Common BDSM & Community Terminologies:

The Foundations

• BDSM – Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/submission, Sadism/Masochism; an umbrella term for kink practices and consensual power exchange.
• Kink – Interests, practices, or expressions that fall outside conventional "vanilla" sexuality or expression, often involving power exchange or sensation based play.
• Fetish – A strong focus on a specific object, material, body part, or activity that enhances excitement or meaning within a kink context.
• Consent Culture – A standard that centers ongoing, informed, enthusiastic, and revocable consent in all interactions, at all times.

Roles & Authority-Based Dynamics

• Dynamic – The roles and power exchange defining a BDSM relationship or interaction.
• D/s – Dominant/submissive; used to describe a consensual power-exchange relationship.
• Dominant (Dom/Domme) – One who holds authority in a power-exchange dynamic.
• Submissive (sub) – One who consensually yields authority in a power-exchange dynamic.
• Top – A person who administers sensation, bondage, or stimulation during a scene.
• Bottom – A person who receives sensation, bondage, or stimulation during a scene.
• Switch – A person who enjoys or participates in multiple roles.
• Collared – A symbol of commitment within a power-exchange dynamic. Collaring may represent stages such as play, training, consideration, or long-term partnership.

Consent & Negotiation

• Negotiation – A discussion of consent, boundaries, desires, expectations, and safety considerations before engaging in play or a dynamic.
• Hard Limit – A non-negotiable boundary that must never be crossed.
• Soft Limit – An activity that may be possible with discussion, trust, or specific conditions.
• Safeword – A pre-agreed word used to pause or immediately stop activity during a scene.
• Consensual Non-Consent (CNC) – A negotiated scene or dynamic in which participants agree to role-play situations that appear non-consensual. Because of increased risk, this requires clear and detailed communication, trust, and established experience.
• Vetting – The process of getting to know someone, checking references, and assessing compatibility and safety before engaging in play or a dynamic.

Play & Experience

• Scene – A period of intentional play or power exchange that begins and ends in time.
• Play Partner – People that you engage in negotiated kink activities, without necessarily having a romantic relationship.
• Aftercare – Physical or emotional support provided after a scene or dynamic experience.
• Drop – An emotional or physical low that may occur for a time after play.
• Subspace / Topspace – An altered mental or emotional state that some participants experience during and just after play.
• Pick-up play – Scenes or play of a spontaneous or casual nature with unfamiliar persons.
• Munch – A casual, kink-friendly social gathering, usually held in a public venue.
• Party – A community event where attendees gather to socialize, observe demonstrations or scenes, and participate in negotiated play in designated spaces.

TES Orientation Guide:

An Introductory Companion to the Kink & BDSM Community

The Eulenspiegel Society
Supporting & Educating the BDSM Community Since 1971

TES is a non-for-profit BDSM/Leather/Fetish group dedicated to the social interaction, educational exchange, and ever-changing diversity of our community.

TES.org
[Would we want to include links to other social media and/or QR codes?]

The TES Association Inc.
397 Third Avenue, #402
New York, NY 20017
tes@tes.org

TES Event Conduct Guidelines

• **Respect:** Treat everyone with respect and consideration. TES events are about community, education, and connection. Do not assume sexual access, orientation, identity or expectations.
• **Privacy:** Many members use first names or pseudonyms. Never share someone's identity or personal information without permission.
• **Consent for Contact**: Do not touch anyone, their equipment, or their belongings without prior explicit permission.
• **No Solicitation:** Offering or soliciting sexual services is not permitted.
• **Substances:** Alcohol, drugs, and smoking are not allowed at TES meetings or events. Anyone visibly under the influence may be asked to leave.
• **Sexual Activity:** Penetration, oral sex, and exchange of bodily fluids are not permitted at TES meetings or events.
• **Scenes During Classes:** Scenes are only permitted if they are part of the scheduled program or invited by the presenter.
• **Meeting Etiquette:** When someone is speaking, raise your hand before asking a question or making a comment.
• **Safety Oversight:** TES staff and Board representatives supervise TES events and may stop any activity they believe is unsafe.
• **Community Responsibility:** Members and guests are expected to act responsibly and in accordance with TES values. Violations may result in removal from the event.

Confidentiality

• Confidentiality is fundamental at TES.
• No one should be outed in any setting without their explicit permission.
• TES exists to provide a space where people can explore interests, learn, and build community without fear of professional, personal, or family repercussions.
• Respecting privacy protects the safety of everyone in the community.

Consent Frameworks

• **FRIES-** Stands for Freely Given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic, and Specific, outlining the key principles of valid consent.
• **RACK – Risk Aware Consensual Kink:** Participants acknowledge that some activities involve risk and choose to engage with full awareness and informed consent.
• **PRICK –** Personal Responsibility Informed Consensual Kink: Each participant accepts responsibility for understanding the risks and communicating boundaries clearly.
• Regardless of framework, clear consent and communication are the foundation of ethical kink.
Community safety is a shared responsibility.

The TES Creed

• TES supports the consensual exploration and expression of BDSM, kink, and fetish among informed adults.
• Adults have the right to explore consensual sexuality without shame or discrimination.
• BDSM relationships and practices should be based on informed consent, honesty, and mutual respect.
• Education and communication help people engage in kink more safely and responsibly.
• The BDSM community deserves dignity, acceptance, and freedom of expression.
• A strong community is built through support, learning, and respect for diversity.

Dungeon and Scene Safety Basics

• **Negotiate First:** Discuss limits, expectations, and safety concerns before any play.
• **Use Safewords or Signals: E**stablish a safeword or signal that immediately stops or slows activity if needed
• **Respect Limits:** Hard limits are never negotiable. Soft limits should be approached cautiously and only with consent.
• **Check In:** Communication during and after a scene helps ensure the well-being of everyone involved.
• **Aftercare Matters:** Providing aftercare helps participants transition safely after play.
• **Dungeon Monitors and Event Staff:** Please follow their guidance and instructions.

Recommended Reading

• *SM 101* – Jay Wiseman
• *Playing Well With Others* – Harrington & Williams
• *The Dominant's Handbook* – Michael Makai
• *The Ultimate Guide to Kink* – Tristan Taormino
• *Playing Well With Others* – Harrington & Williams
• *The Bottoming Book* – Easton & Hardy
• *The Topping Book* – Easton & Hardy
• *Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns* – Miller & Devon
• *Learning the Ropes* – Race Bannon
• *The Toybag Guide to BDSM* – Midori
• *Ask: Building Consent Culture* – Kitty Stryker
• *The Ultimate Guide to Bondage* – Mistress Couple

More Resources:
• FetLife.com
• FRIES on www.PlannedParenthood.org https://bit.ly/4hCLbSA
• The LGBT Center – 208 West 13th St. | gaycenter.org
• National Coalition for Sexual Freedom – NCSFreedom.org
• Purple Passion – 211 West 20th St. | www.purplepassion.com

[Are there more links to add here?]