

## What Is Yags?

*Yags* is a role playing game system designed for games in a number of different genres, from fantasy to modern and science fiction. It's goal is to enable *Cinematic Realism*, covering the range from low fantasy or horror where fairly mundane people are thrown into abnormal situations, up to heroic larger than life characters who are trained to manage against overwhelming danger through skill, wits and luck.

It is up to the *Game Master* to decide on the type of campaign that will be played by selecting one of four starting character levels: *Mundane*, *Skilled*, *Exceptional* or *Heroic*. These determine the number of points a player has to build their character and the maximum levels they can start with on their attributes and skills.

This choice does not limit how powerful and/or skilled characters can become over time, they merely represent how good characters are at the start of the game.



### Designer's Notes

#### Cinematic Realism

The core rules of *Yags* try to portray a model of the world that gives results that are similar to what we might expect in the real world, allowing players and GMs to second guess the results of actions based on their own common sense. This does mean that getting shot is bad, and being outnumbered in a melee is not a good thing. Most characters will be forced into being very careful if they are going up against organised enemies.

However, highly skilled characters can sidestep some of these difficulties, and act more like Hollywood action heroes - awesome, but not completely super human. You can't dodge a bullet, but you know how to make best use of cover.

*Yags* aims for something close to realism, whilst still allowing for heroic characters. Even the greatest hero can be taken out by a single bullet or thrust of a sword, but they win against the enemy hordes through clever tactics, high skill and possibly some luck.

## The Rules in Brief

*Yags* uses a single d20 for all die rolls. When making a skill check, you determine which attribute and skill to use, and roll **Attribute** x **Skill** + 1d20. Most professionals will have an attribute of 3 and a skill of 4, so will be rolling 12 + 1d20.

A very easy task has a target difficulty of 10, a moderate task 20, a difficult task 30+. You must roll the target difficulty or higher in order to succeed, and the more you roll above the target, the better your success. In some

circumstances, difficulties can get as high as 100 or more, though this will be unusual.

In some cases you may need to make a check just against an attribute by itself (for example, a *Health* check to remain conscious) where no skill is involved. In this case, you roll **Attribute** x 4 + 1d20.

## Attributes

There are eight primary *attributes* that all characters have, and these define your raw talent. Raising attributes after character generation may be difficult or impossible, depending on the campaign, and though a high attribute won't make you automatically good, it is necessary in order to be very good.

The attributes are *Strength*, *Health*, *Agility*, *Dexterity*, *Perception*, *Intelligence*, *Empathy* and *Will*.

## Skills

Skills are abilities which are gained through study, experience and training. There are 8 basic skills (talents) which all being at a score of 2, all other skills are assumed to start at zero unless stated otherwise for your background.

A skill of 4 is considered to be a trained professional, 6 is an expert, 8 is elite and 12+ is a true master of the profession. Skills above 15 are pretty much unheard of, though there is no theoretical limit to how high skills can go.

## Techniques

Techniques are specialities bought within a particular skill. They enable you to perform actions that would be impossible or hard without it, or grant a bonus in certain situations (sometimes to related skills).

## Setting and Style

*Yags* does not try to cover all possible settings in one set of rules. What is provided here is a wide range of skills and background options, but only enough to cover the 'modern world'. There are no options for magic, since how magic is learnt and used can differ from setting to setting. Likewise, there are no skills to cover piloting space craft or operating energy shields or matter transmitters, since again how these work differs between science fiction settings. Individual world books will contain the unique information necessary to build characters for these settings.

Finally, it is up to the *Game Master* to decide on the level of the campaign - *Mundane*, *Exceptional* or *Heroic*, and any other limits in place on the choice of characters and backgrounds.

## Supplementary Articles

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*Yags* is split into several articles, of which this is one, and a good place to start if you want to create a character for yourself. Its focus is on characters for modern settings, and though the rules will work for any type of character, the listed skills are limited to those that a modern character may find useful.

There are a number of articles which supplement *Characters* in a modern setting.

The *Core Rules* provide a detailed description of the underlying rules, and are mostly aimed at GMs wanting a setting and genre agnostic view onto the system.

The *Bestiary* covers everything to do with animals and creatures, including providing statistics for the most commonly encountered animals.

Finally, *High Tech* describes weapons and equipment for the modern era - from 1900 to the present day. It also covers vehicles and rules for using them in a game.

## Your Character

Building a character for *Yags* is a relatively straightforward process. There are many choices available however, and as always it helps to have a good idea of your character concept before you start. The setting of the campaign will tend to limit this, and your GM may have some suggestions as to what type of characters will find a useful role to play.

*Yags* is point based, and the number of points you get to spend depend on the level of the game that the GM will be running. You get three point pools to spend from - **Attributes**, **Experience** and **Advantages**. Your first task is to prioritise these according to the type of character you wish to play. You must choose one pool as your *Primary*, one as your *Secondary* and the last as your *Tertiary* pool. The Primary pool gets the most points to spend, and the Tertiary the least.



### Designer's Notes Point Pools

The points you get to create a character with are divided into a number of different *pools*. This division serves two purposes. Firstly, it helps to focus character design into easier to understand chunks. Secondly, it helps to limit possible abuses of the design process by preventing players from making extreme choices.

It is possible that some *Yags* settings will use a different set of point pools, or use a different means of assigning points altogether.

The pools are not necessarily equal, but which are the most useful will depend on the type of campaign and the type of character that you wish to build.

## The Pools

### Attributes

Your *attributes* define the raw potential of your character. A character with good attributes tends to be able to pick up new things reasonably quickly. They can be fit, healthy, intelligent and charismatic. Attributes are difficult or impossible to raise after character generation (depending on the campaign style), so can be more useful long term than experience or advantages.

Hollywood action heroes will tend to have high attributes. A character with high attributes and low skills represents the gifted amateur who learns to quickly supersede their mentors.

When you prioritise attributes, you define both how many extra points you get to spend, and the maximum level any

single attribute can be. This is shown as +points/maximum in the tables below.

### Experience

*Experience* represents skills and knowledge, generally gained through training and real world experience. A character with a lot of experience is probably older than those who lack it.

Academics, scientists and businessmen will tend to have a high experience. These are often the support characters in fiction - less heroic, but providing useful skills in specialised areas.

When you prioritise experience, you define both how many points you get to spend on skills and techniques, and the maximum level of any single skill. As for attributes, this is shown as points/maximum.

### Advantages

Heroes often have some out of the ordinary feature which separates them from normal people. *Advantages* represent these features. By purchasing advantages, you can make your character special in a certain way, either through extremely good looks, large size, speed or luck.

Advantages also allow you to purchase certain background options, such as wealth or high status. An otherwise normal character can be extremely useful to a group by being able to provide large sums of money to fund their adventures.

When you prioritise advantages, you define how many points of advantages you may buy. You always have the option to purchase a single disadvantage, which will provide you will extra points for more advantages. This may be a '-1' disadvantage which gives you a single extra point, or a '-2' or '-3' which give more points.

For every full 3 points of advantages you are given, you may take an extra disadvantage for further points. Again, it is the number of disadvantages that is limited, not the total value of them.

Lastly, advantages are your character's *Schick*, and as such can't be purchased after character generation. They are also more durable than equivalents gained through play. If you buy *Rich*, it is much harder to lose your wealth than if you had obtained it in-game.

### The Priorities

Before you can begin character generation the GM will have set the starting level of the campaign and dictated the type of characters you will be playing. *Mundane* campaigns are about mostly normal people, so are suitable for horror games and low fantasy. *Exceptional* campaigns

# 4 Characters

are about skilled and experienced people, and are suitable for mid-level fantasy or science fiction campaigns. *Heroic* games are about larger than life people similar to Hollywood action heroes.

## Mundane

Mundane campaigns are about normal people in abnormal situations (or even normal people in normal situations). In this type of campaign, characters are somewhat above average, but not significantly so.

This level of campaign is suitable for modern horror, or stories about young, inexperienced knights at the start of their careers. There is no reason that characters in such campaigns can't grow to become heroic, but the story is often about their progression rather than what they do once they become heroes.

The majority of people in the world will be of the *Mundane* level - indeed, most will have a *Tertiary* level in each of the three categories. Skilled professionals will tend to have *Primary* experience however.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+5/5	+2/4	0/4
Experience	50/6	30/5	20/4
Advantages	3	1	0

For a truly mundane game, characters may be limited to taking two *Secondary* and one *Tertiary* selections, or even a single *Secondary* and two *Tertiary*.

*Mundane* campaigns are best for horror, low fantasy or gritty science fiction. Characters will be young with their life (hopefully) ahead of them.

## Skilled

*Skilled* characters are *Mundanes* with some extra skills. This level of campaign is useful when the GM wants reasonably average characters, but where their backgrounds imply more than the average number of skills - for example, academics or trained professionals.



Such characters are recommended as the default for a modern setting, unless the campaign is focussed around highly trained or heroic characters.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+5/5	+2/4	0/4
Experience	100/6	60/5	40/4
Advantages	3	1	0

Characters in a *Skilled* campaign have twice as many starting experience points as *Mundane* characters.

## Exceptional

*Exceptional* campaigns begin with the characters well above average. You are highly skilled, and above average in your attributes however you prioritise your pools.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+8/6	+5/5	+2/4
Experience	100/7	75/6	50/5
Advantages	4	2	1

Exceptional characters will tend to be average in their weak areas, rather than actually weak. Having said this, they are not far above the norm in attributes, and may be the equivalent of highly skilled professionals (knights, special forces, experienced smugglers etc) who could pass themselves off as heroic with good planning and luck.

## Heroic

In a heroic campaign you have skills and abilities well above the majority of people. However you choose to spend your points, you are going to be very good at what you do, being the equivalent of Hollywood action heroes.

However, you shouldn't let this go to your head, since a single bullet or well placed knife can still kill you just as easily as it could a 'mundane' person.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+12/8	+6/6	+3/5
Experience	200/10	150/8	100/6
Advantages	6	3	1

Heroic characters are best suited for campaigns where the characters are belong to a team of highly trained professionals, such as a *special forces* squad or a group of veteran mercenaries.

## Awesome

There are heroes, and then there are badass heroes who are simply awesome at everything they try. These are truly rare individuals, and tend to mix training, genetic luck and a long history of high adventure into a single package of cinematic wonder.

Category	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Attributes	+15/8	+8/6	+4/5
Experience	350/12	250/9	150/6
Advantages	8	4	2

*Awesome* characters will find most challenges easy to overcome, but may be suitable for truly epic adventures.

## **Putting it All Together**

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Choosing your priorities is best done up front, before proceeding with the rest of character generation. However, it is easy to swap things around later if you do change your mind. With the exception of a small number of cases, each point pool is independent, so it is easy to change things in one area without affecting the other areas.

## Attributes

For player characters, attributes are generally rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with human PCs falling within the range of 2-8. Anything outside of the range 2-5 however is significantly unusual for an adult human, and a typical adult will have all their attributes at 3.

The number of points that may be spent on buying up an attribute depends on the priority you chose for attributes and the level of campaign that is being run.

Score	Cost and description
10	<b>Super alien.</b> The limit of what most aliens can achieve, and far ahead of any human.
9	<b>Super human.</b> Beyond what humans can achieve, and only found in a select few alien species.
8	<b>Amazing (+15 points).</b> At the limit of human ability, which only a few people in human history have attained.
7	<b>Outstanding (+10 points).</b> The best olympic athletes and the most renowned of academics will have this level of attribute.
6	<b>Superb (+6 points).</b> Far above human average, attained not by chance but through dedicated training.
5	<b>Exceptional (+3 points).</b> Obviously exceptional. Attributes higher than this are normally only attained through training and dedication.
4	<b>Good (+1 point).</b> Significantly above average for an adult. About 5% of the population has this level or above.
3	<b>Average (0 points).</b> Typical average for an adult. About 90% of the population.
2	<b>Poor (-1 point).</b> Significantly below average, the bottom 5%.
1	<b>Terrible.</b> Obviously impaired compared to a typical human. An attribute of this level is almost worthless.

Levels outside of the range 2-8 cannot be purchased, but are reserved for alien species. Some aliens get a bonus or penalty to a given attribute, and this bonus applies after you have purchased the attribute. You may not purchase an attribute to a level that would cause it to be shifted outside of the 1-10 range once species modifiers have been applied.

## Attributes

There are 8 primary attributes to define, and all begin with a score of 3 (which is average for an adult human). Anything outside of the range of 2-5 is considered to be very exceptional for a human, and attributes above 8 are unheard of amongst humans.

**Strength:** How strong you are, including your ability to lift and hurt things. If you have a high strength then you will tend to be larger as well.

**Health:** A measure of your physical fitness and stamina. Health is used in checks to remain alive after being

seriously wounded. It also directly affects the number of fatigue levels you have, which are useful in combat.

**Agility:** Your agility represents your quickness, athletic prowess and balance. It is used for brawling, wrestling, sneaking, reaction tests and acrobatics.

**Dexterity:** Dexterity is your hand-eye coordination, sleight-of-hand and skill with melee weapons. Pistols also use dexterity, and rifles may use dexterity or perception.

**Perception:** How alert you are, and the general quality of your senses. If perceptive, you are good at hiding and noticing things. Rifles and larger weapons use perception.

**Intelligence:** A measure of your wit, cunning, memory and intuition. Knowledges are based on intelligence, as are logic and reasoning skills.

**Empathy:** Empathy is your ability to understand others. It is used to make friends, convince people emotionally, or to tell if someone is lying to you. Empathy doesn't affect your intentions to be nice or nasty, but does affect how well you notice other people's feelings.

**Will:** Your Will is a measure of mental fortitude, being used to resist psi, instincts and emotions. A high Will makes you a good liar, a low Will means you are gullible and likely to give in to fear, lust and greed.

## Advantages

Advantages allow you to personalise your character by choosing traits which make the character stand out above the rest of their society. Most people will have no advantages.

Advantages can't be purchased after character generation. It may be possible to obtain something similar in game (e.g., you could find a dragon hoard and become *Rich*), but advantages are protected to some degree - things gained within the game aren't.



### Designer's Notes

#### Shtick Immunity

Taking an *advantage* provides you with a shtick that sets your character apart from others. They can't be 'bought off' or purchased later after character generation, and should also be hard to lose in-game.

If you do lose an *advantage*, there should be a later opportunity to obtain it back. For example, if you are a *Rich* American businessman, and lose everything when forced to flee your country due to some 'misunderstanding', then the GM should provide some in-game opportunity to obtain wealth some other way. It doesn't mean it should be easy, but the opportunity should be there, and may be the main focus of the plot for several sessions.

Likewise, attempts to fix *Bad back* through surgery may provide short term relief, but the operation may turn out to not be as successful as first thought, or have unforeseen side effects.

If an *advantage* or *disadvantage* will have an impact on the campaign, then you should check with your GM first to make sure that they are happy with it.

## Advantages

### Ambidexterity (+1):

You suffer no penalty for performing actions with your off hand.

### Animal empathy (+1):

You have a natural ability to get on well with animals. All animals react well to you, and have their reaction shifted to one better category.

### Authority (+1, +3):

You have political and/or legal influence of some kind that allows you authority over those around you. In a campaign where all characters belong to some enforcement group, then this grants more authority than everyone else has.

At level +1, you have regional or limited authority. You may be a policeman, sheriff or government inspector. You may be allowed to carry a gun, perform searches of property or hold people for questioning. You may also be able to call in backup or support where necessary. However, you have to obey the law and may require warrants or need to explain your actions afterwards.

At level +3 you have significantly more authority, including power over those normally in authority. You may belong to an international or clandestine organisation that doesn't necessarily have to obey local laws (but flagrantly breaking the law will get you in at least temporary trouble, especially if local law enforcement don't like you).

### Beautiful voice (+2):

You have a clear and pleasant voice which other people find attractive to listen to. When singing, you never fumble and can always take 10. For all social activities where the sound of your voice can work in your favour, you may always roll twice and take the highest roll. This will not help you when trying to convey complex information (e.g. teaching) or when not being nice (e.g., commanding or intimidating). It may help with *Perform*, *Charm* and *Guile* skill tests.

### Charisma (+3):

You are good at getting on with people, and gain a +1 bonus to *Empathy* when trying to befriend or persuade a person.

### Commanding presence (+3):

You are more than capable of making yourself heard when you need to take charge of the situation. When giving orders, people always pay attention (though they may ignore you). You never fumble *Leadership* or *Intimidation* checks. When organising teams, on a success you add your *Leadership* to people's skill checks.

### Educated (+1):

You begin the game having had an education, being both literate and counting as being *Educated*. In a setting where education and literacy is the norm, then this advantage does not need to be purchased and is the default for everyone.

You are automatically able to read and write any language that you can speak.

### Eidetic memory (+3):

You are very good at remembering things. The target difficulty for trying to remember something you have seen or heard is halved. You may be able to remember an image or piece of text perfectly for a period of time, but such recall does not often exceed a few hours.

### Famous (+1, +3, +5):

You are famous, and there is a good chance that people will recognise you - either by face, or at least by name. At level

+1, you are known to a select group of people, either over a small area (such as a country) or to those with certain interests (such as Linus Torvalds or Iain Banks).

At level +3, you are mildly famous across the world, and can often find friends or fans who are willing to help you, or at least speak for you. Examples would be Bill Gates or Steven Spielberg.

