

Weird Dance Terms And Descriptions, Plus Proper Descriptions Of Some Terms

How many times have you picked up a line dance step sheet and wondered just what the choreographer mean by his/her terms and in some cases descriptions? The NTA has spent over thirty years researching terms and descriptions. It is our hope people will take heed and choreographers use the proper ones instead of ones they made up. Because they are well known usually the public think their descriptions are the correct ones, not understanding they didn't take the time to research and just made up their own.

We have listed some of the more 'weird' ones and hope it helps you as a dancer and a teacher to understand step sheet descriptions better. *These are not in alphabetic order.*

We have also included some terms that may be confusing.

Applejacks	Sometimes called Pigeon Toed Movement. Improper name.
Boogie Walk	Hip swivel, Hip Swing, Hip Wiggle, Pop Corn
Cape & Sweetheart	Other names for <u>Open Right Parallel</u>
Cross Unwind	A twist Turn
Heel Splits	Butterfly, Buttermilks, Chickens, Texas spreads
Jazz Box	Using incorrect counts. Feet do not come together on count 4.
Rocking Chair	Rock steps are executed in 5 th position for forward and backward and in 2 nd position for side rocks. All are done using FULL CUBAN MOTION except in the smooth dances. It has been suggested that a step forward and a touch and a step backward with a touch is closer to what would be considered a rocking chair and not the present rock forward, rock backward description..
Shuffle Step	A tap step and is not a triple step movement. Check the NTA Terminology Booklet for the proper description. It is a tap dance move.
Scissors	See the NTA Terminology Booklet for the correct description. Some call this a twinkle. improper name.
Sugar Foot	Is not a Toe-Heel-Cross Swivel. See the NTA Terminology Booklet for the correct description.
Heel Jacks	Sometimes called switches or fast slides. Improper name. See the NTA Terminology Booklet for the correct descriptions.

Turning Vine	This is Three Step turn. There isn't any vine pattern so it can't be called a vine. The Three Step turn may also be called a Conga Turn.
Twinkle	This is not a cross-side-together pattern. A twinkle contains a forward waltz pattern using diagonals and continuity styling.
Zig Zag	Is another name for a Serpentine also known as a Spiral in some ballroom sites.
Chassé	Any three step pattern, steps going basically side-together-side. Does not have to be a triple step.
Inside Partner Step	A step taken forward into the space occupied by the partner, while the partner steps backwards. During this step feet tracks of both partners overlap.
Natural Turn	In International style ballroom this refers to turning to the right.
Outside Partner Step	A step taken with the partner beside the moving foot (e.g., to the left of the left moving foot. During the step tracks of both partners do not overlap.
Reverse Turn	In International style ballroom this refers to turning to the left.
A Mambo Step Pattern	Is counted as quick, quick, slow, quick, quick, slow or 2 3 4 6 7 8 and counting it as <u>1&2 3&4 is incorrect.</u>
Walk	The term walk is usually applied when two or more steps are taken in the same direction. A single step e.g., forward, is called a step forward.
There are several names for this pattern:	a step turn, chase turn, pivot turn, break turn and military pivot. <u>Do not get the Military Pivot mixed up with the Military Turn.</u> They are two different patterns.
RLOD	Means reverse Line of Dance
ILOD	Means inside line of dance
OLOD	Means outside line of dance.
Turns:	Inside -- a turn to the left off the right foot, or a turn to the right off the left foot or turning across the body. Outside -- a turn to the right using the right foot or a turn to the left using the left foot.
The Electric Slide	Has syncopations in it. <u>The FREEZE is not the Electric Slide. The count for the Electric Slide is &1&2&3&4 &5&6&7&8.</u> The rest of the footwork is the same as <u>a Freeze.</u>

Cuddle & Sweetheart	Proper term is <u>Open Right Parallel</u>
Grandpa	A series of rock steps beginning with a forward rock, a side rock and a back rock, using the same foot.
Chicken Walk	Weight on the left foot with the knees slightly bent, lean back slightly and slide right toe forward while turning hips and shoulders to the right, then step together. Repeat using the left foot.
Windmill	Touch right toes to right (a point), make a quarter turn right and then step forward right. Repeat using the left foot.
Toaster Step	A turning coaster step.
K-Step	Step forward diagonal right, touch left to right (clap). Step back diagonal left, touch right to left (clap) Step back diagonal right, touch left to right (clap) Step forward diagonal, touch right to left (clap)
Temptations	Step diagonal right forward to right, recover on left Step diagonally forward right to right corner Step diagonally forward left to left, recover back on right Step diagonally forward left, touch right to left
Conga Walks	Step forward right, left, right, touch left to side or back, repeat as often as you like. Step back left, right, left, touch right to side , repeat as often as you like.
Jazz Jumps	Step forward right and out to right side Step forward left and out to left side (clap) Step right back and out to right side Step left back and out to left side (clap) Similar to jumping Jacks.
Zig Zag Steps	Step back diagonally right, touch left to right (clap) Step back diagonally left, touch right to left (clap)

Montana Kicks	Step forward right, kick forward left Step back left, touch right to left
Handbag Steps	Step forward diagonally right, touch left to right Step forward diagonally left, touch right to left Step back diagonally right, touch left to right Step back diagonally left, touch right to left
Wizard	Check the Terminology Booklet for proper footwork.
Canadian Stomp	Tap left toe to right foot, left knee turned in slightly, scuff left beside right, Toes turned out slightly, stomp on left Tap right toes to left foot, right knee turned in slightly, scuff right besides left Toes turned out slightly, stomp on right
Basketball Turn	Another name for the step turn, etc. Used originally because choreographers were not aware of the proper name.
I am sure there are many more variations of proper names. The ones listed came from a few of the directors who contributed. If you have others send them to me NTADance@Embarqmaoil.com.	
You'll not so many of these term descriptions are almost alike.	
Willie Walk	Toe struts
Heel Splits	Often called Butter Milks or Butter Fly