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é·car·té 🗨️ (ā'kär-tā)

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n.

A position in ballet in which the dancer faces one of the front corners of the stage or room and one leg is further forward than the other.

[French, apart, spread, past participle of *écarter*, to separate, spread, from Old French *escarter*, to go apart, distance (oneself), from Vulgar Latin **exquārtāre*, to divide in four : Latin *ex-*, *ex-* + Latin *quārtus*, quarter, fourth; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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