



Dance Etiquette Tips

Source: <http://www.ballroomuw.org/dance-etiquette.html>

Like many things, dance has general rules regarding appropriate etiquette. Some of these rules protect the floors we dance on (and as a result, the people dancing on them), but most of them focus on how we can make everyone feel comfortable and enjoy their time on the dance floor. We encourage these guidelines in order to make dancing an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Bring Shoes

Bring a different pair of shoes to wear for dancing. They do not need to be ballroom dance shoes, but you shouldn't wear the same shoes on the dance floor that you wore to get there. This helps to prevent damaging the floor by minimizing tracked-in dirt and sidewalk grime. It also helps to avoid creating slippery surfaces that may cause dancers to trip or slide. No dance wax, please.

Personal Hygiene

Though this may sound pretty obvious, please remember to shower, brush your teeth, wear deodorant, and avoid raw onions and garlic for dinner when planning to attend a dance, lesson, or workshop. Avoiding use of perfume or cologne that might create competing scents or trigger allergies in classmates is appreciated.

Washing your hands regularly is a good idea as well. When we dance we are in close physical proximity with others and we should observe the basic rules of personal hygiene.

If you happen to sweat a lot, bring an extra shirt to wear in case your first one gets soaked. It's up to you to decide whether bringing several extra shirts will be necessary. A small towel can be helpful to have on hand too.

Be Gentle

Good leading comes from moving one's own body. Good following comes from responding to the movements of the leader. Doing either requires holding a good frame, but neither involves forcefulness or pain. Furthermore, at no time should you feel like your personal space is being invaded.

continued on back...

Personal Space

You may see some dancers use a very close dance position. However, not everyone is comfortable dancing so close to someone he/she might not know. *Let the **less** experienced dancer set the appropriate distance when dancing in a closed position.*

An experienced dancer will always be happy to adjust to his/her partner's comfort level, so if you're new to dance, don't feel like you have to dance a certain way. As with any activity, you still get to decide what makes you comfortable.

As line dancers, it is also important for us to be aware of those dancing around and maintain enough space between dancers for comfort and collision avoidance.

Don't. Just... don't.

Don't Correct Your Partner's Dancing

Lessons are for learning how to dance. Social dances are for dancing! It is very rude to correct someone else's dancing during a group class (let the instructors do that) or at a social dance. It's not fun to go to a social dance and be told you're doing something wrong, so don't do that to anyone. Besides, how do you know you're not the one doing it wrong!

The only exceptions are if your partner specifically asks for feedback or is physically hurting you--then it's your duty to insist that he/she stops hurting you!.

Common Courtesy is Awesome!

Apologize

If you do run into another couple on the dance floor, always apologize. With a large number of dancers on the floor occasional collisions are inevitable. Furthermore, be aware that dancers of all experience levels are on the floor at the same time. The more experienced dancers accept the responsibility for any collisions, since they ought to have better floor craft. Regardless of fault, always apologize. It's the courteous thing to do.

Be Courteous

Dancing should be comfortable and polite. Be aware of how your actions affect your partner. Be aware of how your movements affect other people, and be courteous of their space.