>Tsuka-ito</i> | Tsuka wrapping (cotton, silk, or leather) |
| <i>Same</i> | Ray skin wrap (beneath ito) |
| <i>Menuki</i> | Ornamentation on tsuka (beneath ito) |
| <i>Mekugi</i> | Peg that keeps the sword in the tsuka |
| <i>Saya</i> | Scabbard |
| <i>Sageo</i> | Cord tied to saya |
| <i>Kurigata</i> | Knob that anchors sageo to saya |
| <i>Koiguchi</i> | Opening of saya |
| <i>Kojiri</i> | End of saya |

Body parts

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| <i>Atama</i> | Head |
| <i>Men</i> | Face |
| <i>Me</i> | Eyes |
| <i>Kubi</i> | Neck |
| <i>Nodo</i> | Throat |
| <i>Mune</i> | Chest |
| <i>Kata</i> | Shoulder |
| <i>Ude</i> | Arm |
| <i>Kote</i> | Wrist |
| <i>Te</i> | Hand |
| <i>Hara</i> | Belly |
| <i>Koshi</i> | Hip |
| <i>Hiza</i> | Knee |
| <i>Ashi</i> | Foot |