At level +5, you are a household name. You may be a famous actor, writer or politician. Moving around without being recognised will actually be a problem.

### **Fit (+1):**

*Cannot take: Unfit.*

You have one more fatigue level than you would normally have from your *Health*.

### **Good looking (+1):**

*Cannot take: Ugly.*

You are extremely good looking, and can use it to your advantage in your dealings with anyone who finds you sexually attractive, or in a situation where being smart and presentable would be an advantage. Gain a +1 bonus to whatever attribute you are using (normally *Empathy*).

Being *good looking* has the side effect of making you easy to recognise.

### **Graceful (+1):**

*Cannot take: Clumsy.*

You are graceful in your movements. Whenever you are trying to impress people with athletic feats, then upon a success you gain an extra level of success that goes towards making you look good. This covers dancing, gymnastics or even sword play. This has no effect on the practical outcome.

### **Heavily built (+1):**

*Prerequisites: Strength 4.*

*Cannot take: Small.*

You are heavily built, being tougher and broader than normal. You get one extra level of *stun*, plus a +1 bonus to *Strength* for purposes of resisting knock-down, or being tripped.

### **Iron constitution (+1):**

You have a particularly hardy constitution, and gain +2 to your *Health* to resist all forms of poison, disease and other forms of illness.

### **Keen hearing (+1):**

*Cannot take: Poor hearing.*

You have exceptional hearing, and gain a +2 bonus to your *Perception* when making hearing checks. When fighting in total darkness in close combat, your *Perception* has a minimum of 1.

### **Keen vision (+1):**

*Cannot take: Poor vision, Missing eye.*

You have exceptional vision, and gain a +2 bonus to your *Perception* when making vision checks. It does not grant a bonus for ranged attacks.

### **Large (+1):**

*Prerequisites: Strength 4.*

*Cannot take: Small.*

You are very large, being both tall and heavily built. You have a bonus of +1 to your *Size* (raising it to 6 for humans), which provides you with an extra level of wounds and stuns. You also have extra reach, and any reach 0 melee attacks are instead considered reach 1. You may not have a *Strength* below 4.

### **Lucky (+1):**

You are lucky, and receive a +1 to luck checks. Once per session, you may re-roll a single die roll that you make, and take the best of the two rolls. You may choose to permanently spend your *luck*, in order to get out of a deadly situation, or cause an act of serendipity in your favour.

You may take luck multiple times, to get a bigger bonuses or more re-rolls each session. Only one point of luck may be spent on a single roll however.

### **Musical talent (+1):**

*Cannot take: Can't sing.*

You have a natural talent with music, and gain a +2 bonus to *Empathy* or *Intelligence* when playing a musical instrument, or composing for one.

### **Need little sleep (+1):**

*Cannot take: Heavy sleeper.*

You don't need as much sleep as other people. You recover fatigue twice as quickly when sleeping, and only need 4 hours sleep to count as having a full night's rest.

### **Night vision (+1):**

You have particularly good night vision. Except in total darkness, any penalties to your *Perception* are halved (round down) when either making vision checks, or when your *Perception* is used to cap other attributes.

### **Reflexes (+1):**

You have a +1 bonus to *Agility* for purposes of initiative. See the combat rules for a description of how initiative works.

### **Reserves of strength (+1):**

You may tap into reserves of strength at any time, allowing to to perform feats not normally possible. At any time, you may have +1 or +2 to your *Strength* for a single activity or a round of actions, though you gain one point of fatigue per point of bonus for doing so.

You must have a *Strength* of at least 4 in order to take this advantage.

**Rich (+1, +3, +5, +7):**

You are rich. Possibly stinking rich depending on the level to which you take this advantage. At level +1, you are comfortably well off, with a total worth of a few million pounds. You can probably afford to not work, as long as you don't live too extravagantly.

At a level of +3, you have tens of millions of pounds and can join the ranks of the idle rich if you so rich. Alternatively you can fund start-ups, give to charity or just spend it all on fast cars and pretty women.

At a level of +5 you have a worth in the hundreds of millions. You probably have some big expensive yachts, a private jet and several garages full of cars. You may also be Famous (+1) for free.

At a level of +7, you are a billionaire, and join the ranks of the richest people in the world. You probably own a small island somewhere, with a secret base, private army and a fleet of fast jets. You may also be Famous (+3) for free.

**Sexy (+3):**

*Cannot take: Ugly, Good looking.*

As well as being *good looking*, the way in which you walk, talk and dress comes across as very sexy to anyone who would be sexually attracted to you. Others will tend to flirt with you given a chance, and you may gain +2 to *Empathy* in such situations.

**Tourist (+1):**

You do well when visiting foreign cultures or places, and pick up local language and information quickly. If your GM is using the *Background Experience* option for gaining XP, then you gain +10 bonus to the d20 roll to see if you pick up Language or Area lore skills.

## Disadvantages

**Absent minded (-1):**

You have a poor memory, and probably a reputation for being forgetful. The problem mostly manifests when trying to remember everyday mundane things, such as locking the front door, packing food or putting your clothes on in the morning. At inconvenient moments, the GM will secretly make an *Intelligence* check for you to see if you remembered doing something important.

If the *player* ever forgets something, then excuses of "but my character would have remembered" can be safely ignored by the GM.

**Addiction (varies):**

The addict craves some drug which they need to stave off withdrawal symptoms. The cost of the addiction is

measured by three factors - whether the substance is socially accepted (tobacco and alcohol normally are), whether it is expensive and/or difficult to get hold of (heroin), and whether it has any side effects which affect the character in game (alcohol and heroin would, though tobacco wouldn't, since the latter's side effects are too long term to have any effect in most games).

Side effects include anything which can be detrimental to you during the general course of play. Drinking yourself into a stupor most evenings may have less effect on the game than being mildly drunk all the time.

Addiction	Cost
Your addiction is socially acceptable, reasonably cheap and has few short term side effects. Smoking is an example (you may get negative reactions in some places, but it's not illegal).	-1
Your addiction is either not socially acceptable, has bad side effects or is hard or expensive to get hold of. Alcoholism is an example.	-3
Your addiction suffers from two problems, or one very, very badly. Heroin is not sociably acceptable and is expensive, but most side effects are long term.	-5

**Albino (-1):**

*Cannot take: Exotic appearance.*

You are an albino. Your skin and hair are white and your eyes are pink. You risk suffering sub burn in moderate sunlight, and may find that others react badly to you due to your unusual appearance.

**Animal enmity (-1):**

You do not get on well with animals. The Reaction of animals to you is always one level worse than it would be otherwise.

**Bad back (-3):**

You have a bad back, which at moments of physical exertion may fail you. If you ever roll a '1' when making an *athletics* check, or when wrestling or performing similar feats, then you put your back out. Your *Agility* and *Dexterity* is immediately reduced to one for the rest of the day.

**Bad habit (-1):**

You have a bad habit which bothers most other people. It may be a manner of speaking, or something you do (such as picking your nose, or standing really close to people). If people have a bad reaction to you, then it is one step worse. People who have a neutral or better reaction can overlook it.

**Bad hangovers (-1):**

You suffer from very bad hangovers the morning after a night of drinking. All penalties and effects of a hangover are doubled.

**Big mouth (-1):**

You have a habit of spurting out the wrong thing at the worst possible time. If the player makes any snide comments, asides or other such utterances whilst a social situation is being roleplayed, then their character said it out loud.

**Cannot lie (-3):**

You are a very bad liar. You do not necessarily have any moral objections to lying, but any attempts to do so result in your skill check being halved.

**Clumsy (-1):**

*Cannot take: Graceful.*

You are clumsy and awkward, every movement you make looks like a disaster waiting to happen. Any attempt you make to look graceful or skilled is likely to fail, and the success of all such actions is reduced by one level.

**Combat paralysis (-1):**

You are fearful and indecisive, and react poorly in combat. You are unable to act in the first round of combat. If you have surprise, then you do not get any benefit from the surprise. A fumbled initiative means that you are indecisive for two rounds.

**Crippled (-5):**

You are crippled in one of your attributes. Choose one unmodified attribute and reduce it's value to 1. It may never be improved. You may only take this disadvantage for a single attribute. You should explain why this attribute is so low as part of your background.

**Disadvantaged background (-1):**

You are both poor and of low social standing, and begin the game materially disadvantaged. You cannot have access to anything which requires status or money, including access to a university level of education.

**Exotic looks (-1):**

*Cannot take: Albino, Noticeable mark.*

Your appearance is out of the ordinary. This does not mean that you are ugly or handsome (indeed, this advantage is compatible with other appearance affecting advantages), just that you are different and stand out in a crowd. You can be easy to recognise, and easy to blame because you look strange.

If you are exotically beautiful, then in some cases it may actually attract people to you, especially if there is plenty of more mundanely beautiful people to compete with. This will be quite rare however.

**Fragile (-3):**

You are susceptible to being wounded, and more likely to die from a serious injury. You suffer a -5 penalty to any rolls to remain alive or conscious after suffering a physical injury.

**Gullible (-1):**

You are particularly gullible and cannot tell if someone is lying, tending to take things at face value. You may well understand the concept of lying, and might be very good at it yourself, but can't spot when others are doing it.

Normally the you will automatically fail any attempts to detect lying. In really obvious situations, you may have a roll but the final result is halved.

**Ham fisted (-1):**

You are clumsy, suffering a penalty when trying to use fine motor skills. You suffer a -1 to *Dexterity* which performing such tasks as sleight of hand or lock picking.

**Heavy sleeper (-1):**

You sleep heavily, and find it difficult to awaken. When dozing, all perception checks are quartered (as if in deep sleep), and when actually sleeping your *Perception* is considered zero.

**Illiterate (-1):**

*Cannot take: Educated.*

You do not know how to read or right, and do not start with reading or writing skills in any language. This disadvantage can only be taken in a setting where literacy is the norm.

**Innumerate (-1):**

You have never learnt to count, and have great difficulty with numbers above ten (since you run out of fingers at this point). Arithmetic is very difficult, and estimating numbers of things is incredibly difficult for groups larger than three.

**Light drinker (-1):**

*Cannot take: Heavy drinker.*

You are easily intoxicated, and suffer a -1 penalty to *Health* when resisting the effects of alcohol and similar drugs.

**Loud (-1):**

You have a very loud voice, and have difficulty speaking quietly. If you have a need to keep your voice down, you need to make a *Will* check at a difficulty of at least 20 in order to do so. If you, the player, speaks loudly in a situation, then your character does as well.

**No direction sense (-1):**

You have no sense of direction. You automatically fail all but the simplest of navigation attempts. For very simple checks, your roll is halved.

**Non-combatant (-3):**

Either because you are a pacifist, or just because you are a coward, you have a distinct dislike of combat. Whenever you are in a real combat situation, you suffer a -1 to *Agility*, *Dexterity* and *Perception*, and your initiative roll is halved. You do not suffer this penalty in sporting events, so you can fence or perform target practise without penalty.

**Obese (-1):**

You are greatly overweight. Your *Strength* and *Health* is one less for purposes of encumbrance and fatigue levels. You also suffer a -1 to your attribute when performing any form of athletics.

**Poor hearing (-1):**

*Cannot take: Keen hearing.*

You are hard of hearing. All range penalties for hearing based checks are doubled. You suffer a -1 to *Perception* for purposes of blind fighting.

**Poor vision (-1):**

*Cannot take: Keen vision.*

You have poor eyesight. All vision penalties due to range are doubled. Penalties for ranged attacks are unaffected, but you may need to make a check to see if you can actually see the target.

**Poorly educated (-1):**

Only applies in a modern culture where a semi-decent education is considered normal. You skipped out on school, and don't gain the advantages of being *Educated*. You may not default the commonly taught skills to an *Intelligence* roll.

**Sexually tantalising (-1):**

*Prerequisites: Good looking.*

Everybody you meet who could be sexually attracted to you will be. This may mean they react well to you, but in lawless situations it could be dangerous. Even when they are treating you nicely, people will view you as a sex object rather than as a person with meaningful opinions.

People who aren't sexually attracted to you will view you with jealousy, and probably react badly, especially if they think you are fooling around with their partner.

**Slow (-1):**

You suffer a -1 penalty to agility for purposes of initiative. Your basic move score is also reduced by 2 points.

**Small (-1):**

*Cannot take: Large, Strength 5+, Large, Heavily built.*

You are smaller than average, being both shorter and thinner. You have a *Size* of 4, and therefore have one less body level than normal. Reach of *short* and *medium* weapons is reduced by one level.

**Smelly (-1):**

You have a very bad case of body odour. You suffer a -1 penalty to *Empathy* in social situations when people get close to you.

**Ugly (-1):**

*Cannot take: Beautiful, Sexually tantalising.*

You are unattractive. Results of initial reaction checks from people are at one worse level. Seduction attempts etc are halved.

**Unfashionable (-1):**

You have absolutely no sense of fashion. Anyone who cares about such things will react to you at one level worse than they would otherwise. Bad reactions will tend to be disdain, rather than hatred. You may not purchase any skills or techniques directly related to fashion.

**Unfit (-1):**

You have one less fatigue level than you would normally have from your *Health*.

**Weak (-1):**

You are weak, and incapable of doing much damage. Your *Strength* is considered to be one point lower for purposes of damage.

**Wimp (-3):**

*Cannot take: High pain threshold.*

You are affected by pain more so than others. Penalties due to wounds and stuns are increased by one level (so you are at -5 for minor wounds, -10 for light wounds etc). Fatal wounds/stuns are unchanged. Penalties from fatigue are unaffected.

## Skills

Skills are those abilities which a character develops throughout their life, and tend to change a lot more regularly than attributes do.

How good a character is at a skill is rated as a value from zero upwards. A skill of four is acceptable for someone wanting to make a living with the skill. Higher skills are possible, though skills above six will be rare amongst the common population

## Types of Skills

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### Standard skills

Most skills are considered to be *standard skills*. Such skills can be learnt relatively easily, including being self taught. They can also be used by a character who has a skill of zero, though such an attempt fumbles on a natural one or two.

### Talents

Talents are skills which are known by everyone from childhood onwards. They are treated just as standard skills, with the exception that all characters start with a skill level of two in all talents.

There are only eight talents, and are listed by default on the character sheet. Talents are sometimes marked with an asterisk (\*).

### Knowledges

A knowledge is a special type of skill which cannot be attempted unless the character has a skill level of at least one. They can rarely be self taught, requiring a teacher or study aid (such as a book) to learn from.

### Languages

Language skills are treated on a scale from one to four, and are not normally 'rolled' like other skills. Instead, the level of skill gives a guide to how much of a conversation a character can understand.

**Level one:** The character can recognise the language and knows a few words, but cannot put sentences together.

**Level two:** The character can understand and form basic sentences. The character can probably get by in the market or in an inn.

**Level three:** The character has a good grasp of the language and can hold a decent conversation. They will obviously still be a foreigner however, and many unusual words will be beyond their understanding.

**Level four:** The character is fluent in the language. If they are a foreigner, then they may still have an accent, but they will not have any problems communicating.

**Level five and above:** If the character is a non-native speaker, then they can speak without an accent. This level and beyond gives detailed knowledge of different dialects and really obscure words, but is not of use in everyday conversation.

## Educated Characters

In some settings it is normal for the majority of people to have some form of education. Rather than either forcing all characters to buy a suitable number of skills, or giving those skills for free, **Yags** allows *Educated* characters to default to an *Intelligence* check for anything covered by a standard education.

For a 'western' education, it can be assumed that *geography*, *history*, *science*, *mathematics*, *computer operation*, *drive*, *religion* and *politics* are covered by this.

An *Educated* character can make an *Intelligence* test, halved, for any of these skills. The *Area lore* skill can also be used for general knowledge about society and culture. This level of education is assumed to be 'GCSE' level or equivalent - up to age 16.

Further education, up to A'level would be covered by a relevant skill at a level of two. A basic university education would give a skill of about four at time of graduation, possibly with one or two suitable techniques.

## Skill Rules

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### Defaults

Some skills have a default - this will generally be one of the *talents*. If desired, the default can be used instead, but the result (after the die roll) is halved, plus the chance of fumbling is doubled.

A default skill may also restrict the type of tasks which are possible. For example, *Trade* defaults to *Guile*, but the latter can only be used to barter, and isn't much use if the character needs to know the real value of goods.

### Pre-requisites

A few skills have pre-requisites. Before this skill can be purchased at level one, *all* pre-requisites must be met. A skill like *Medicine* might have a pre-requisite of First Aid-2 for example, which means that *First Aid* must be known at level 2 before *Medicine* can be bought.

Further, the main skill may never be more than double the level of any of the pre-requisites. You cannot put points into a skill if the next level of skill is not allowed.

## Limited Skills

Under some genres, a skill may be *limited* by another skill. This concept is mostly limited to knowledge or science skills. When a skill is limited by another skill, the first skill may never be more than half the score of the second.

For example, during the *Enlightenment*, when Science was being discovered, the Science skill is limited by Natural Philosophy. If you have a Natural Philosophy of 7, then your Science cannot be higher than 3 (since raising it any higher would make it greater than 3.5). Once your Natural Philosophy has been raised to 8, then you may begin to raise your Science to 4.

You may not put points into a skill if the next level of skill is not allowed.

