



# Dance Floor Etiquette for Social Dancing

Dance etiquette is nothing more than polite consideration of your dance partner and others around you, as well as a concern for the safety of everyone involved. Good dance etiquette helps to avoid accidentally offending or harming other dancers or people around them. Etiquette is just old-fashioned good manners. Following are suggestions for good social dancing and dance floor etiquette.

1. **The dance floor is for dancing.** If you are having a conversation or learning something new, please move off of the dance floor.
2. **Treat the dance floor with care.** Beverages, food, chewing gum, etc. should never be brought onto the dance floor.
3. **Please do not disrupt other couples dancing when entering the dance floor.** After a song/tune has begun, if you cannot enter the dance floor without disrupting the dance patterns of other couples who are already dancing, you should wait until the song ends. Don't push your way in.
4. **Be aware of the dancers around you.** Don't dance all over the floor if the dance floor is crowded. Dance in your slot or area (your space) and try to avoid entering the established dance space of others.
5. **Always apologize** if you accidentally bump into someone, kick someone, step on someone's foot, or if they bump into you. Show concern that no serious injury occurred.
6. **Never critique or criticize your partner's dancing. Keep your opinions to yourself.** It is not polite to correct your partner on the dance floor when social dancing.
7. **Don't start teaching your partner a new step unless they ask you,** especially while you are dancing. If someone does ask for help or instruction, kindly move off to the side of the floor (or off of the floor) away from other dancers. Unsolicited teaching is one of the most common breaches of good dance etiquette.
8. **Ask for a dance.** It is equally permissible and acceptable for a woman to ask a man to dance as it is for a man to ask a woman. Typically, it is good etiquette to accept an invitation to dance, but if you do not want to dance, say so politely by saying, "No thank you." If someone turns you down, accept it graciously and ask someone else to dance.
9. **Dance to the level of your partner.** The more experienced partner should dance at the level of the less experienced partner and not "out-dance" them. Good social dance etiquette promotes a fun, enjoyable dance for both partners.
10. **Be polite.** Both partners should say "Thank you" when the dance is over, and accompany each other off of the dance floor.
11. **Be respectful of instructors and those taking a class/lessons.** If you are observing/watching a class or workshop, or entering the facility while a class is being taught, please be quiet so that those taking the lesson can hear the instructor. Do not disrupt the class by talking with others around you, or trying to help them learn what the instructor is teaching. That is the instructor's job—please be mindful.
12. It would be useful to **check any political opinions** you may have at the door.

**Smile, be warm, be personable, be friendly, be nice! And HAVE FUN!!!!!!!**