Fighting in Shakespeare

1. Directing a Fight Scene
   You are directing a fight scene in *Romeo and Juliet*, but some of your actors are confused by your directions. Translate these directions into modern English.

   a) Alla stoccata with your bodkin.
   d) Grab the falchion by its dudgeon.

   b) Your passado is more effective with a foil.
   e) The hay will be better with a tuck.

   c) Hang your poniard on your girdle.
   f) Remove your baldric and hold your pikes.

2. Going Further
   a) Why could the slightest scratch lead to defeat and death in Shakespeare's time?

   b) Which kind of sword would men carry in day-to-day life?

   c) What is the name of a short, broad cutting sword that delivers slashing blows?

   d) From which word is the answer to (c) derived?

   e) From which languages did sword-fighting moves tend to come?