## Skill Techniques

A *Technique* is a specialisation of a skill, and may provide bonuses or allow some particular special action to be attempted. A skill may have several techniques associated with it, and some techniques can be used with more than one skill. In the latter case, the technique only needs to be purchased once - it can then be used with any skill which uses it, as long as the skill is of sufficient level.

A technique has a cost associated with it, which is the number of experience points which need to be spent to buy it. A level 6 technique costs 6 points to buy. The cost of the technique is also the minimum skill level that must be achieved before the technique can be purchased. If you do not have the required skill at a sufficient level, then the technique can't be bought.

Finally, a technique may have a prerequisite. These are the techniques which must be known before this technique can be learnt.



### Example

#### Buying a technique

*Hard to kill* is a level 2 technique which is based on the *Brawl* skill. To buy it, you must have a brawl of at least 2, at which point you can spend 2 points to buy *Hard to kill*.

*Ignore pain* is a level 4 technique which is based on *Brawl* and which has *Hard to kill* as a prerequisite. If you have a *Brawl* skill of 4 or more, and have already purchased *Hard to kill*, then you can spend 4 points to buy *Ignore Pain*.

Some techniques will be based on a skill group rather than a skill. In this case the technique can be purchased when

any skill in that group reaches the technique's level, but it can only be used with those skills of sufficient level.

## Specialisation Techniques

Some skills are noted as allowing *specialisations*. These are broad skills which cover a wide range of topic areas, examples being *Science* and *History*. There is a single skill which covers all topics under the heading, but it is possible to specialise by buying specialisation techniques.

Generally, these are unlisted, and you may choose any specialisation you wish for the cost listed by the skill. For example, you could purchase Physics-4 as a *Science* specialisation.

Specialisations tasks easier within that skill. Generally, the base difficulty of a knowledge task is based on how specific the type of knowledge is. For example, if you know *Science*, and want to know how to design a nuclear bomb, then that's quite a deep specialisation, and require a base difficulty of 40 for a simple design.

If you had a specialisation in *Nuclear Weapons*, then designing becomes a standard task, so would only be difficulty 10. If your specialisation was *Nuclear Physics*, then bomb design is relatively specialised, so might be 20. Likewise, designing a nuclear power station might also be 20.

There is no limit to how broad or narrow a specialisation may be. The broader it is, the more topics it covers, but each topic will be a deeper specialisation. It is recommended (though not required) that you take levels of specialisations, starting with broad topics and narrowing down. Being specialised in *Nuclear Weapons* without having at least a *Physics* specialisation would require some explaining.

## Skills

The following list of skills is not exhaustive, but covers the most common set of skills found in a low tech campaign setting. The following example shows what a skill entry looks like.

### Medicine Example (Knowledge)

Science, Healing.

**Defaults to:** First aid

**Requires:** First aid-2

This skill can be used to try and make people better when they aren't feeling very well.

*Diagnosis*

Try to figure out what is wrong with someone.

#### Example difficulties

10 - Cure a headache.

20 - Put a leg back on.

The heading gives the name of the skill, followed by whether it is a *knowledge*, *talent* or *language* in parenthesis.

The second line displays all the skill groups that the skill belongs to. These are sometimes used for purposes of bonuses which apply to a category of skills.

Next is given the skill *default* and *pre-requisites* (if any). The score given for the pre-requisite is the minimum score that is needed in the required skill before this skill can be bought.

For skills which have *techniques* associated with them, then these will be listed as well.

The main body of text describes the skill - what it does and how it can be used. Some skills can be used in different ways for different tasks, and if these sub tasks are sufficiently different or important, then they will be listed under a sub heading (for our Medicine example, Diagnosis is listed as a sub-task).

Finally, example skill difficulties may be given. These are suggested target numbers for achieving given tasks.

## Skills by Groups

The following lists all the skills according to various groups. Skills which belong to more than one group are listed multiple times. When designing a character that you want to be good at some type of thing, these grouping can give an idea about which skills to buy.

### Academic

- Anthropology(K)** - *The study of Hominids.*
- Archaeology(K)** - *How to dig up ruins.*
- Area lore(K)** - *Knowledge about a given region.*
- Astronomy(K)** (Science) - *The study of the stars and planets.*
- Criminology(K)** - *The study of crime.*
- Ecology(K)** (Survival)
- Economics(K)** - *Knowledge of financial matters.*
- First aid** - *Healing injuries and other ailments.*
- History(K)** (Educated) - *Knowledge of the past.*
- Law(K)** - *Knowledge of the law.*
- Mathematics(K)** - *Geometry, algebra etc.*
- Medicine(K)** - *Diagnosis and healing.*
- Paleontology(K)** - *The study of ancient life.*
- Politics(K)** - *Knowledge of politics.*
- Religion(K)** - *Knowledge about gods and cults.*
- Research** (Any Academic skill, Educated) - *Being able to find information.*
- Science(K)** - *Basic science, logic and reasoning.*
- Teach** - *The ability to teach people.*
- Theology(K)** (Religion) - *Theoretical knowledge about religion.*
- Vetinary(K)** (First aid) - *Healing for animals.*

### Artistic

- Artist** - *Painting and drawing.*
- Calligraphy** - *Writing beautifully.*
- Dance** (Athletics) - *Dancing with skill and grace.*
- Musician** - *Playing musical instruments.*
- Perform** (Charm) - *Oratory, singing and poetry.*

### Business

- Accountancy** (Administration) - *Managing finances.*
- Administration** - *Being able to manage people and paper.*
- Current affairs(K)** - *Current affairs.*
- Economics(K)** - *Knowledge of financial matters.*
- Law(K)** - *Knowledge of the law.*
- Marketing** - *Managing advertising campaigns and PR.*
- Politics(K)** - *Knowledge of politics.*
- Trade** (Guile) - *Bartering and other merchant skills.*

### Combat

- Bow** - *Using all sorts of bows, except crossbows.*
- Brawl(\*)** - *Punching, kicking, wrestling and dodging.*
- Crossbow** (Throw) - *Using crossbows.*
- Guns** - *Shooting pistols, SMGs, shotguns and rifles.*
- Heavy weapons** (Guns) - *Using heavy machine guns.*
- Melee** (Brawl) - *Using a melee weapon in combat.*
- Tactics** - *Knowledge of combat tactics.*
- Throw(\*)** - *Using thrown weapons, and catching things.*

### Craft

- Cooking** - *Preparing meals.*
- Handicraft** - *Skill at various village crafts.*
- Scrounging** - *Finding and fixing scrap.*

### Criminal

- Burglary** - *Breaking and entering.*
- Demolitions** - *Blowing things up efficiently.*
- Electronics Operation** (Intelligence, Computer Operation) - *Using and operating electronic equipment.*
- Forgery** - *Forging credentials.*
- Gambling** (Guile) - *Skill at playing card and dice games.*
- Security systems** - *Design and set-up of security systems.*
- Sleight(\*)** - *Sleight of hand.*
- Stealth(\*)** - *Hiding and moving quietly.*
- Streetwise** (Guile) - *Dealing with the criminal underworld.*
- Torture** - *Making people talk.*

### Investigation

- Criminology(K)** - *The study of crime.*
- Forensics(K)** - *Finding clues at a crime scene.*
- Streetwise** (Guile) - *Dealing with the criminal underworld.*
- Torture** - *Making people talk.*

### Military

- Combat engineering** - *Building things quickly.*
- Demolitions** - *Blowing things up efficiently.*
- Electronics Operation** (Intelligence, Computer Operation) - *Using and operating electronic equipment.*
- Gunnery** - *Firing large vehicle mounted guns.*
- Intelligence analysis** - *Analysing intelligence data.*
- Leadership** (Charm) - *Organise people into working together.*
- Military affairs(K)** (Administration) - *Knowledge of military matters.*
- Security systems** - *Design and set-up of security systems.*
- Signal intelligence** - *Using sensor and communications equipment.*
- Strategy** - *Military strategy and logistics.*
- Survival** - *Living in the wilderness.*
- Tactics** - *Knowledge of combat tactics.*
- Torture** - *Making people talk.*

### Occult

- Alchemy(K)** - *Knowledge of chemicals and magic.*
- Astrology(K)** - *Knowledge of the heavens.*
- Herbalism(K)** - *Knowledge of herbs and poisons.*
- Occult(K)** - *Knowledge of stories and legends.*

### Outdoor

- Animal handling** - *The training, handling and care of animals.*
- Farming** - *Growing and harvesting of crops.*
- Mining** - *Working in and locating mines.*
- Ostling** - *Training of horses.*
- Survival** - *Living in the wilderness.*

### Rural

- Animal husbandry(K)** (First aid) - *Healing for animals.*
- Boating** - *Handling small watercraft.*

**Farming** - Growing and harvesting of crops.

**Ride** - Riding horses.

## Social

**Charm**(\*) - Being nice to people.

**Current affairs**(K) - Current affairs.

**Gambling** (Guile) - Skill at playing card and dice games.

**Game** - Skill at a board game.

**Guile**(\*) - Using and recognising deceit.

**Intrigue** (Guile) - Social intrigue and politics.

**Leadership** (Charm) - Organise people into working together.

**Lip reading** - Understanding speech by reading lips.

**Perform** (Charm) - Oratory, singing and poetry.

**Teach** - The ability to teach people.

**Trade** (Guile) - Bartering and other merchant skills.

## Talents

**Athletics**(\*) - Jumping, climbing and running.

**Awareness**(\*) - General ability to notice things.

**Brawl**(\*) - Punching, kicking, wrestling and dodging.

**Charm**(\*) - Being nice to people.

**Guile**(\*) - Using and recognising deceit.

**Sleight**(\*) - Sleight of hand.

**Stealth**(\*) - Hiding and moving quietly.

**Throw**(\*) - Using thrown weapons, and catching things.

## Technical

**Computer Operation** (Intelligence, Electronics) - The skill of using a computer.

**Electronics Operation** (Intelligence, Computer Operation) - Using and operating electronic equipment.

**Engineering** - The application of science and maths.

**Security systems** - Design and set-up of security systems.

**Signal intelligence** - Using sensor and communications equipment.

## Vehicle

**Boating** - Handling small watercraft.

**Drive** - Driving simple ground vehicles.

**Gliding** (Pilot, Helicopter) - Piloting an unpowered aircraft.

**Heavy weapons** (Guns) - Using heavy machine guns.

**Helicopter** (Pilot, Gliding) - Piloting a helicopter.

**Pilot** (Gliding, Helicopter) - Piloting a powered aircraft.

## Skill Descriptions

### Accountancy

Business.

**Defaults to:** Administration

**Tech levels:** 5+

Accountancy provides you with the knowledge of how to manage the finances of a business or organisation. It includes knowledge of tax laws, legal requirements and how to use common tools (including computers) needed to do your job.

With a *moderate* success you can meet all the legal requirements and ensure the figures are right. If you get at least a *poor* result, then failures can be fixed the following month. A *good* success allows you to perform some creative accountancy, whilst an *excellent* success allows lots of creative accountancy and making best use of tax laws.

### Example difficulties

10 - Managing personal finances.

20 - Managing the finances of a small business.

30 - Managing the finances of a large business.

40 - Managing the finances of a multinational corporation.

### Administration

Business.

The skill of managing an organisation, from dealing with people, basic finance, reception type duties and so on and so forth. You also know how to best short cut administration enforced by others, cutting through bureaucracy in the shortest possible times.

### Alchemy (Knowledge)

Occult.

**Techniques:** *Paranormal investigation.*

Alchemy is the lore of non-living substances and how they interact. It may be used to identify substances, gives some knowledge of poisons, and provides a means to manufacture some simple effects - coloured smoke, invisible ink, bangs and the like.

After the *Enlightenment*, it is for all practical purposes superseded by *Chemistry* unless you are in a campaign where magic (and alchemy) works.

### Animal handling

Outdoor, Animal.

**Techniques:** *Falconry, Dog handler, Lion tamer, Snake charmer.*

You have experience with dealing with animals. This is quite a broad skill, since it covers calming animals, training them and using them effectively. It does not however cover the riding of animals.

### Animal husbandry (Knowledge)

Rural.

**Defaults to:** First aid

Looking after animals, especially on a farm. May be used to tend to sick or injured animals, in which case it may default to *first aid*.

### Anthropology (Knowledge)

Academic, Science.

**Tech levels:** 5+

**Techniques:** *Scientist* (\*), *Scientist (Physics)*, *Scientist (Chemistry)*, *Scientist (Biology)*.

This is the study of humans, including their origins, cultural and physical attributes, history and environment.

### Archaeology (Knowledge)

Academic.

**Tech levels:** 5+

This skill is mostly about digging up the ruins of ancient civilisations, and covers the practical skills needed to find, recognise and preserve items, as well as basic management - social, equipment and legal. It does also include knowledge of how to identify and date ruins, as well as general knowledge of specific civilisations. However, detailed knowledge of ancient history requires the *History* skill.

## Area lore (Knowledge)

Academic.

Knowledge of a given area, including geographical and political knowledge. The *Area lore* skill is used when checking to see if a character has heard of a person, place or organisation. Area lore is nearly always based on intelligence.

There is an area lore skill for each area, normally an area the size of a country, with the same culture. An area lore skill can give knowledge of surrounding areas, though such knowledge will be prejudiced by the beliefs of the original area the skill is for.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Knowledge that everyone knows, such as who the ruler is to the names of major cities.

## Artist

Artistic.

The ability to draw or paint competently. Used with dexterity, or with intelligence to try and accurately draw some scene from memory.

## Astrology (Knowledge)

Lore, Occult.

**Techniques:** *Paranormal investigation.*

Knowledge of the heavens, and how they affect the day to day life of mortals. This skill provides knowledge of the names of the stars and constellations, dates of the zodiacal calendar and what effect they have on those born under a sign. It may also be used to provide a detailed history/prediction for a person given knowledge of the circumstances of their birth.

In the real world, *Astrology* provides no useful information, though can provide a bonus when performing a *reading* on a person. Make an *Intelligence x Astrology* check against the *Intelligence x Science* of the target. If you succeed, you can add one fifth your roll as a bonus to the reading attempt.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Make a vague prediction which is compatible with Astrological thinking.

**20** - Make a detailed horoscope which is reasonably self consistent and fits within Astrological thinking.

**30** - Make an impressively detailed horoscope which will look good to other Astrologers.

## Astronomy (Knowledge)

Academic.

**Defaults to:** Science

**Tech levels:** 5+

This skills covers the practical knowledge involved with the study of the stars and planets, including locating and identifying them, and even knowing what instruments are best to use, and how to use them. It will provide some knowledge about the physical aspects of celestial objects,

but theoretical knowledge of why things are how they are is left to *Science (Astrophysics)*.

## Athletics (Talent)

Talents.

**Techniques:** *Lightly equipped, Running, Sprinting, Sure footed, Climbing, Acrobatic talent, Contra gravity, Zero gravity, Swimming, Underwater swimming, Sport, Parachuting.*

This is a broad skill covering all forms of athletics, gymnastics and acrobatics. It is split into the following tasks.

### Running

Running represents a light jog which you can keep up for many minutes without too much difficulty. When running, you move a number of metres each round equal to your *move* score. A point of fatigue is gained every *Health x athletics* minutes you are running.

### Sprinting

Sprinting represents an all out sprint, moving as quickly as you can. You cannot do anything else whilst sprinting, and most people can only sprint for a few rounds before becoming exhausted.

When sprinting, you may move a distance in metres equal to *move x 2 + athletics* each round, and gain a point of fatigue each round.

### Jumping

Jumping represents both long jumps and high jumps.

### Climbing

Climbing things.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Jumping onto a table

**20** - Jumping over a table

## Awareness (Talent)

Talents.

**Techniques:** *Blind fighting, Light Sleeper.*

This skill is used by the character when there is a chance of noticing something which isn't obvious, such as someone trying to sneak around, people moving at a distance, or looking for a secret door. If the character is asleep, then any awareness rolls are quartered. If the character is only dozing (or day dreaming), then rolls are halved.

### Example difficulties

**perception x stealth** - See a hidden person

**agility x stealth** - Hear a sneaking person

**10** - Hear people talking through a door

**20** - Hear people talking through a wall

**10** - Hear someone walking on gravel

**15** - Hear someone walking on leaves

**20** - Hear someone walking on grass

**1/10m** - See someone with casual glance

**1/25m** - See someone with careful look

**x2 range** - Vision during dusk

**x4 range** - *Vision under moonlight*  
**x10 range** - *Vision under starlight*

## Boating

Vehicle, Rural.

Being able to use a small oared boat. Based on intelligence for judging travel conditions, strength for speed or dexterity for fine navigation.

### Example difficulties

**10** - *Row a boat in a straight line in calm conditions.*  
**15** - *Row a boat in choppy conditions*  
**20** - *Row a boat in rough conditions (open sea)*  
**30** - *Very rough conditions*  
**40** - *Row in a storm*

## Bow

Combat, Missile.

**Techniques:** *Fire into melee, Deadly shot, Fast shot, Improved pull, Improved aim.*

The knowledge of how to use a bow such as a short bow, long bow or composite bow. For long bows, for every full four points of skill, the effective strength of the character is increased by one for purposes of determining the *pull* of the bow that they can draw.

