

Correcting/criticizing your dance partners in the middle of a song is rude, discouraging, and **WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!**

Do our dance community a HUGE favor: if you know someone guilty of this, pass on this article - especially if you can figure out a way to do it anonymously!

Attention Mr. or Ms. “It’s not me – it’s always the other person’s fault”: You will never look more foolish to others than when you strain to talk above the music to correct someone who probably can only hear HALF of what you’re saying anyway. Or worse: getting in other people’s way as you demonstrate your partner’s “mistake”.

Guys: We don’t mean to stereotype, but more men than women tend to develop this bad habit of critiquing their partners (although women do this too.) You probably have the best intentions, believing you are helping when you try to fix her connection, turning, footwork, or other dance techniques, but you can’t assume every lady wants to improve her dancing- or wants your advice. Unless they ask you for help, you are very likely hurting her feelings and ruining her night.

We’re NOT talking about showing someone a fun move and helping them figure out their part. We’re talking about...

- Guys who volunteer running commentary of what she’s doing wrong/needs to do right.
- Guys who stop in the middle of the song to “show” her the “right” way to do something. (Which we guarantee you..9 out of 10 times...is usually incorrect and lousy advice.)
- Or who criticize her ability in a nasty, demeaning way that hurts her feelings.

Guys: it’s only 2-3 minutes of your life! Lead to the best of your ability, no matter how many mistakes she makes. You don’t have to dance with her again, if you don’t want to. Even if this is your significant other/regular dance partner, the social dance floor is never the time to critique...that’s her time to relax. Save it for studio or home.

And if the above advice doesn’t sway you, consider this guaranteed fact: those “better” women you WANT to dance with are probably watching your little show - and each one has been where your partner is right now: and HATED how it felt. All you’ve done is make others watching feel sorry for her and lose all respect for you.

So, the next time you’re tempted to correct/critique, show off your dance skills instead: quickly lead her out of that mistake and into something else without saying a word - wearing a confident grin on your face the whole time! You’ll be the most sought-after dancer in the room!

Okay ladies...next week it’s your turn ☺☺☺