

## HOW TO TEACH A LINE DANCE

### 1) DEMONSTRATE your dance

- Inform the group about your dance: - Name, Genre, (e.g. cha cha, waltz) Choreographer, Count, Number of Walls
- Demonstrate one wall of your dance to the group with music.

*TIP Enlist another club member as your “extra eyes” to observe dancers to ensure the group is catching on.*

### 2) PREVIEW each section

- **Preview** steps for each 8-count (or 6-count) pattern using your cue words. Encourage them to *watch you* with “It looks like this.”

### 3) CUE each section, i.e., “Let’s try this together.”

- Start each section announcing:
  - Weighted foot
  - Set the tempo with “5-6-7-8” (typical), “4-5-6” (waltz) or “Ready, begin”
- Repeat as necessary, checking with your “extra eyes” assistant.

### 4) COUNT each section

- Repeat as necessary, inviting dancers to count with you.

### 5) CONNECT sections with prior sections

- Add each section to previously taught sections, reviewing with CUE and COUNT.

*TIP when starting from the top, remind dancers how it starts—they may have forgotten!*

*TIP Use music after a couple of sections to help dancers match the pattern to the rhythm, and to deliver a little reward for their efforts!*

- Ask if group is ready to continue to next section. No response? Move on!

### 6) REVIEW FIRST WALL from the top

- Lead the group through the entire dance on the **home** wall with CUE, then COUNT.
- Go to music and cue.

### 7) REVIEW EACH WALL from the top

- When starting a new “wall,” always lead with CUE.

*TIP Add the last few steps of the final pattern to aid in learning the transition to the new wall*

- Go to music and cue during first wall, count during second wall, then encourage them to continue on their own. Expect a few missteps-- repetition is the goal here.

### 8) REVIEW TAGS & RESTARTS

- Explain, show and lead them through TAGS and RESTARTS. (Don’t just tell them about it) Begin on the wall of the event and lead them through where it occurs.
- Depending on complexity and where the events occur, instructor may opt to teach tags & restarts at a future instruction.

*Final Tip Compliment your class and be positive!*