This skill can be used with crossbows, though reload times are doubled, and attacks fumble on a 1-3.

## Brawl (Talent)

Talents, Combat, Melee.

**Techniques:** *Close combat, Unarmed combat, Out of reach, Disabling hold, Brute force, Hard to kill, Only stunned, Ignore pain, Tough, Combat reflexes, Reflex dodge, Opportunity attack, Improved damage, Multiple attacks, Finesse, Acrobatic attack, Single weapon fighting, Acrobatic dodge, Shield fighting, Shield wall, Shielded attack, Reliable defence, Spear fighting, Spear wall, Defensive reach, Chain fighting, Great weapon fighting, Great blow, Finishing blow, Two weapon fighting, Combined attack.*

A general purpose combat skill covering dodging, punching and wrestling. This is covered in more detail in the combat section. It allows the use of small weapons such as knives and daggers, as well as improvised weapons such as stones, bottles, sticks and chairs.

A character may always use the *brawl* skill to dodge even if they are using a weapon, but they don't get any bonuses from the weapon if they do so.

## Burglary

Criminal.

You have experience in the various tasks involved in breaking into buildings. Opening basic locks, forcing doors and windows, and knowledge about how buildings are generally designed come under this skill.

### Example difficulties

**10** - *Very simple and basic lock.*

**20** - *Typical key based lock.*

**30** - *Good key based lock, typical combination safe.*

**40** - *Excellent key based lock, good combination safe.*

**50** - *Excellent combination safe.*

**10** - *Most low tech unsecured doors and windows.*

**20** - *Good quality mid-tech doors and windows.*

## Calligraphy

Artistic.

**Tech levels:** 2+

The skill of writing in a way that produces a work of art, as well as a record of knowledge.

## Charm (Talent)

Talents, Social.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Flirt, Hidden insult.*

*Charm* is all about appearing friendly and sociable, and can be used to make people like you and act favourably towards you. It is nearly always based on *Empathy*, since you need to be able to react to how the other person is perceiving you.

At its simplest, a simple *Empathy x Charm* check determines what another thinks of you. As long as you get a *Very easy* success, then you'll get a *Neutral* reaction, assuming they have no other reason to dislike you. A *Moderate* success will give a *Good* reaction, and a *Difficult* success will give an *Excellent* reaction.

*Charm* can also be used to improve a second social skill test (such as *Guile*, *Trade* or *Perform*). Make a *Empathy x Charm* check against the *Will x 4* of the target to gain a +3 bonus for each level of success.

### Carousing

Used at parties and similar social gatherings. Can be used to find out information, flirt or try and talk to someone who might be otherwise difficult to talk to (such as a duke surrounded by hangers-on and aids who won't let anyone else near him, or just an attractive and popular girl similarly protected). Generally not resisted.

### Chatter

Mindless chatter to try and draw information out of someone, or to simply distract them. Generally not resisted, unless the target is being deliberately close mouthed about a subject.

### Seduction

Can try to seduce a person. Add appearance to *empathy* for purposes of seduction attempts, and resisted with the target's *will*.

### Persuade

If trying to change someone's mind by emotional arguments, resisted with the target's *will*.

## Example difficulties

- 10 - *Not make a fool of yourself.*
- 20 - *Give a good impression.*
- 30 - *Be very likeable and understanding.*
- 40 - *Win friends and influence people easily.*

## Example difficulties (Carousing)

- 10 - *Survive a party without acting like an idiot or a boor..*
- 20 - *Make a good impression. Get to talk to someone important.*
- 30 - *Make a very good impression. People will remember you favourably. Get to talk to someone really important, or someone important who is avoiding you.*
- 40 - *Most popular person at the party. Get to talk to someone really important who is actively avoiding you.*

## Example difficulties (Seduction)

- 10 - *Bad circumstances. Target of attempt is busy doing other things, such as working or is tired.*
- 20 - *Inappropriate circumstances. Target is on guard, or doing something else important.*
- 30 - *Highly inappropriate circumstances.*

## Combat engineering

Military.

**Tech levels:** 5+

Most infantry has experience with digging trenches, building bridges and putting up sandbags. A combat engineer has a lot of experience doing this. This skill covers getting the job done in the minimum time, often so that's its good enough to do what it needs to do. It covers a wide range of tasks, from bridge building to tunnelling, and is more practical than theoretical.

Unlike 'real' engineering skills, this one assumes that the needed materials aren't readily to hand and that the people doing most of the heavy lifting are mostly unskilled infantry, so the result will often be simple and ugly. But it'll work.

## Computer Operation

Technical.

**Defaults to:** Intelligence, Electronics

**Tech levels:** 6+

This covers the skills needed to use a modern computer, from switching it on to finding files, sending messages and using common applications. At the higher levels, programming, system administration and network intrusion become possible. This skill covers a wide range of complex tasks, which are detailed elsewhere.

## Example difficulties

- 10 - *Looking for a particular file using easy criteria.*
- 20 - *Filtering information from a database and analysing it (producing graphs, finding correlations).*

## Cooking

Craft.

The preparing, preserving and cooking of food. Includes some knowledge of herbs.

## Criminology (Knowledge)

Investigation, Academic.

**Tech levels:** 6+

You have studied criminals and the crimes they commit, in an attempt to better catch them. This is normally the domain of law enforcement.

## Crossbow

Combat, Missile.

**Defaults to:** Throw

**Tech levels:** 4+

**Techniques:** *Fire into melee, Deadly shot.*

Covers the use of all varieties of hand held crossbows. Skill in this provides accuracy, and also enables quicker reloading of the heavier versions of the crossbow. Due to their ease of use, this skill defaults to the *Throw* skill if it isn't known.

The skill can be used with bows, though range penalties are doubled, and attacks fumble on a 1-3, due to the extra complexity of bows over crossbows.

## Current affairs (Knowledge)

Business, Social.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

Represents up-to-date knowledge of what is going on in your society. This is a skill which is constantly changing, so if you lose contact with society, then you will be at a large disadvantage when you return. It also covers knowing how to get information and how to interpret it, so becoming up-to-date again is relatively quick for you.

## Dance

Artistic.

**Defaults to:** Athletics

**Techniques:** *Courtly dancing, Folk dancing, Sensual dancing.*

With *Dance* you are able to impress people with your graceful dances. It allows you to know the common types of dances, as well as the ability to actually dance. With sufficient skill, you will be able to improvise new dances, and work with a partner to complement their improvisations.

The skill covers all forms of dancing, though you can buy techniques which provide bonuses in specialisations.

## Example difficulties

- 0 - *You are clumsy and obviously unskilled. You will give a poor impression to anyone who is watching.*
- 10 - *Nothing special, but you don't make any big mistakes (though lots of little ones). People won't pay to watch you dance.*
- 20 - *You dance with competence and some degree of grace. Your dancing will please most people.*
- 30 - *Very good dancing, which will impress most people. You get a +1 bonus to the reaction level of people who saw you dance.*

**40** - An excellent performance which will impress pretty much everyone. You can a +2 bonus to the reaction level of those around you. Probably a level of skill better than most people have seen.

**50** - An outstanding performance of skill and grace. You gain a +2 reaction bonus, or +3 if asking someone to share a dance with you.

## Demolitions

Military, Criminal.

**Tech levels:** 4+

Blowing things up is easy, but doing it with the minimum of explosives, at minimal risk to yourself, and in a way that causes maximum damage is somewhat harder. This skill provides everything you need to know about destroying things with explosives. You also know about the different types of explosives, how best to store, move and deploy them, and how to disarm other people's bombs.

## Drive

Vehicle.

**Techniques:** *Stunt driver, High speed driving, Ice driving, Off-road driving, Driving familiarity.*

The skill of driving a car or similar land vehicle. This skill assumes familiarity with 4 wheeled powered vehicles, such as a family car, jeep, SUV or van. Other types of vehicles (e.g. HGVs, tanks, motorbikes or go-carts) you are assumed to be unfamiliar with, and must take a technique to be familiarised with them. Until you are familiar, you *default* to this skill (i.e., halve your roll).

As with most vehicle skills, it uses *Dexterity* but your attribute is capped to the *Agility* of the vehicle you are currently driving. A typical early 21st century family car would have an *Agility* of 3, a sports car an *Agility* of 6.

If you fail a *Drive* check, then immediately check again. If you succeed the second time, then you regain control but are forced to a stop. If you fail the second time, then you lose control and probably crash.

For high speed driving, most difficulties assume that you are travelling at a moderate speed. Each +10 you add to the difficulty puts your speed one step above this. You must declare the speed you are attempting before making the check.

## Example difficulties

**10** - Maintaining control in a tricky situation, such as a sharp bend, an emergency stop or avoiding a car that has pulled out in front of you.

**20** - Maintaining control in a difficult situation, such as a very sharp and narrow bend, or avoiding a car or pedestrian that has just done something really stupid.

**20** - Perform a basic stunt, such as a handbrake turn, or maintaining control after being rammed (or ramming someone else).

**30** - Perform a difficult stunt, such as sliding to a precision stop from high speed.

**+5** - Wet conditions, or poor visibility.

**+10** - Icy or slippery conditions. If driving fast in icy conditions, also add a further +10 for each speed step.

**x1.5** - Difficult terrain. Any terrain which is difficult for this type of vehicle adds 50% to the final difficulty. A rough dirt track would be difficult for a typical car, but normal for off-road vehicles.

**x2** - Unsuitable terrain. Any terrain which the vehicle is completely unsuited for. A trip cross country across hills would count as unsuitable for a typical car, but possibly only difficult for an off-road rally car or a tank. Unsuitable terrain doubles the final difficulty.

## Ecology (Knowledge)

Academic, Science.

**Defaults to:** Survival

**Tech levels:** 5+

**Techniques:** *Scientist* (\*), *Scientist (Physics)*, *Scientist (Chemistry)*, *Scientist (Biology)*.

This is knowledge of ecosystems, of the relationships between plants and animals living together in balance. It covers practical knowledge of plants and animals, including their identification, habitats and behaviours. *Ecology* does not cover the theoretical science behind plants and animals. A modern ecologist would have both *Ecology* and *Science*.

You may take *specialisations* in this at a cost of 4 per specialisation. Examples include Zoology, Botany, Rain Forests, Deserts etc.

## Economics (Knowledge)

Academic, Business.

**Tech levels:** 5+

Economics is the study of how the economy and financial world works.

## Electronics Operation

Technical, Military, Criminal.

**Defaults to:** Intelligence, Computer Operation

**Tech levels:** 6+

This is the skill of *operating* electronic equipment. It does not provide knowledge of building or repairing such. Generally, basic operation of such equipment is *Very Easy*, though primitive or particularly complex systems may be harder.

A high skill grants the ability to abuse such systems, such as bypassing a door's electronic lock or finding a way around radio jamming.

Specialisations include Communication Systems, Sensors, Medical Systems, Security Systems, Surveillance Systems and Weapon Systems. Each can be purchased as a 4 point speciality. Other specialisations by job role are also possible, such as Military or Criminal.

## Engineering

Technical.

**Techniques:** *Engineer* (\*), *Engineer (Civic engineer)*, *Engineer (Electrical engineer)*, *Engineer (Mechanical engineer)*.

The knowledge and skill of designing, building and repairing machines, buildings and other structures. The skill covers a wide range of engineering disciplines, from civil engineering (buildings and bridges), to

engines (mechanical) and electronics (electrical). It is recommended that you take one or more specialisations.

Specialisations are level 4 techniques, and can include *Electrical engineering, Civic engineering, Mechanical engineering*. More specialist techniques might be Machinist, Computers, Communications, etc. If you already have a specialisation in *Electronics operation*, then this can be used with *Engineering*.

## Farming

Outdoor, Rural.

The planting, caring for and harvesting of crops, the care and feeding of animals such as cows, sheep and chickens. The majority of people in rural areas will of course be farmers and will have this skill to some level.

## First aid

Academic.

Provides care and treatment of wounds to stop bleeding and prevent infection. Once a wound has been successfully first aided, it may begin healing naturally. First aid checks are generally made with intelligence. First aid can also be used to treat stuns.

To treat a character's wounds, the base difficulty is 10. This is modified upwards by the total of the character's stun and wound penalties (a fatally wounded character (-15) would be difficulty 25 to treat). Success means that the wounds will begin healing naturally. If the roll was made by 10 or more, then one level of wound is also healed.

Stuns are a base difficulty of zero to first aid, again modified by total stun and wound penalties. Success heals one stun, and each 10 over that heals another level of stuns. Stuns do not need to be treated before they begin healing.

## Forensics (Knowledge)

Investigation.

**Tech levels:** 6+

You have experience in searching crime scenes for clues as to what happened, and who did it.

## Forgery

Criminal.

The skill of forging identity cards and the like. You know how to obtain the materials necessary for creating forgeries, can detect a forged document or card, and can create them yourself as long as you have the necessary information. Some forms of forgery will require modifying database records, which will require *Computer operation* and similar skills which *Forgery* does not provide, however it will let you know what databases need to be changed.

## Gambling

Social, Criminal.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

This is the skill of playing games of chance, such as card games or dice games. This is a generic skill, based around being able to spot patterns, work out probabilities, bluff, cheat and basic gaming tactics.

A high skill represents a good, broad, knowledge of all such games, and so a greater chance of knowing how to play any given game, or at least knowing enough about a similar game in order to be able to play well.

## Game

Social.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

Knowledge of, and skill at playing a game such as Chess or Hnefatafl. As a start, this gives a broad knowledge of tactics and strategy which can be applied to any board game. Actual knowledge of a specific board game is covered with a technique specialisation, at a cost of 2.

The simplest way to find the winner for a game, is for both opponents to roll their skill, and the highest roll wins. If it is desired to play out the game in more detail, then proceed as follows.

Each opponent makes a skill check each turn of the game. If one exceeds the other by five or more, then they gain an advantage. Each advantage gained gives +3 to the skill check next turn. On gaining the fourth advantage, the player is considered the winner. If the player with the advantage loses a turn, then they lose a level of advantage.

## Gliding

Vehicle.

**Defaults to:** Pilot, Helicopter

You have experience in flying gliders. This skill provides you with the ability to fly a glider, to know how to find and use thermals and geographic features for lift and how to look after and maintain a glider. You'll also have some knowledge of aviation law and etiquette.

## Guile (Talent)

Talents, Social.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Disguise, Misdirection, Cold reading, Hidden insult.*

*Guile* allows a character to use and understand social methods of deception, through lying, body language and actions. A character can lie by making an opposed *Will*

*x guile* against the target's *Empathy x guile*. Success means that the target is fooled, though the attempt may be modified by circumstances based on how probably the lie is.

Will is generally used when trying to hide a character's own emotions, *empathy* to understand another's and *intelligence* to think quickly when inventing a believable story.

### Disguise

The character can disguise either themselves or another person by using *guile*. Make an *intelligence* *guile* check.

### Fast talk

When trying to invent a plausible story quickly, then an *Intelligence x guile* check can often be called for, against the same for the target. If the target finds the story plausible, then opposed *empathy* and will checks may still be necessary in order to hide the lie.

### Taunt

Make someone mad. Opposed with *will*.

## Gunnery

Military.

**Tech levels:** 5+

The *gunnery* skill covers the use of very large vehicle mounted or emplacement weapons, such as artillery and battleship main guns. Whereas *Heavy weapons* covers "barely man portable in a Hollywood action film" weapons, *Gunnery* is only for the really big weapons which often require several crew members to operate. Will often use *Intelligence*, since doing the maths to plot the trajectory is generally more important than quick reflexes.

## Guns

Combat, Firearms.

**Tech levels:** 5+

**Techniques:** *Gun fu, Quick load, Quick draw, Multiple targets, Sharp shooter, Controlled fire, Improved automatic fire, Selective fire, Triple shot, Fire on the run, Awkward shot, Two guns, Marksman, Sniper.*

The use and handling of pistols, revolvers, SMGs, shotguns, rifles, carbines and the like. Heavier weapons such as light machine guns and rocket launchers come under *Heavy Weapons*, but can default to *Guns*.

If using a *Pistol*, then you use *Guns* with *Dexterity*. When using a *Rifle*, you may opt to use *Perception* instead. Add-ons to rifles such as underslung grenade launchers which would normally use the *Heavy Weapons* skill, may be used with the *Guns* skill and *Perception*, but only if they're an add-on.

At short range, you may normally add the attack bonus of the weapon to your attack roll unless you are making a *snapshot*.

## Handicraft

Craft.

The making of baskets, embroidery and other similar village hand crafts not covered by other professional skills. It is generally seen as the province of women.

## Heavy weapons

Combat, Firearms, Vehicle.

**Defaults to:** Guns

**Tech levels:** 5+

**Techniques:** *Quick load, Multiple targets, Sharp shooter, Controlled fire, Improved automatic fire, Selective fire, Fire on the run, Awkward shot, Concentrated fire, Heavy fire, Following fire.*

This skill provides you with knowledge of how to use heavy weapons such as vehicle mounted machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and mortars. Most non-man portable weapons fall into this category. Always uses *Perception* when firing weapons.

Very large weapons (naval guns, tank guns, starship mounted particle accelerators) come under the *Gunnery* skill. If it requires more maths than judgement, then it's probably *Gunnery*.

## Helicopter

Vehicle.

**Defaults to:** Pilot, Gliding

The skill of piloting a helicopter.

