Pointe Shoe Facts

1. Elements of a pointe shoe:
   1. **satin**: the material covering the outside of the shoe
   2. **platform**: the flat end of the box; provides a secure surface to stand on
   3. **shank**: the backbone of the pointe shoe; provides support along the sole/arch of the foot
   4. **insole**: lining along the inside bottom of the shoe
   5. **outer sole**: external bottom surface of the shoe; made to match the length of the foot en pointe
   6. **vamp**: the center front of the box, measured from the edge of the platform to the end of the pasting
   7. **drawstring**: elastic or cotton cord that is encased in the binding and can be pulled to tighten the shoe around the foot
   8. **wings**: side extensions of the box that provide lateral support to the foot/metatarsals
   9. **pleats**: on some shoes and not others; located between the outer sole and the platform
   10. **heel**: back of the shoe that secures the shoe to the foot; the elastic/ribbon are typically attached to the heel of the shoe
   11. **box**: provides support to the forefoot; composed of many layers of fabrics/materials and special paste
   12. **binding**: finishes the raw edges of satin/canvas and holds the drawstring
   13. **throat**: the open area at the center front of the shoe; typically a V or U shape
   14. **crown/profile**: the depth between the drawstring knot and the insole
   15. **back seam**: seam at the heel of the shoe where the fabric from either side of the shoe meets
   16. **waist seam**: the seam that separates the wings of the shoe from the heel, located on either side of the shoe

*last*: the form that the shoes are made on