

Line Dance Terminology

Remember I am not a dictionary, another instructor's terms list may be different, they may use the terms a little differently than I do. This list hopefully though, will help you to understand how to do these steps. If you have any questions, please feel free to come and ask me. I wish there was a set of official terms too, but until there is, each of us will just continue to do the best we can, interpreting all the step sheets to the best of our ability. This list will help you get through my classes.

The majority of dances fall into one of the following 4 categories:-

- one step
- two step
- cha cha
- waltz

The first three are counted in groups of 8 beats of music whilst the waltz is counted in groups of 6 beats of music.

The steps of the first three are counted individually as 1,2,3,4 or in double time as 1&2, 3&4. With a waltz, the count is 1,2,3,4,5,6.

Single beat steps:- (all examples shown are leading to the right, unless stated. Majority of moves can be utilised leading left and right, unless both feet are being used ie heel fans/splits)

Step	Counts	Description
½ Monterey turn (can also be utilised as ¼ turn (90°), or ¾ turn (270°))	4	(1) touch right toe to right side (2) keep weight on ball of left foot whilst turning 180° over right shoulder bringing weight onto right foot (3) touch left toe to left side (4) step left foot next to right placing weight onto left foot
Brush	1	Brush ball of foot forward and upwards past the foot that the weight is on
Heel fan	1	Move the heel out while keeping toe of same foot in contact with the floor
Heel splits	2	Keeping weight on the balls of your feet (1) move both heels out at the same time (2) bring both heels back to centre at the same time
Heel strut	2	(1) place heel forward on the floor (2) slap toe on the floor taking weight onto it
Hip bumps		Bumping of hips to the right/left or diagonally right/left, backwards or forwards using the beat of the music to keep you in time.
Hitch	1	To raise the knee up
Hook	1	Lift foot across shin of supporting leg
Hop	1	Hopping into the air and landing on same foot
Jazz box	4	(1) step right foot across left foot (2) step back onto left foot (3) step right foot to right side (4) step left foot next to right
Jump	1	Jumping forward or back, taking off and landing with both feet at the same time (sometimes can be syncopated – see syncopation section)
Left ½ pivot (can also be utilised as ¼ turn (90°), or ¾ turn (270°))	2	(1) step forward on right foot, (2) pivot 180° over left shoulder taking weight onto the ball of the left foot

Right ½ pivot (can also be utilised as ¼ turn (90°), or ¾ turn (270°))	2	(1) step forward on left foot, (2) pivot 180° over right shoulder taking weight onto the ball of the right foot
Rock	1	Transfer of weight from one foot to the other
Scuff	1	Scuff heel of foot forward and upwards past the foot that the weight is on
Slide	1	Sliding one foot next to the supporting foot (usually a side sliding motion)
Step	1	Placing foot on floor, taking weight on to it
Stomp	1	To make a stamping action with foot (not too hard please or you'll hurt yourself!!)
Tap	1	Tap toe or heel to the floor, with no weight on it
Toe fan	1	Move the toe out while keeping heel of same foot in contact with the floor
Toe strut	2	(1) place toe forward on the floor (2) slap heel on the floor taking weight onto it
Touch	1	Touch toe or heel to the floor, with no weight on it
Vine left	4	(1) step left foot to left side (2) step right foot behind left (3) step left foot to left side (4 th count may variate by adding a touch, hitch, scuff, brush and others)
Vine right	4	(1) step right foot to right side (2) step left foot behind right (3) step right foot to right side (4 th count may variate by adding a touch, hitch, scuff, brush and others)
weave left	4	(1) step right foot in front of left (2) step left foot to left side (3) step right foot behind left (4) step left foot to left side
Weave right	4	(1) step left foot in front of right (2) step right foot to right side (3) step left foot behind right (4) step right foot to right side

Syncopated steps:- (the "AND" count!!) 3 steps undertaken over 2 beats of the music.
Counts of "1 & 2"

Steps	Description
Backward shuffle	(1) step back on right foot (&) step left back to side of right toe (2) step back on right foot
Cha cha / triple	(1) step right (on the spot) (&) step left (on the spot) (2) step right (on the spot)
Chasse	(1) step right to right side (&) step left foot next to right (2) step right to right side
Coaster step	(1) step right foot back (&) step left foot back next to right foot (2) step right foot forward
Forward shuffle	(1) step forward on right foot (&) step left foot to side of right heel (2) step forward on right foot
Jump (syncopated – Forward and back)	(&) step back on right (1) step left next to right