## Heraldry (Knowledge)

Lore, Legal.

Knowledge of heraldic arms, flags and other symbols. A person skilled in heraldry can recognise nobles, understand and describe the code of heraldic arms, and make guesses as to who someone is allied with based on their coat of arms. Based on *intelligence*.

*Area lore* may be substituted, though all rolls are halved and it can only be used for recognition.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Recognise a major personality based on their arms, such as a principle member of the royal family, or a major duke or earl. Recognise that someone belongs to a major noble house.

**20** - Recognise a very important person, such as a duke or earl, or a secondary member of the royal family.

**30** - Recognise an important land owner, such as a powerful baron.

**40** - Recognise a baron or other low ranking land owner.

**50** - Recognise someone really obscure.

## Herbalism (Knowledge)

Lore, Occult, Household.

**Techniques:** *Paranormal investigation.*

Knowledge of herbs and their properties. Can be used to recognise, collect and prepare herbs and plants for use in remedies, poisons and potions. Based on *intelligence*.

## History (Knowledge)

Academic.

**Defaults to:** Educated

The study of historical events. As standard, it gives a knowledge of a broad range of recorded history without specialisation in any one area. Most people will know more about their own culture than others, so there's a +10 or +20 increase to the difficulty to know the history of cultures outside your own (note that some historical events, such as who built the pyramids, is popular knowledge even in non-Middle Eastern cultures).

There are many techniques which allow you to specialise in a period or culture. These are 4 points each. Specialisations might be in a culture, time period or theme.

## Intelligence analysis

Military.

You have been trained to analyse intelligence data in order to understand what it means. You can look at troop movements or supply movements for example and determine what the enemy is planning.

## Intrigue

Social.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

The skill of dealing with the intrigues of a political arena. With it, it is possible to find out relationships within the arena, and to obtain information from people, or even to spread information without it being obvious that the plotter is trying to spread information.

## Law (Knowledge)

Academic, Business.

Knowledge of the legal system, including how it works, what the laws are, and how to bend or avoid them.

## Leadership

Social, Military.

**Defaults to:** Charm

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

With this skill the character can organise people into working together effectively as a team. If two or more people are working on the same task, then as long as it's sensible for them to be able to work together, a *leader* can give them a bonus.

On a success, everyone gets a bonus equal to the most skilled person's skill score.

*Leadership* can also be used to take command in a situation, either to bluff or to raise morale.

## Example difficulties

**10 -** *Base difficulty for a leader and team who are used to working with each other.*

**+10 -** *The team don't know each other.*

**+10 -** *The leader doesn't know the team.*

## Legends (Knowledge)

Lore.

Knowledge of legends and stories of heroes, places and artefacts. This skill provides knowledge of the stories about these subjects. Whether the stories are real or not will depend on the setting.

## Lip reading

Social.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

The skill of reading lips. Each 10 rolled gives an equivalent point of language skill. There may be penalties for distance, or partial visibility.

## Marketing

Business.

**Techniques:** *Propaganda.*

Marketing, advertising and public relations skills.

## Mathematics (Knowledge)

Academic, Science.

**Tech levels:** 3+

**Techniques:** *Scientist (\*), Scientist (Physics), Scientist (Chemistry), Scientist (Biology), Mathematician (Cryptography).*

Mathematics is the knowledge of advanced mathematics. Simple arithmetic is considered to be basic intelligence. Mathematics covers geometry, algebra, set theory, probability and other branches of mathematics. Most children with a Western education will have some knowledge of Mathematics after leaving school, and it comes under the *Educated* advantage.

## Medicine (Knowledge)

Academic.

**Requires:** First aid-2, Science-2

**Tech levels:** 4+

**Techniques:** *Medic (Cybernetics), Medic (Diagnosis), Medic (Poisons), Medic (Disease).*

The skill of diagnosing illnesses, and knowing what to do to cure an illness. Provides knowledge of the currently available drugs and how best to make use of them. Whilst first aid is focused on basic wounds (mostly cuts and bruises) and tends to be quite simple in its solutions, medicine provides a wide range of knowledge about how the body works, what drugs are available, and how best to diagnose illness and injuries.

If suitable drugs are available, then *Medicine* can be used in place of *First aid* to help someone recover from wounds.

Before the weekly check, one *stun* is always recovered. A bonus is gained equal to the *Medicine* skill for each TL beyond 6 when the healing roll is made.

You may purchase *specialisations* in *Medicine* at a cost of 4 per specialisation. Examples include *Surgery*, *Diseases*, *Bio-warfare*, *Neuro-Surgery* etc.

## Melee

Combat, Melee, Armed melee.

**Defaults to:** Brawl

**Techniques:** *Combat reflexes, Reflex dodge, Opportunity attack, Improved damage, Multiple attacks, Finesse, Acrobatic attack, Single weapon fighting, Acrobatic dodge, Shield fighting, Shield wall, Shielded attack, Reliable defence, Spear fighting, Spear wall, Defensive reach, Chain fighting, Great weapon fighting, Great blow, Finishing blow, Two weapon fighting, Combined attack.*

This is the skill of fighting with melee a weapon. It can be used with pretty much any standard weapon type, including blades, spears, shields and clubs. Particularly exotic weapons may require *Techniques* to be able to use them effectively. *Melee* is normally used with *Dexterity*. Small or improvised weapons such as knives and daggers use the *Brawl* skill.

## Military affairs (Knowledge)

Military.

**Defaults to:** Administration

With this skill you have knowledge of how a military operates, how to recognise the various ranks, and the correct etiquette to use when dealing with those ranks. When dealing with military bureaucracy, it may be used instead of *Administration*.

Generally, most enlisted personnel will have 1 or 2 levels in this, any more is unnecessary unless you are wanting to game the system, or try and second guess how military operations are planned.

## Mining

Outdoor.

Covers being able to locate new mines, and to construct and work them safely.

## Musician

Artistic.

**Tech levels:** 1+

The skill of playing musical instruments, whether they are a drum, a flute or a harp.

### Example difficulties

15 - Play without sending people running for cover

20 - Play in tune with others

30 - Play very well

## Occult (Knowledge)

Lore, Occult.

**Techniques:** *Paranormal investigation.*

Knowledge of how to summon and deal with demons and other supernatural entities such as ghosts and angels. In the real world, such knowledge doesn't provide any special powers or abilities apart from possibly the ability to con people out of their money, though in a horror or fantasy setting where such creatures are real, it may be of far greater use.

## Ostling

Outdoor, Animal.

The care and training of horses.

## Paleontology (Knowledge)

Academic, Science.

**Tech levels:** 5+

**Techniques:** *Scientist (\*), Scientist (Physics), Scientist (Chemistry), Scientist (Biology).*

A science which investigates ancient life. It includes the finding, examination and care of fossils, and knowledge of ancient lifeforms.

## Perform

Social, Artistic.

**Defaults to:** Charm

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult, Passionate speaker, Poet.*

A skill which covers many forms of social skills, including oratory, poetry and singing. It may be used to rouse a crowd, invent some poetry on the spot, or remember a poem or song well enough to recite or sing it.

The mood of the audience can be affected with either song, poetry or oratory. The performer matches their skill roll against the will of the audience. If the audience can be treated as a *crowd*, take the average will and roll once for the whole audience (a vocal few will tend to lead the silent majority). Success by the performer will mean the crowd listens to what the performer says, and will think about it, though their opinion isn't shifted greatly. For each full 10 the performer beats the will of the crowd, the crowd's mood is shifted one category.

When singing or reciting poetry, the mood of the audience can be shifted, sometimes considerably. This can be done subtly, though it takes an evening of performance to carry it out.

A more direct way to sway an audience is through oratory. This is quicker and more direct than by choice of song, but is also pretty blatant.

### Example difficulties

10 - Sing without inflicting pain on listeners. Less than this may get the character forcibly removed from the stage.

**20** - Sing well enough to impress the audience, though not in a way that will be particularly remembered.

**30** - Sing very well. The singer will be well received, and probably kept around for more of the same. The mood of the audience can be shifted subtly.

**40** - The singer will be spoken of for months to come, and people will be most eager to please. The mood of the audience can be shifted noticeably.

**50** - All others will be compared (probably unfavourably) to the singer, who will be heralded as a master of their art. The singer pretty much has control over the mood of the audience.

## Pilot

Vehicle.

**Defaults to:** Gliding, Helicopter

**Techniques:** Aircraft familiarity, Hotshot pilot, Top gun.  
The skill of piloting a powered aircraft. By default it assumes a small low performance aircraft, such as a Cessna or Spitfire. Larger aircraft require familiarity similar to the Drive skill.

Piloting skill may be used to fire direct fire weapons which are mounted to fire directly ahead. Your *Dexterity* is not capped to the *Agility* of the aircraft when firing. Turreted weapons use *Heavy weapons* or (very rarely) *Gunnery* skill.

Air combat requires a mixture of manoeuvre and shooting. Make opposed *Dexterity* x *Pilot* checks to gain the advantage each turn. If you have two levels of success in your favour, then you can shoot at half skill. If you have three or more levels, then you can shoot at full skill. The target always gets to dodge with their full *Dexterity* x *Pilot* (though capped by the aircraft's *Agility*).

### Example difficulties

**10** - Land in ideal conditions.

**20** - Land on an aircraft carrier. Includes difficulties for moving deck and shortness.

**+10** - Land quickly without taking time to line up properly.

**+5** - Land on a short runway or narrow runway.

**+10** - Flying close to the ground, within 50m.

**+20** - Fly really close to the ground, within 10m.

## Politics (Knowledge)

Academic, Business.

Knowledge of political systems and how to take advantage of them. It may provide some knowledge of the current political groups of your culture, but this is really covered by *Current affairs*, and any knowledge provided by *Politics* will be more long term and theoretical.

## Religion (Knowledge)

Academic.

Knowledge of the traditions, ceremonies, laws, gods, priests and mythology of a given religion. More broad or narrow the skill is depends very much on the culture and the level of knowledge required. In a monotheistic culture, especially where knowledge of other religions is discouraged (e.g. Medieval Europe), each religion will have its own skill, and this will give little knowledge of the others.

In a pantheistic culture, one skill can give knowledge of all the gods and cults, though only on a general level. Single skills will exist for each individual cult, which will also give knowledge of other cults, though that knowledge may be coloured by prejudice.

Where a religion actually grants supernatural abilities to its cult members or priests, these may be represented as *techniques* based on the cult's specific skill.

## Research

Academic.

**Defaults to:** Any Academic skill, Educated

The skill of being able to find information in books, on a computer system, or in any other knowledge source which doesn't require interaction with people (beyond standard dealing with librarians etc). Regardless of the roll, if the information doesn't exist in the knowledge store being searched, then you will fail (though success on the roll will mean that you know that the information isn't there).

It generally takes an hour to perform a search. Halve this time if everything is electronically indexed. Information will be found quicker if you make a good or better success.

If you fail, you can keep on trying. For each extra hour spent looking, add +1 to your next roll, up to +5. After this, add +5 for each extra day. If you only succeeded because of the bonus, you can't get better than a *moderate* success.

### Example difficulties

**10** - Find some relatively common item of information. Basic information about a well known place or person.

**20** - Find some uncommon item of information.

**30** - Find a rare item of information.

**+5** - If searching a large library (1 million books or more).

**+10** - If searching a massive library (10 million books or more).

**x2** - The library isn't indexed or well structured.

**x 1/2** - The library is very well indexed. Using Google to search the internet is an example of this.

## Ride

Rural.

**Techniques:** Mounted combat, Mounted archery.

The ability to ride, normally a horse. A different skill is needed for different types of animals (horses and ponies would be the same skill, a Griffin another skill). As well as enabling you to remain mounted, it grants a bonus to combat skills when mounted if the relevant techniques are known.

## Science (Knowledge)

Academic, Science.

**Tech levels:** 4+

**Techniques:** *Scientist* (\*), *Scientist (Physics)*, *Scientist (Chemistry)*, *Scientist (Biology)*.

Science covers basic scientific knowledge, logical reasoning and baloney detection. Most Western schools will teach *science* to some degree. The skill provides basic knowledge of the various sciences, an understanding of the

philosophy of science, and the ability to tell the difference between a scientific theory and dodgy pseudo-science.

All scientists will have *Science* to a greater or lesser degree, as will those in science based professions such as engineering or mathematics.

You may purchase *specialisations* in Science at a cost of 4 per specialisation. Example specialisations include Physics, Chemistry, Quantum Mechanics, Biochemistry, Biology, Astrophysics etc.

### Scrounging

Craft.

Being able to turn useless scrap into something useful. Used with intelligence. Covers finding, planning and building, though skills such as *carpentry* or *blacksmith* may be needed as well.

### Security systems

Technical, Military, Criminal.

You have been trained in deploying (and countering) security systems such as burglar alarms, electronic door locks, motion sensors, cameras and the like. With this skill, you now what sort of systems are available for use, and how to best deploy them to maximise their effectiveness. You can also make guesses as to how an existing security system is set up, and how best to disable or avoid it.

### Signal intelligence

Technical, Military.

**Tech levels:** 6+

You have been trained in the use of both communications and sensor systems. Anyone can talk into a microphone or watch a radar display, but you have in-depth knowledge of how such things actually work, and how best to interpret data from them. You have been trained in the use of electronic warfare, how to get the best range out of communications gear, how to interpret poor quality signals, and how to make best use of signals intelligence.

This has some overlap with *Electronics operation*, but is more a profession rather than a single skill and covers a lot of the theory in both intelligence and counter-intelligence.

### Sleight (Talent)

Talents, Criminal.

**Techniques:** *Juggling, Legerdemain, Pick pocket.*

Sleight of hand, from filching items on a market stall, to picking someone's pockets. Can also be used for anything which requires a great deal of fine dexterity.

### Speak language (Language)

Language.

The ability to speak a language. Every character starts with a score of 4 in speaking their own language. This skill is rarely rolled, but instead gives an indication of the character's grasp of a language.

### Stealth (Talent)

Talents, Criminal.

**Techniques:** *Ambush, Combat ambush, Sudden death, Silent running.*

Moving quietly, hiding, and generally not being seen or heard. Based on agility for moving quietly, or perception for finding somewhere to hide.

### Strategy

Military.

Unlike *Tactics*, which is concerned with small scale skirmishes, military strategy provides knowledge and experience of running a war, including making most effective use of troops, logistics and knowledge of large scale tactics.

### Streetwise

Criminal, Investigation.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Shadowing.*

*Streetwise* is similar to *Politics*, though is more suited to life amongst the criminal classes. With it, comes knowledge of how to survive on the street, how to gain the trust of those who live on the wrong side of the law, as well as how to find them in the first place.

### Survival

Outdoor, Military.

**Techniques:** *Direction sense, Hiking, Arctic survival, Desert survival, Jungle survival.*

With this skill, you are capable of surviving on many different types of terrain by foraging and hunting. There is a single skill, which covers all terrain types, though a number of techniques are needed to survive in harsh environments without penalty. *Survival* also covers tracking, finding shelter and travelling safely and quickly.

On coastal lands (where it is possible to fish), plains, woodlands and low mountain regions, the basic skill will suffice. In desert, arctic or jungle environments, then a technique is required. High mountains may count as arctic, swamps may count as coastal or jungle, depending on the exact environment.

#### Foraging

When foraging for food, it takes four hours for each roll. Each five over the difficulty allows enough food to be found for another two people. If more food is found than is needed, then the forager has the option of stopping early as soon as enough food has been found. Assume that food is found at a consistent rate through the time period.

#### Hunting

Similar to foraging, it takes four hours for each attempt to hunt game. Success indicates that suitable game has been found, and relevant combat skills are required to

actually kill the animal. In this case, game is large game animals, such as deer.

### Navigation

Anyone with any survival skill can navigate by use of the sun and stars. This is unaffected by the terrain type and difficulty of surviving in that terrain. When attempting to navigate, use the character's highest survival skill.

### Tracking

Survival can be used to track others by their footprints and other signs. It is possible to estimate the type of animal, their number and how long it has been since the tracks were made. Of course, it can be used to track people as well.

### Example difficulties

- 10 - Base difficulty for woodland, plains or coastal regions.
- 20 - Base difficulty for mountain, swamp or jungle.
- 30 - Base difficulty for desert or arctic regions.
- +0 - Find a suitable shelter
- +0 - Forage for food for one person
- 10 - Good conditions
- +10 - Poor conditions
- +20 - Very poor conditions (e.g. winter)
- 15 - Accurately determine direction, time of day or night according to the position of sun, moon or stars.

### Tactics

Combat, Military.

**Techniques:** *Surprise attack, Tactical move.*

Tactics, strategy and leadership when planning and fighting a battle involving small groups. It can be used to choose a suitable site for battle, to determine weaknesses in the enemy's strategy and defences, and to plan the logistics of travel and supply.

### Teach

Social, Academic.

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

The ability to teach another person, and train them in the use of a skill. See the Campaign section for details on training.

### Theology (Knowledge)

Academic.

**Defaults to:** Religion

**Tech levels:** 2+

The theory of religion, used by people who want to understand the why and how of religious beliefs. In many cultures doing this too critically can lead to charges of heresy, thought good use of this skill will enable the character to argue effectively and *safely* with others.

