

Dance Etiquette

1. **ASKING A PARTNER:** It is equally permissible for a woman to ask a man as it is for a man to ask a woman. Take your partner's hand on to the dance floor and at the end of the dance, thank your partner.
2. **WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO DANCE SAY "No thank you."** Don't dance with someone else if you just turned down a request to dance. Please, when someone says "No thanks" do not be persistent; take them at their word.
3. **IT IS NOT POLITE TO CORRECT YOUR PARTNER** on the dance floor. Remember, this is a social dance. Have fun.
4. **IT IS NOT POLITE TO OFFER INSTRUCTIONS** to someone in a social dance setting (or in a dance class if you are not the instructor). Let's face it; you may be the one doing the step wrong. Unless they ask for help or are hurting you, don't teach. When your partner requests help, kindly move to the side of the floor away from the other social dancers.
5. **DANCERS BUMP INTO THE NICEST PEOPLE** and it isn't even a contact sport. Be aware of the dancers around you! If you bump into someone, kick someone, or step on someone's foot, or if they bump into you, apologize whether it is your fault or theirs. Show concern that no serious injury has occurred. It is a fairly acceptable practice that when a collision occurs, apologize, EVEN if it wasn't your fault.
6. **DANCER'S USE SELECTIVE FLOOR PLACEMENT** – Find your **Spot** and keep your **Slot**. The first person on the floor usually has the right to set the slot of the dance. Dance small! If you require ½ of the floor in order to do you thing, you need to change your thing! Nobody likes to be pushed around the floor. Also, save the arm waving, clapping and hand waving for Flag Day as they may end up in another person's face. Sorry, but unless you're on a stage, you are not the only one on the dance floor. Keep most steps under you on space about the size of a dinner plate.
7. **PLEASE STEP OFF THE DANCE FLOOR WHEN YOU ARE NOT DANCING.** When you are drinking a beverage of any kind, keep off the dance floor because of damage to the floor.
8. **LEADERS:** When dancing with a less experienced partner, keep the steps simple at first and build to the level that your partner can handle. Leading should be defined as "the art of making your partner comfortable." Dance as a team; don't showboat. Don't yank or shove your partner.
9. **LEADERS** protect your partner; since you are directing her movement, you need to be sure to protect her safety.
10. **LEADERS**, if you must count and give verbal leads, keep it low enough that just you and your partner can hear. It can confuse those around you, and just because you can count, doesn't mean, "You are on the beat."
11. **BIRTHDAY DANCE:** Give the person dancing with the birthday person only a brief time. Generally, after two turns, tap the person on the right shoulder or extend you hand to signal that you are ready to dance with the birthday person next.
12. **PROGRESSIVE DANCERS:** If you are dancing a stationary dance (such as, Shag, Lindy, West Coast Swing, East Coast Swing, ect.), allow space on the outside edge of the dance floor for progressive dancers (such as, Waltz, Fox Trot, Argentina Tango, Two Step, ect.). If you are a progressive dancer, stay on the outside edge of the dance floor and be courteous to the stationary dancers.