	(2) hold for beat (&) step forward on right (3) step left next to right (4) hold for beat
Kick ball change	(1) kick right foot forward (&) step onto ball of right foot next to left foot, lifting left foot slightly off the floor (2) place weight back onto left foot
Mambo step (can be utilised backwards or sideways)	(1) step forward on right foot (&) raise left foot slightly and put it back in place (2) step right foot next to left foot
Sailor step	(1) step right foot behind left (&) step left foot to left side (2) step right foot parallel to left foot (feet end up slightly apart)
Twinkle steps (angry bottoms!! ie cross back side)	(1) step right cross left (&) step back (slightly diagonally) on left foot (2) step right to right side

And there's more!!!:- all examples shown are leading to the right

	Counts	Description
Applejacks (an extreme art!)	2	(1) with weight on right toe and left heel, turn right heel left and left toe out to the left (&) return both feet to centre to change weight to right heel and left toe (2) turn right toe to the right and left heel in to the right (&) return both feet to centre to change weight to right toe and left heel <i>Good luck. Ps try practising this whilst ironing or whilst brushing your teeth!! Try one foot at a time and then join them both together. Once mastered, never forgotten!! enjoy</i>
Charleston steps	4	(1) touch right toe forward (2) step right foot next to left (3) touch left toe back (4) step left foot next to right foot
Cross unwind (can be utilised as ¼, ½ or ¾ turn)	2	(1) cross right toe in front of left foot (2) unwind over left shoulder on the balls of feet to take weight onto right foot or (1) cross right toe behind left foot (2) unwind over right shoulder on the balls of feet to take weight onto right foot
Heel grind	2	(1) step right heel forward with the toe pointing to the left (2) grind right heel whilst fanning right toes from left to right (left foot raised slightly allowing weight to be on right heel)
Heel switches	2	(1) touch right heel forward (&) step right foot next to left (2) touch left heel forward (&) step left foot next to right
Heel swivets	4	(1) fan right toe to right at the same time as fanning left heel to left (2) return feet in place changing weight over to left heel and right toe (3) fan left toe to left at the same time as fanning right heel right (4) return feet in place
Knee pops (Elvis knees!!)	2	(1) with weight on left foot, bend right knee in towards left leg (2) straighten right knee whilst bending left knee in towards right leg

Lock steps back	4	(1) step back on right foot (2) step left foot in front of right (3) step back on right foot (4 th count may variate by adding a touch, hitch, scuff, brush and others)
Lock steps forward	4	(1) step forward on right foot (2) step left foot behind right (3) step forward on right foot (4 th count may variate by adding a touch, hitch, scuff, brush and others)
Rhonde turn	3	(1,2) sweep right toe in front of left as you make a ½ turn over left shoulder on ball of left foot (3) touch right toe next to left
Rolling vine	3	(1) step right to right side whilst making ¼ turn right (2) ¼ turn on the ball of right foot stepping left foot to left side (3) pivot ½ turn over right shoulder on the ball of the left foot stepping right foot to right side
Rumba box (can be variated leading to the side or reversed, ie leading backwards)	8	(1) step right foot forward (2) hold for 1 beat (bring left toe to touch next to right instep) (3) step left to left side (4) step right next to left (5) step left foot back (6) hold for 1 beat (bring right toe to touch next to left instep) (7) step right to right side (8) hold (bring left toe to touch next to right instep)
Running man	2	(1) step forward on right foot (&) hitch right knee and scoot left foot back (at same time) (2) step forward on left foot (&) hitch left knee and scoot right foot back (at same time)
Scissor step	4	(1) step right foot to right side (2) slide left foot to right foot to bring left toe in line with instep of right foot but feet should be slightly apart allowing for the next step to be done (3) cross step right foot in front of left foot (4) hold for one beat
Toe (side) switches	2	(1) touch right toe to right side (&) step right foot next to left (2) touch left toe to left side (&) step left foot next to right
Vorderville	4	(1) cross right foot over left foot (&) step left to left side (2) tap right heel diagonally forward to the right (&) step right foot next to left foot, feet slightly apart (3) cross left foot over right foot (&) step right to right side (4) tap left heel diagonally forward to the left (&) step left foot next to right foot, feet slightly apart

**REMEMBER – SMILE, HAVE FUN, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, ENJOY
WE DON'T MAKE MISTAKES IN LINEDANCING ... WE MAKE
VARIATIONS!!**