### Throw (Talent)

Talents, Combat, Missile.

**Techniques:** *Greater range, Fire into melee, Deadly shot, Spear catching, Improved spear catching.*

This is the ranged attack equivalent of the brawl skill, and is used for throwing rocks, spears, knives, axes etc at distance targets. The talent is perception based. For hurled improvised weapons, short range is considered to be four times strength, medium twice this, and long range twice medium.

This skill can also be used to catch items. When trying to catch an item, throw is dexterity based.

### Torture

Criminal, Investigation, Military.

This is the art of applying pain to someone in order to get them to cooperate.

### Trade

Social, Business.

**Defaults to:** Guile

**Techniques:** *Seduction, Carousing, Etiquette, Intimidation, Fashion, High fashion, Scandalous fashion, Hidden insult.*

Covers a multitude of skills involved with trading, including bartering, and having some clue as to the value of goods.

### Vetinary (Knowledge)

Academic, Animal.

**Defaults to:** First aid

First aid for animals. The *first aid* skill may be substituted, though it takes twice as long, and no wounds and no more than one stun can be healed immediately, regardless of the roll.

## Techniques

Techniques represent specialist training in a particular use of a skill. They can provide a bonus in certain situations, or allow you to perform an action which wouldn't otherwise be possible.



### Designer's Notes

#### Optional techniques

Techniques can be viewed as an optional part of the game system. They add a lot of flavour and detail to the skill system, and provide a means to differentiate between characters who simply have raw talent (high attributes and basic skill) and those who are highly trained (high skill with a lot of techniques). However, there can be quite a few to keep track of.

If you wish a simpler system, then ignoring techniques is perfectly possible without causing major problems.

Adding them in later is also possible, simply by allowing players to start purchasing them.

The standard techniques are available below.

## Academic Techniques

The Academic techniques cover the sciences and other areas of knowledge. Generally, each is a specialisation within a subject - so the *Physics* skill will have techniques for *Nuclear Physics*, *Relativity* etc.

## Summary

**Mathematician (Cryptography)** (4; Mathematics) - *Specialist in mathematics*  
**Medic (Cybernetics)** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of cybernetics.*  
**Medic (Diagnosis)** (4; Medicine) - *Diagnosing an illness.*  
**Medic (Disease)** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of diseases.*  
**Medic (Poisons)** (4; Medicine) - *Knowledge of poisons.*  
**Paranormal investigation** (4; Occult) - *Ghost hunting*  
**Scientist (\*)** (4; Science) - *Specialisation in Science.*  
**Scientist (Biology)** (4; Science) - *The study of living things*  
**Scientist (Chemistry)** (4; Science) - *The study of molecules and compounds*  
**Scientist (Physics)** (4; Science) - *The study of particles and forces*

## Descriptions

**Mathematician (Cryptography) (Cost 4):** *Mathematics.*  
 This is an example of a specialisation in *Mathematics*. With it, you have studied the use of cyphers - both creating them and cracking them.

**Medic (Cybernetics) (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*  
 This is an example of a specialisation in the *Medicine* skill.

**Medic (Diagnosis) (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*  
 You are especially experienced at diagnosing the cause of a patient's illness or injury based on knowledge of the symptoms.

**Medic (Disease) (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*  
 You have specific knowledge of diseases and how they effect people. You are skilled at curing them (at least those there are cures for), and for plotting the spread of them through a population.

**Medic (Poisons) (Cost 4):** *Medicine.*  
 You have specific knowledge of poisons, including both on how to cure them, and how to administer them.

**Paranormal investigation (Cost 4):** *Occult.*  
 This is being able to investigate the paranormal. Whereas basic *Occult* provides knowledge of legends about the paranormal, *Paranormal investigation* provides knowledge of the tools of the trade, as well as practical experience in using them to find ghosts and other things that go bump in the night.

In the real world, this has no practical use unless you are trying to con the impressionable out of their money. In a fantasy or horror game however, it may provide other benefits.

**Scientist (\*) (Cost 4):** *Science.*  
 Specialisation in *Science*.

**Scientist (Biology) (Cost 4):** *Science.*  
 Biology is a particular branch of *Science*, and covers the study of living things, including genetics and evolution. This is one example of a *Science* specialisation.

**Scientist (Chemistry) (Cost 4):** *Science.*  
 Chemistry is a branch of *Science*, concerned with chemicals and elements, and how they interact with each other. Knowledge of mixing, identifying and researching chemical substances is gained through use of this technique. This is one example of a *Science* specialisation.

**Scientist (Physics) (Cost 4):** *Science.*  
 Physics is a branch of *Science*, concerned with forces and motion, energy and matter at the smallest and largest scales. This is one example of a *Science* specialisation.

## Combat Techniques

These techniques are for general use in combat. Techniques specific to firearms or melee weapons are listed separately later.

## Summary

**Ambush** (2; Stealth) - *Ignore unsuspecting foe's armour.*  
**Combat ambush** (4; Stealth) - *Ambush someone in the middle of combat.*  
**Sudden death** (8; Stealth) - *Ambush anyone even if they can see you.*  
**Blind fighting** (4; Awareness)  
**Brute force** (4; Brawl) - *Can use strength when making an attack.*  
**Close combat** (2; Brawl) - *Ignore grappling penalty.*  
**Unarmed combat** (4; Brawl) - *Reduces the risk of free strikes.*  
**Out of reach** (4; Brawl) - *Ignore some reach penalties.*  
**Disabling hold** (4; Brawl) - *Cause pain when grappling.*  
**Combat reflexes** (2; Brawl) - *Best melee skill adds to initiative.*  
**Reflex dodge** (4; Melee) - *Increases base chance to be hit.*  
**Opportunity attack** (4; Brawl) - *Do not have to declare manoeuvres.*  
**Improved damage** (6; Melee) - *Do more damage in your attacks.*  
**Multiple attacks** (8; Melee) - *Extra attacks each round.*  
**Hard to kill** (2; Brawl) - *Bonus to staying alive.*  
**Only stunned** (4; Brawl) - *Shrug off stuns.*  
**Ignore pain** (4; Brawl) - *Reduce injury penalty.*  
**Tough** (4; Brawl) - *Bonus to soak.*  
**Lightly equipped** (4; Athletics) - *Gain a bonus if lightly equipped.*  
**Surprise attack** (2; Tactics) - *Gain bonus in a surprise attack.*  
**Tactical move** (4; Tactics) - *Initiative is based on skill.*

## Descriptions

## **Ambush (Cost 2):** *Stealth.*

Allows the character to make an attack against an unsuspecting target, bypassing armour. If an attack is made with the *brawl* skill against a target who is both unaware of the attack and also not in combat, then the attack ignores all armour. If the target is wearing fully enclosed armour, and the attacker couldn't possibly get through the soak normally, then the *Ambush* has no effect. If the armour grants a vitals bonus, then each point of bonus raises the attack difficulty by +5.

An *ambush* is a slow attack, and the ambusher is considered to be using the *focused stance*. May be combined with other techniques and/or manoeuvres.

## **Blind fighting (Cost 4):** *Awareness.*

You are trained to fight in conditions where vision is restricted. Gain a +1 bonus to Perception for every four points of *Awareness* when it is used to cap skills in darkness. Automatic.

## **Brute force (Cost 4):** *Brawl.*

When making an attack roll, you may use *strength* instead of agility. However, doing so uses up one defence slot and you may not use the *defensive stance*.

## **Close combat (Cost 2):** *Brawl.*

When attempting a grapple or trip attack, you can ignore the *free strike* against you caused by such an attack (though still suffer strikes caused by reach or attacking an armed foe for example).

## **Combat ambush (Cost 4):** *Stealth.*

*Prerequisites:* *Ambush.*

As for *Ambush*, but may be performed at any time the defender is not aware of the attacker (even if the defender is in combat).

## **Combat reflexes (Cost 2):** *Brawl, Melee.*

You have a bonus to your *initiative* equal to your best of *Brawl* and *Melee*.

## **Disabling hold (Cost 4):** *Brawl.*

*Prerequisites:* *Close combat.*

When performing a grapple manoeuvre, you can apply pain to the target through knowledge of pressure points which helps to disable them quickly. Any time you succeed at a *grab*, or succeed at improving the *grab*, the foe suffers an extra -1 penalty to *Agility* and *Dexterity* for every full 4 points of *Brawl* skill that you have.

## **Hard to kill (Cost 2):** *Brawl.*

You gain a bonus equal to your *Brawl* skill to checks to remain conscious and alive because of being fatally wounded or stunned. This applies all the time, even when not using this skill.

Secondly, you get the option to re-roll any soak rolls you make, at the cost of one fatigue. A single soak test can only be re-rolled once, and you may take the highest of the two rolls.

## **Ignore pain (Cost 4):** *Brawl.*

*Prerequisites:* *Hard to kill.*

You may reduce the penalty to actions caused by wounds and stuns (not fatigue) by one level each, so being fatally wounded will give a -25 penalty.

At a *Brawl* of 8+, the penalty is reduced by two levels for each of wounds and stuns.

## **Improved damage (Cost 6):** *Melee, Brawl.*

*Prerequisites:* *Opportunity attack.*

Automatic technique which allows you to focus your attacks in order to cause maximum harm to your foe. You may add half your *Brawl* or *Melee* skill (whichever is being used to attack) to any damage done for all brawl and melee attacks.

## **Lightly equipped (Cost 4):** *Athletics.*

You have trained to take advantage of the flexibility being unencumbered offers you. If you have not wearing clothing or armour which gives ability caps (even if they don't affect you) or penalties, and you are *unencumbered*, then you gain a bonus to melee, brawl and athletics equal to your *Athletics* skill.

## **Multiple attacks (Cost 8):** *Melee, Brawl.*

*Prerequisites:* *Improved damage.*

Aggressive stance. You may attack multiple times each round with a penalty of -15 per extra attack to all attacks. The maximum number of attacks you can make is one per four levels of skill (so 2 attacks, or 1 extra attack, at level 8). When declaring use of this technique, the first attack is fast, the second slow and the third is normal.

## **Only stunned (Cost 4):** *Brawl.*

*Prerequisites:* *Hard to kill.*

At any point, you may spend a full round to heal any stuns that you currently have. Make a *Health* check, and every 5 that you roll cures you of a single stun level. However, you gain one level of *Exhaustion*. The *Health* check is not affected by any penalties. You can only do this once for any set of stuns.

## **Opportunity attack (Cost 4):** *Brawl, Melee.*

*Prerequisites:* *Combat reflexes.*

Your training enables you to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves, rather than having to plan ahead. You no longer have to declare combat manoeuvres which require a *good* success (though you still need to make a *good* success, and need to meet other requirements such as stance). If you have a *brawl* of 8 or higher, you no longer need to pre-declare manoeuvres needing an *excellent* success.

**Out of reach (Cost 4): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Close combat.*

You have some experience fighting against opponents who have a greater reach than you. For every four points of *Brawl* skill, you may ignore one point of reach of the defender's weapon when making an attack. This can never give you a bonus, but may reduce the penalties you suffer for attacking someone with a longer reach.

**Reflex dodge (Cost 4): Melee, Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Combat reflexes.*

Automatic technique which raises the base target number to hit you by your best melee skill whenever you defend against an attack (i.e., it raises your minimum defence roll, but not the defence roll itself). If you don't declare a defence against that attack, then your base defence is unmodified.

**Sudden death (Cost 8): Stealth.**

*Prerequisites: Combat ambush.*

As for *Ambush*, but applies whenever your target is not defending against your attack, even if they are aware of you. May be used with either an *aggressive* or a *normal* stance.

**Surprise attack (Cost 2): Tactics.**

When you have surprise against someone, you gain a bonus equal to your *Tactics* to all brawl and melee attack, defence and damage rolls. For ranged attacks, you have a bonus to your attack roll.

Secondly, you may exert yourself to gain the initiative. When you come to declare your actions for the round, you can gain a level of fatigue and double your initiative score for that round, changing both when you have to declare and when you act.

**Tactical move (Cost 4): Tactics.**

*Prerequisites: Surprise attack.*

You are highly trained in combat, and can understand and react to events much better than people who don't have your training. When determining initiative, you may use your *Agility x Tactics* instead of *Agility x 4*.

You may also ignore a fumbled initiative roll, simply treating the result as a '1' rather than inaction in the first round.

**Tough (Cost 4): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Ignore pain.*

You gain a bonus to your basic soak against *mixed* and *stun* damage equal to your *Strength*. This applies all the time, even when not using this skill.

If you have a *Brawl* of 8+, then the bonus applies against wound damage as well.

**Unarmed combat (Cost 4): Brawl.**

*Prerequisites: Close combat.*

You have some experience fighting armed opponents using unarmed attacks. You may ignore the *free strike* caused by not using a martial weapon, though still suffer strikes due to reach or other circumstances.

## Firearms Techniques

### Summary

**Concentrated fire** (4; Heavy weapons) - *Very effective machine gun fire.*

**Following fire** (4; Heavy weapons) - *Skilled use of autocannons*

**Gun fu** (4; Guns) - *Use a pistol in close combat.*

**Heavy fire** (4; Heavy weapons) - *Precision shooting at large targets.*

**Quick load** (2; Firearms) - *Quickly load and fire a gun.*

**Quick draw** (2; Guns) - *Quickly draw and fire a pistol.*

**Multiple targets** (4; Firearms) - *Fire at multiple targets.*

**Sharp shooter** (4; Firearms) - *Double the range increment of firearms.*

**Triple shot** (6; Guns) - *Three precision shots.*

**Two guns** (6; Guns) - *Fire two guns without penalty.*

**Marksman** (6; Guns) - *Greater accuracy with aimed shots.*

**Sniper** (8; Guns) - *Firing rifles very accurately at long range.*

**Controlled fire** (4; Firearms) - *Fire controlled bursts at multiple targets.*

**Improved automatic fire** (6; Firearms) - *Ignore range penalty with automatic fire.*

**Selective fire** (6; Firearms) - *Select targets with automatic fire.*

**Fire on the run** (4; Firearms) - *Firing whilst running.*

**Awkward shot** (4; Firearms) - *Firing from awkward positions.*

### Descriptions

**Awkward shot (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can ignore a level of penalty for firing from awkward positions (such as whilst hanging on a rope, clinging to a windowsill, or on an unstable platform).

**Concentrated fire (Cost 4): Heavy weapons.**

When using a *heavy weapon* to lay down automatic fire, damage bonus gained for hitting with multiple bullets can go above +10. The limit is raised by +5 for every 4 points of skill (e.g. +15 at 4, +20 at 8 etc).

**Controlled fire (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

When using automatic fire to shoot at a single target, you can fire subsequent bursts at different targets. All targets must be declared at the start of the round, and each extra target gives you a -10 penalty to all bursts fired. The number of extra targets you can fire at is equal to 1 per 4 levels of skill.

**Fire on the run (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can ignore the usual penalty of doubling target distance when firing a gun whilst running.

### **Following fire (Cost 4): Heavy weapons.**

When using a fully automatic *vehicle scale* weapon you can keep multiple bursts on target over the course of the round, increasing the chance of hitting at extreme ranges.

Each success you make on hitting with a burst, gives you +1 effective bullet for the next burst at the same target. This bonus applies after reducing the number of bullets for range, but can never increase the number of bullets to more than is actually in the burst.

As long as a burst gains at least one success, then add the bonus from this burst, plus one for each success, to the next burst.

### **Gun fu (Cost 4): Guns.**

You are trained in using a pistol effectively in close combat situations, mixing it effortlessly with open hand attacks. Whenever you use a pistol against targets within your combat move, you may use your *Agility* rather than *Dexterity*.

### **Heavy fire (Cost 4): Heavy weapons.**

When using a *vehicle scale* weapon you can lay down an accurate burst of fire, increasing the *Size* of the weapon by +5 for purposes of what you can damage.

### **Improved automatic fire (Cost 6): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Controlled fire.*

Using *automatic fire* against an area normally doubles the effective distance. With this technique, you can ignore this penalty.

### **Marksman (Cost 6): Guns.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

With the *Marksman* technique you are specialised in firing accurately at long range, often with specialist sniper rifles. If you take an *aimed shot* with a *Rifle*, then you quarter the distance to the target (rather than thirding it).

### **Multiple targets (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

When firing multiple shots (as single shots, not using automatic fire), you may split your shots between multiple targets. For every full four points of skill, you may fire at one additional target each round. Each extra target gives you a -10 penalty to all shots fired, and the targets must be declared at the start of the round.

### **Quick draw (Cost 2): Guns.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You can draw and fire a pistol in the same round without any penalty, as long as it is readily available (e.g. in a holster or belt).

### **Quick load (Cost 2): Firearms.**

You can change the cartridge on an auto loading gun quickly and reliably. Reduce the load time of a gun by 1, plus a further 1 per full 4 levels of skill.

### **Selective fire (Cost 6): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Controlled fire.*

When using automatic fire against an area, the first target of each burst may be chosen from any of the available targets. Targets after that start from the nearest. That target is not selected a second time in the burst, even if they are the next nearest target.

### **Sharp shooter (Cost 4): Firearms.**

*Prerequisites: Quick load.*

You are experienced with firing a gun accurately, and can double the range increment of your weapon when firing. This is separate from, and stacks with, the modifiers to the effective range for aiming or careful shots. Effectively, a careful shot is now effective out to four times the range, and an aimed shot out to six times.

### **Sniper (Cost 8): Guns.**

*Prerequisites: Marksman.*

When making an aimed shot at medium or long range, you gain the attack bonus of the weapon, and reduce the fumble chance by your *Guns* skill. The fumble chance can be reduced to less than 1, removing all chance of fumbling.

### **Triple shot (Cost 6): Guns.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

A technique involving three shots targeted at the target's vitals. It is a single attack which may be a *snapshot*, *normal* or *careful* shot. Only one *Triple shot* action may be made each round.

The effective distance to the target is tripled, and on success any wounds caused are tripled.

### **Two guns (Cost 6): Guns.**

*Prerequisites: Sharp shooter.*

You can fire two guns at once without suffering the penalty of doubled distance. Both guns must be *Pistols*, and it must be possible to use both single handed.

## Melee Techniques

The *Melee* skill covers a wide range of fighting styles and weapons, but assumes a relatively general knowledge of fighting. These techniques allow you to specialise in a particular style of fighting suited for a culture or type of weapon.

## Summary

**Chain fighting** (4; Melee) - *Better use of chain weapons.*

**Fast shot** (2; Bow) - *Load and fire a bow quickly*

**Improved pull** (4; Bow) - *Extra damage with a long bow*

**Improved aim** (6; Bow) - *Reduced range penalties*

**Finesse** (2; Melee) - *+5 to attack, -5 to damage.*

**Acrobatic attack** (4; Melee) - *Bonus when making performing a stunt.*

**Great weapon fighting** (2; Melee) - *Greater effectiveness.*

**Great blow** (4; Melee) - *Get bonus to damage when aggressive.*

**Finishing blow** (6; Melee) - *Increased chance of killing opponent.*

**Greater range** (2; Throw) - *Increase the range of thrown weapons.*

**Fire into melee** (4; Missile) - *Reduced fumble chance when firing into melee.*

**Deadly shot** (6; Missile) - *Kill a target with a single shot.*

**Mounted combat** (2; Ride) - *Bonuses when fighting from horseback*

**Mounted archery** (4; Ride) - *Archery from horseback*

**Shield fighting** (2; Melee) - *The art of fighting with a shield.*

**Shielded attack** (4; Melee) - *Gain a free defence.*

**Reliable defence** (6; Melee) - *Re-roll defence and reduced wound penalties.*

**Shield wall** (4; Melee) - *Form a solid defensive wall of shields.*

**Single weapon fighting** (2; Melee) - *Use agility for defence.*

**Acrobatic dodge** (4; Melee) - *Increases base soak.*

**Spear catching** (2; Throw) - *Catch a spear thrown at you*

**Improved spear catching** (4; Throw) - *And throw it back again*

**Spear fighting** (2; Melee) - *Gain a +5 bonus against short weapons*

**Spear wall** (4; Melee) - *Gain a bonus against mounted opponents.*

**Defensive reach** (4; Melee) - *Ignore attack penalty if defensive.*

**Two weapon fighting** (2; Melee) - *Re-roll an attack or defence .*

**Combined attack** (4; Melee) - *Re-roll damage rolls.*

**Two blades** (6; Two weapons) - *Get to damage twice.*

## Descriptions

**Acrobatic attack (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Finesse.*

When performing a stunt before making an attack, the character can gain a bonus to the athletics roll equal to their *single weapon* skill. Automatic.

**Acrobatic dodge (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Single weapon fighting.*

When defending against an attack with your *Melee* skill and using a single weapon, you have learnt to retreat from blows without losing ground, lessening the impact of the strike. You gain a bonus to your soak equal to your *Agility* (modified by encumbrance and armour).

**Chain fighting (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

You may reduce the fumble chance of chain weapons by your *Melee* score, to a minimum of one. When using the aggressive or defensive stances the bonus is +10 instead of +5.

**Combined attack (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Two weapon fighting.*

When fighting with two single weapons, you may once per round re-roll an attack, defence or damage roll. You must keep the second roll even if it is worse.

**Deadly shot (Cost 6):** *Missile.*

*Prerequisites: Fire into melee.*

If you decide to use this technique when declaring your attack, then it enables you to shoot a person in their vitals, possibly killing them immediately. You must use the *focused stance*, and all range penalties are doubled. If you hit and do wounding damage, then the target must make a *Size x health* check against a difficulty of  $10 + 5 \times$  wounds caused, or immediately be fatally wounded.

**Defensive reach (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Spear fighting.*

If you have the advantage of reach against all those attacking you this round, then penalties caused by making multiple defences can be ignored for your attacks. You still suffer them for defence. You must be using a longshaft weapon.

**Fast shot (Cost 2):** *Bow.*

You are have sufficient practise with loading and firing a bow that you can do it quicker than normal. The usual load time of a bow is reduced by one. If this takes it below zero, then the bow can be loaded and fired as a normal action.

**Finesse (Cost 2):** *Melee.*

You can choose to attack with speed and finesse rather than power. You get a +5 bonus to your attack, roll, but a -5 penalty to your damage. You can only use this technique whilst wielding one handed blades.

**Finishing blow (Cost 6):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Great weapon fighting.*

If you critically or fatally wound your foe when you strike with a great weapon, then must make a health check as if they were fatally wounded. Further, all such checks suffer a penalty equal to your *Melee* skill.

**Fire into melee (Cost 4):** *Missile.*

*Prerequisites: Greater range.*

You have practised difficult shots at moving and obscured targets, increasing your effectiveness when firing into the middle of a melee. If your fumble chance is increased due to such a shot, this increase is halved. Declared.

**Great blow (Cost 4):** *Melee.*

*Prerequisites: Great weapon fighting.*

Whenever you use an aggressive stance with a great weapon, you gain a bonus to damage equal to your *Melee* skill.

**Great weapon fighting (Cost 2):** *Melee.*

When fighting with a *Great weapon*, your gain a +50% bonus to your size for purposes of damaging large opponents. Further, the level of success required for the melee manoeuvres *Improved damage*, *Knockdown* and *Massive damage* is reduced by one.

**Greater range (Cost 2):** *Throw.*

Your skill enables you to throw weapons more effectively, increasing their range. When throwing a weapon, increase

your *Strength* by +1 for purposes of the maximum range of the attack. If you have a skill of 5 or more, then the bonus is +2. Automatic.

**Improved aim (Cost 6): Bow.**

*Prerequisites: Improved pull.*

You are exceptionally skilled at firing a long or short bow. If a full round is spent aiming, then you can halve all range and circumstance penalties.

**Improved pull (Cost 4): Bow.**

*Prerequisites: Fast shot.*

Due to extensive training with firing a bow, you gain a +1 to your strength for purposes of using a longbow for every four points of *Bow* skill.

**Improved spear catching (Cost 4): Throw.**

*Prerequisites: Spear catching.*

As for spear catching, plus the character can throw the spear the same round instead of their normal attack action, assuming they still have an attack left that round.

**Mounted archery (Cost 4): Ride.**

*Prerequisites: Mounted combat.*

A character with *mounted archery* does not suffer the doubling of effective range when using missile weapons from the back of a moving mount. Further, they do not have to make a *ride* roll in order to make a missile attack.

**Mounted combat (Cost 2): Ride.**

A character with *mounted combat* does not have to make a *ride* check whenever they attack from horseback. Further, they get a bonus equal to their *ride* skill which applies to melee attack, defence and damage rolls made when mounted.

**Reliable defence (Cost 6): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Shielded attack.*

When defending with a shield you may re-roll a single defence each round. Further any penalties you suffer from wounds, stuns and fatigues are halved when making any defence checks with a shield.

**Shield fighting (Cost 2): Melee.**

When using a one handed weapon and a shield, the full attack, defence and damage bonus of the shield is added when fighting.

**Shield wall (Cost 4): Melee.**

When fighting alongside one or more others who know this technique, as long as you are all fighting using a weapon and shield combination then you grant a defence bonus to both your neighbours equal to your *Melee* skill. A bonus only gains the highest bonus if they gain one from multiple people in the shield wall. You do not gain or grant this bonus if fighting aggressively.

**Shielded attack (Cost 4): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Shield fighting.*

When fighting with a shield you gain a free defence, allowing you to make two defences without penalty. The free defence is always made with your *Melee* skill.

**Single weapon fighting (Cost 2): Melee.**

When fighting with a single one-handed melee weapon, you may use *Agility* instead of *Dexterity* for defence. You still use the *Melee* skill, plus all the bonuses from defending with a weapon. If you are no more than lightly encumbered, then you may also use *Agility* for attack.

**Spear catching (Cost 2): Throw.**

If the character makes a good brawl defence roll to dodge a spear or javelin, and they have an empty hand, then they may catch the weapon with a dexterity x throw check of 20+. The catch attempt must be declared before the defence is made.

**Spear fighting (Cost 2): Melee.**

You are trained to take advantage of the extra reach that a longshaft weapon gives you. If you have a greater reach than your opponent, then you gain a +5 to attack and don't suffer any penalty to attack if fighting defensively.

**Spear wall (Cost 4): Melee.**

*Prerequisites: Spear fighting.*

If you are on foot and fighting against a mounted foe, then you gain a +5 bonus to attack and damage rolls against your opponent. Your opponent does not gain any attack bonuses for being mounted. You must be using a longshaft weapon to use this.

**Two blades (Cost 6): Two weapons.**

*Prerequisites: Combined attack.*

By declaring this technique with the aggressive stance, and losing one defence, you make a single attack which if it hits allows you to roll damage twice. The target suffers both damage rolls.

**Two weapon fighting (Cost 2): Melee.**

When fighting with two weapons (including shields) you may add half (round up) the attack, defence and damage of the secondary weapon.

## Outdoor Techniques

### Summary

**Arctic survival** (4; Survival)

**Desert survival** (4; Survival)

**Direction sense** (2; Survival)

**Dog handler** (2; Animal handling) - *Working with dogs.*

**Falconry** (4; Animal handling) - *Training of and hunting with raptors.*

**Hiking** (4; Survival)

**Jungle survival** (4; Survival)

**Lion tamer** (4; Animal handling) - *Working with dangerous animals.*

**Snake charmer** (4; Animal handling) - *Working with snakes.*

## Descriptions

### Arctic survival (Cost 4): *Survival*.

You have experience with surviving in arctic conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional -30 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the arctic.

### Desert survival (Cost 4): *Survival*.

You have experience with surviving in desert conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional -30 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the desert.

### Direction sense (Cost 2): *Survival, Navigation*.

You are an expert navigator, and halve all penalties due to bad circumstances when trying to determine position, or plotting a course.

### Dog handler (Cost 2): *Animal handling*.

The training and caring of dogs, as well as knowledge of how to use them in hunting.

### Falconry (Cost 4): *Animal handling*.

The training and caring of birds of prey, as well as knowledge of how to use them in hunting.

### Hiking (Cost 4): *Survival*.

You are an experienced hiker, and can move across country at a faster pace. When walking long distances (using the overland movement rules), you can add your *survival* skill to their base movement.

### Jungle survival (Cost 4): *Survival*.

You have experience with surviving in jungle conditions. If you do not have this technique, then there is an additional -20 penalty when using the *Survival* skill in the arctic.

### Lion tamer (Cost 4): *Animal handling*.

The training and taming of lions, tigers and similar predatory mammals. May be taught in a circus or a zoo, though both give a different emphasis on how the knowledge is used.

### Snake charmer (Cost 4): *Animal handling*.

Knowledge of how to work with and care for snakes, both in terms of keeping them for display or research (e.g. in a zoo) and also for entertainment (such as a street snake charmer).

## Physical Techniques

### Summary

**Acrobatic talent** (4; Athletics) - *Half athletics skill adds to other physical skills.*

**Climbing** (4; Athletics) - *Improved climbing.*

**Contra gravity** (2; Athletics)

**Juggling** (2; Sleight) - *Experience with juggling.*

**Legerdemain** (4; Sleight) - *Sleight of hand tricks.*

**Light Sleeper** (4; Awareness)

**Parachuting** (2; Athletics) - *Safely using parachutes.*

**Pick pocket** (4; Sleight) - *Stealing items from a person.*

**Running** (4; Athletics) - *Run faster with less fatigue.*

**Sprinting** (6; Athletics) - *Gain less fatigue when sprinting.*

**Silent running** (4; Stealth)

**Sport** (2; Athletics) - *Familiarity with a sport.*

**Sure footed** (4; Athletics)

**Swimming** (2; Athletics) - *You can swim.*

**Underwater swimming** (4; Athletics) - *You can swim underwater.*

**Zero gravity** (2; Athletics) - *Zero-g experience.*

## Descriptions

### Acrobatic talent (Cost 4): *Athletics*.

Your aptitude with athletics enables you to perform better at other physical skills. All melee combat attack and defence rolls, as well as stealth, dance, swim and ride gain an automatic bonus equal to half (round down) of your *athletics* skill. With an *athletics* skill of 8 or more, the bonus is equal to your full skill.

### Climbing (Cost 4): *Athletics*.

Double basic movement whilst climbing.

### Contra gravity (Cost 2): *Athletics*.

You have been trained in the use of a grav-belt or battlesuit, and can perform athletic manouevres whilst under contra-gravity conditions. This is similar to the *Zero gravity* technique, but assumes that there is a gravity field, you just happen to be mostly ignoring it.

### Juggling (Cost 2): *Sleight*.

You are adept at juggling, and can juggle a number of balls, clubs or other objects with relative ease. If you don't have this technique, you can still juggle, but it is much harder. Without this technique it is a *Dexterity x Sleight* check at a difficulty of 10 x number of balls. Add +5 for clubs, and +10 for more complex objects. Halve the difficulty for knowing this technique.

A standard success means you can perform some juggling for a short period of time, a *good* success means you can go on indefinitely.

### Legerdemain (Cost 4): *Sleight*.

You are skilled at performing magical tricks that involve palming objects. Normally this is a *Dexterity x Sleight* check at a difficulty of 20 for a simple trick (palming a coin), 30 for more complex tricks and 40 for really complex ones. An observer can try and figure out how you did it by making a *Perception x Awareness* check against your roll. If you fail, then you mess up the trick and it doesn't work, if you both succeed then you pull off the trick but the observer sees how you did it.

Knowing this technique halves the base difficulty, and allows you to obscure the trick, making it harder to spot.

Each extra level of success adds +10 to the observer's difficulty to spot it.

**Light Sleeper (Cost 4): Awareness.**

The character is good at reacting to things when asleep. With this technique, awareness rolls are only halved when fully asleep, and unaffected if dozing. Automatic.

**Parachuting (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You have experience with free-falling and parachuting. It is a *very easy Agility x Athletics* check to land safely under ideal conditions. Half your skill roll and +1 fumble chance if you don't have this technique.

**Pick pocket (Cost 4): Sleight.**

You are adept at lifting items from a person without them noticing. Use your *Dexterity x Sleight* when making the attempt, generally against a static difficulty. If you don't have this technique, the base difficulty is the target's *Perception x Awareness*.

**Running (Cost 4): Athletics.**

You are an experienced long distance runner, and can add your *athletics* score to your total movement each round when running. You also gain less fatigue, and can increase the time between gaining fatigue by a multiple for every 4 points of *athletics* skill (x2 at 4, x3 at 8 etc). This technique does not affect sprinting.

**Silent running (Cost 4): Stealth.**

You can move twice as quickly as normal before receiving a penalty for trying to be stealthy.

**Sport (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You are familiar with the rules of a given sport, and have experience with playing it. This technique should be taken once per sport you have experience with. Not having the technique means that you don't have knowledge of the rules (unless it's a very common game), and halve your skill roll when playing it.

Example sports would be football, cricket, squash, skiing, darts, snooker, bowling, badminton, rugby, golf, bicycling etc.

If you want to be really good at a particular sport, then this technique may be extended to higher levels, at Professional (4), Expert (6), Champion (8) and Master (10). Each lower level technique must be bought before the next can be. In a contest of skills between two people playing a sport, the one with the highest level technique has the advantage. Each rank lower a person is, increases their fumble chance by +1. Each rank higher, increases the chance of automatic success by +1 (e.g., on a '20', '19+', '18+' etc).

**Sprinting (Cost 6): Athletics.**

*Prerequisites: Running.*

You are an experienced sprinter, and gain fatigue only half as often as other people when sprinting.

**Sure footed (Cost 4): Athletics.**

The character has a good sense of balance, and gets a bonus to athletic rolls when balancing on narrow ledges or when on uneven or unsteady surfaces. In such situations, their agility attribute gets a +1 bonus.

**Swimming (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You have trained at swimming.

**Underwater swimming (Cost 4): Athletics.**

*Prerequisites: Swimming.*

You have trained at swimming underwater, and only have to make fatigue checks at twice the normal interval.

**Zero gravity (Cost 2): Athletics.**

You are experienced in operating in zero or micro gravity environments. You do not suffer space sickness and can ignore most penalties due to very low gravity environments.

## Social Techniques

### Summary

- Brainwashing** (4; Psychology) - *The art of altering personalities..*
- Carousing** (2; Social)
  - Seduction** (4; Social)
  - Flirt** (4; Charm)
- Cold reading** (4; Guile)
- Courtly dancing** (2; Dance)
- Disguise** (2; Guile)
- Etiquette** (2; Social)
  - Fashion** (2; Social)
    - High fashion** (4; Social)
    - Scandalous fashion** (4; Social)
  - Hidden insult** (4; Social)
- Folk dancing** (2; Dance)
- Intimidation** (4; Social)
- Misdirection** (4; Guile) - *Distract someone to hide what you are doing.*
- Passionate speaker** (4; Perform)
- Poet** (4; Perform)
- Propaganda** (4; Psychology) - *Selling ideas to a population.*
- Sensual dancing** (2; Dance)
- Shadowing** (4; Streetwise)

### Descriptions

**Brainwashing (Cost 4): Psychology.**

You know how to alter a person's personality to make them think and act in a certain way. Outlawed in many civilised societies, it is however sometimes taught by religious cults, terrorist organisations and, it is rumoured, some black ops agencies within the government.

**Carousing (Cost 2): Social.**

The character is a party animal, and gets on very well with people in a party environment. Any circumstance penalties

such as the character not being welcome, or people the character wants to talk to being busy, are halved.

**Cold reading (Cost 4): *Guile*.**

A *cold reading* is when you give a person the impression of knowing far more about them than you actually do. Generally, you start with vague statements which are refined based on the reactions of the target. When using this technique, make an *Empathy x Guile* check against either a base difficulty of 10 if the target is cooperative (or has no reason to be suspicious), or against their *Will x Guile* if they aren't.

On a *moderate* success, you don't make a fool of yourself, but aren't that impressive. On a *good* success, you can give the impression of knowing more than you should, and an *excellent* success is very impressive.

The difficulty is doubled if you don't have this technique. This technique is useful for conning people, but can be a useful interrogation technique as well.

**Courtly dancing (Cost 2): *Dance*.**

Courtly dancing involves knowledge of, and the skill to perform, the type of dances favoured amongst the nobility and upper classes. With this technique, as long as you make a moderate skill check, you get a +1 reaction bonus in a courtly situation.

**Disguise (Cost 2): *Guile*.**

When trying to disguise yourself you may use either *Intelligence* or *Empathy*, and anyone trying to see through the disguise may only use *Empathy x Guile* to spot it. People only get a check to notice you if there is a good reason to do so (you don't have quite the right clothing, or you don't look like anyone they know).

The viewer gets half the original difficulty as a bonus, and even then only if you didn't have sufficient time to plan the disguise.

**Etiquette (Cost 2): *Social*.**

Etiquette is a knowledge of good manners and social behaviour whilst in polite company. A character with Etiquette automatically knows how to address someone of rank, how to flirt with a noble Lady without offending her, how to behave at a joust or banquet and which fork to use with the dessert.

Without this technique, *intelligence* checks are required to avoid making a faux pas when in polite company, normally of moderate difficulty or higher.

**Fashion (Cost 2): *Social*.**

*Prerequisites: Etiquette.*

You know what the latest fashions are, and how to make best use of them in order to look *good*. With this technique you are very unlikely to wear something which is either out

of date or would cause embarrassment (unless of course you don't have a choice).

When you get a chance to dress for the occasion, then you get a +1 to your attribute for social skills against those that would be impressed.

**Flirt (Cost 4): *Charm*.**

*Prerequisites: Carousing.*

Flirt with a person in a socially acceptable manner. This allows the character to make a seduction attempt in polite company, even if the spouse of the enticed is present, without other people really being sure about what is going on. In a court situation, flirting can be common and acceptable, as long as it doesn't actually lead to anything.

**Folk dancing (Cost 2): *Dance*.**

Folk dancing gives knowledge of the types of dances performed in rural villages and the like, as well as the ability to dance them. This technique provides a +1 reaction bonus in such situations as long as a moderate skill check is achieved.

**Hidden insult (Cost 4): *Social*.**

*Prerequisites: Etiquette.*

Insult someone in a way that is polite and difficult to respond to. If done cleverly, the target of the insult may not even be sure that they have been insulted, which makes it doubly difficult for them to respond.

Both insulter and target make an *Intelligence* based *Guile* check. If the insulter wins, the target is at a disadvantage for the rest of the scene (-1 to *Empathy* and *Intelligence* when dealing with the insulter). If the check fails, then nothing happens unless the target also has this technique, in which case a witty reply means that the insulter is at a disadvantage.

**High fashion (Cost 4): *Social*.**

*Prerequisites: Fashion.*

You are at the cutting edge of fashion, always one step ahead of the crowd. When amongst those that would consider themselves *fashionable*, then any that try to compete against you socially do not get the benefits of the *Fashion* technique, unless they also have *High Fashion*.

**Intimidation (Cost 4): *Social*.**

Being able to scare people, either with threats of simple physical violence, or by more subtle means. Can either be based on *Strength* or *Empathy*. When making an intimidation check, make an opposed roll against the target's *Will* (modified by any traits). Each level of success will shift the target's level of cooperation up by a category.

**Misdirection (Cost 4): *Guile*.**

Distract someone so they don't notice something you are doing, such as performing a magic trick, trying to slip out of bonds, or fiddling with computer controls.

**Passionate speaker (Cost 4): Perform.**

You are a gifted orator, and gain a +1 to your *empathy* when giving a speech.

**Poet (Cost 4): Perform.**

You are a skilled poet, having the skill to invent new poems with wit and speed. Gain a +1 intelligence bonus when composing poetry.

**Propaganda (Cost 4): Psychology, Marketing.**

You are skilled in the art of persuading entire populations of an idea.

**Scandalous fashion (Cost 4): Social.**

*Prerequisites: Fashion.*

You are on the bleeding edge of fashion, somehow managing to wear what on others would be scandalous but pulling it off with such style and grace that it actually looks good. This technique does not confer any direct bonus, but you will gain a reputation since your clothing style will be the talk of the town for a while to come.

If you are female, and have the *Good looking* or *Sexy* advantage, then you get a further +1 bonus if trying to seduce or attract someone. It's probably not so much what you're wearing, but what you're not wearing that draws attention.

**Seduction (Cost 4): Social.**

*Prerequisites: Carousing.*

The character is experienced in talking people into going to bed with them. Any circumstance penalties are halved.

**Sensual dancing (Cost 2): Dance.**

This provides the skill of dancing in an erotic and sensual manner, in an attempt to arouse those watching. Provides a +1 reaction bonus to those who find you sexually attractive as long as you make a moderate skill check. This bonus can be applied to later seduction attempts against the same people.

**Shadowing (Cost 4): Streetwise.**

You are trained in following people without being noticed in an urban environment. Unlike pure stealth, where you try not to be seen at all, *shadowing* is about not being noticed. If you have this technique, you may use *Streetwise* instead of *Stealth* or *Awareness* to shadow someone or to spot someone shadowing you.

If you have this technique, and your target doesn't, then you only need to make a skill check if the target is specifically checking to see if they are being followed, or if the situation is difficult. If somebody is following you, and they don't have this technique, then they must use the lowest of their *Stealth* and *Streetwise*.

## Technical Techniques

### Summary

**Computer programming (4; Computer operation)**

**Cryptanalysis (4; Computer operation)**

**Engineer (\*) (4; Engineering) - *Engineering specialisation.***

**Engineer (Civic engineer) (4; Engineering) - *Engineering specialisation.***

**Engineer (Electrical engineer) (4; Engineering) - *Engineering specialisation.***

**Engineer (Mechanical engineer) (4; Engineering) - *Engineering specialisation.***

**System administration (4; Computer operation)**

**Computer intrusion (4; Computer operation)**

**Computer forensics (4; Computer operation)**

**Computer security (4; Computer operation)**

### Descriptions

**Computer forensics (Cost 4): Computer operation.**

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

You have experience with examining computer systems for hidden or deleted files, examining logs for signs of messages or other evidence. You can also use this knowledge to hide information on a system so that it cannot be retrieved. Note that though encrypted information can be found, you may not be able to decrypt it.

**Computer intrusion (Cost 4): Computer operation.**

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

Knowledge of how to break security on computer systems, gain passwords and otherwise compromise a system's security. If you have this technique, then you can halve the difficulty of any tasks related to trying to compromise the security of a computer system.

**Computer programming (Cost 4): Computer operation.**

Knowledge of and experience with programming a computer system. Needs to be taken for each type of computer platform that can be programmed. If known, it halves the difficulty of programming related tasks.

**Computer security (Cost 4): Computer operation.**

*Prerequisites: System administration.*

Knowledge of how to secure a computer network.

**Cryptanalysis (Cost 4): Computer operation.**

*Prerequisites: Cryptography.*

Knowledge of encryption and decryption software and methodology. Experience with such makes it much easier when trying to access encrypted data. This technique covers practical experience of using cryptographic software, not necessarily the theory.

**Engineer (\*) (Cost 4): Engineering.**

You are specialised in an engineering discipline. This is a generic specialisation for the Engineering skill. You can

take this as many times as you want, each time with a different specialisation.

You can specialise in a branch (civic, electrical, mechanical) or a topic area (aircraft, boats, computers, communication, cars, power plants, nuclear power, medical systems, etc).

**Engineer (Civic engineer) (Cost 4):** *Engineering.*

This is a specific specialisation of *Engineering*. You are skilled in civic engineering, being able to design buildings, bridges, sewer systems and other large scale constructs. More detailed specialisations are possible.

**Engineer (Electrical engineer) (Cost 4):** *Engineering.*

This is a specific specialisation of *Engineering*. You are skilled in electronic engineering, and are able to design and build electronic devices such as computers, sensors, communication systems and the like. More detailed specialisations are possible.

**Engineer (Mechanical engineer) (Cost 4):** *Engineering.*

This is a specific specialisation of *Engineering*. You are skilled in civic engineering, being able to design buildings, bridges, sewer systems and other large scale constructs. More detailed specialisations are possible.

**System administration (Cost 4):** *Computer operation.*

Provides experience in the maintenance and design of a particular type of computer system. Allows networks to be configured and optimised, users to be managed and file systems and services to be configured.

Without this technique, you will find it very hard to perform any type of computer administration, and the difficulty of any such tasks is doubled.

## Vehicle Techniques

### Summary

- Aircraft familiarity** (2; Pilot) - *Familiarity with aircraft.*
- Driving familiarity** (2; Drive) - *Familiarity with a type of vehicle.*
- High speed driving** (4; Drive) - *Driving fast and safe.*
- Hotshot pilot** (4; Pilot) - *Skilled piloting.*
- Ice driving** (4; Drive) - *Driving on ice.*
- Off-road driving** (4; Drive) - *Driving in off-road conditions.*
- Stunt driver** (4; Drive) - *Skilled piloting.*
- Top gun** (6; Pilot) - *Combat piloting.*

### Descriptions

**Aircraft familiarity (Cost 2):** *Pilot.*

This technique needs to be taken to be familiar with anything other than the standard type of aircraft (small low-performance aircraft). This is a different technique for each type of aircraft.

*Large aircraft:* You have experience with flying large aircraft such as cargo planes or jumbo jets.

*Passenger jet:* You have experience with flying small passenger jets, such as a Learjet.

*VTOL:* You are familiar with VTOL aircraft. You need to be familiar with VTOL aircraft in order to avoid penalties when trying to make use of their VTOL capability.

*Supersonic:* You have experience with flying aircraft at supersonic speeds.

*Aerospace:* You have experience with flying aircraft at very high altitudes where the atmosphere is incredibly thin. You require this familiarity to properly control aircraft in such conditions.

**Driving familiarity (Cost 2):** *Drive.*

This technique needs to be taken to be familiar with anything other than the standard type of vehicle (small passenger car). There is a different technique for each type of vehicle.

*HGV:* You are familiar with driving large lorries, and do not suffer a penalty when doing so.

*Tracked:* You are familiar with driving tanks, half trucks and other vehicles which use tracks. You do not suffer the familiarity penalty when driving such vehicles.

*Motorbike:* You are familiar with riding motorbikes and similar small unbalanced powered personal vehicles.

*Buggy:* You have experience with driving small powered vehicles such as go-carts, dune buggies or trikes. Anything which is little more than an engine with a seat and basic controls is covered by this.

**High speed driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You have been trained in driving fast in dangerous situations, such as along winding roads and whilst avoiding obstacles. Reduce the difficulty increase for each level of speed by 5 points.

Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Hotshot pilot (Cost 4):** *Pilot.*

Add +1 to the effective *Agility* of your aircraft when you are flying it. Only applies if you are familiar with the aircraft you are flying.

**Ice driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You have extensive experience with driving on ice. Halve all extra difficulties for driving on ice (only +5 normally, plus each speed step adds an extra +5 when on ice).

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Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Off-road driving (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

You are experienced with driving in off-road conditions. You can reduce the penalty for driving in *difficult* or *unsuitable* terrain by one level.

Can only be used if you are *familiar* with the type of vehicle.

**Stunt driver (Cost 4):** *Drive.*

Add +1 to the effective *Agility* of your vehicle when you are driving it. Only applies if you are familiar with the vehicle.

**Top gun (Cost 6):** *Pilot.*

*Prerequisites: Hostshot pilot.*

You are skilled at dogfighting in aircraft. When trying to manoeuvre for a clear shot, you can fire at half skill with a single success, and full skill with two or more successes.

## Improvement

A central facet of many RPGs is that a character can improve as the game progresses. This isn't a universal rule however, and it suits some type of fiction better than others. Much fantasy fiction revolves around a young, inexperienced hero with much untapped potential gaining that experience, and becoming a skilled champion in an infeasibly short period of time. Modern or science fiction tends to focus on already experienced characters who need to use their existing skills to survive. There are many examples which go against this trend, but it can be a useful distinction to make.

### Heroic Experience

If, as a GM, you wish characters to improve rapidly in their skill sets, then it is suggested that experience is handed out at the end of each gaming session, possibly 1-3 points. Players can use this to improve their character's skills or techniques, at a maximum of 1 point on any single skill per session, and possibly limited to skills which could sensibly have improved.

This gives players a lot of control over what skills go up, and will tend to lead to PCs having a few high skills. Note that this does allow characters to go from totally untrained to professional level (4) in 10 game sessions - which may be only a few days or few weeks of game time.

Instead of placing experience onto a skill, the player may place it into a technique. There is no limit to how many experience points can be placed into a single technique at once, which can make it easier to buy techniques than to put up the skill.

Optionally, a point may be granted at the end of each story arc (or at dramatically appropriate moments) which may be spent on attributes. Attributes can be raised in the same way as skills - 1 point per level of attribute you are raising to. This shouldn't amount to more than a few points a year for young characters, or more than a point a year for more experienced characters.

### Realistic Experience

Alternatively, it may be desired to opt for a slower approach to skill improvement that is somewhat more realistic. This allows characters to pick up experience during down time within the game, rather than from actual adventures.

### Background Experience

Characters in a new area may pick up language and area lore skills if they don't already have them. If they have a

skill less than 2, they *may* gain 1 XP towards these skills each week they have an opportunity to learn. If they have a skill of 2-3, then they *may* gain 1 XP each month.

Each week or month of game time, roll a d20, and on a 10+ you gain 1 XP towards the skill. Once the skill reaches 4, it won't improve in this way. This does assume that you are interacting with other people (in the case of language) or exploring (for area lore). If you aren't doing this at all, then no XP will be gained. If you are doing it in a limited way, then you need a 15+. If they have the *Tourist* advantage, then you gain a bonus to this roll.

It is reasonable to combine this advancement option with heroic experience. Doing so allows characters to focus on the skills that matter to their character concept, without sacrificing knowledge skills they would realistically be picking up.

### Job Based Learning

Similar to *Background Experience*, it can be assumed that you will pick up knowledge related to a job. If you are performing full-time duties which require skill use, then you may pick up experience on the job. Many skills will have multiple skills associated with them, in which case choose the most appropriate, or the lowest skill.

Skill gain is similar to *Background Experience*, so you have a chance of gaining a point each week if your skill is less than two, or each month if it is less than four.

As before, you are limited to gaining a skill of 4 (professional level) in this way, and it should take about 16 months to get to this level.

It is possible for this experience to be put into familiarity or specialisation techniques.

### Dedicated Training

It is always possible to gain skill through dedicated training in that skill. This requires finding a tutor, often paying them for their time. A training session takes a week for techniques, or if your current skill is less than four. For higher skills, it takes a month.

As for other methods of learning, roll a d20 to see if you gain any experience in the trained skill. For techniques or skills less than 4, the target is 10+. For skills up to 7, the target is 15+ and if your current skill is 8 or higher, the target is 20+.

If you are being taught by a trainer who actually has the *Teach* skill, then reduce the difficulty by the level of their skill.

# 40 Characters



Target	Condition
10+	Base target number if training in a technique, or in a skill which is currently less than 4.
15+	Base target number if skill is currently in the 4-7 range.
20+	Base target number if skill is currently 8+.
-X	-1 for each point of 'Teach' skill that the teacher has.
-5	If training facilities are of high quality, with lots of resources. Military training grounds would often qualify.
+3	For each point that the trainer's skill is lower than the student's.

When teaching a technique, the trainer must already know the technique. When teaching a skill, the trainer must have a skill of at least 4, and at least half the student's current skill otherwise training is not possible.

At the end of the training period, roll a simple d20 and on success 1 XP is gained towards the skill or technique. If the roll is 10 or more over the target difficulty, gain 2 XP instead.