



A Dancer's Etiquette

Why is etiquette so important in dance class?

Dance is centered around age-old traditions, and we keep those traditions alive in dance classes today. Many of those traditions have become part of the culture of dance. Disrespecting dance culture shows the teacher you are not interested in learning, and it creates negativity in the studio.

Practicing proper etiquette also prepares you for the professional world.

1. Be prompt

Arriving late to class is disruptive to the other students, the teacher, and can set up the potential for injury if you do not have enough time to properly warm up. If for some reason you arrive late... enter quietly and take whatever spot is open. If you are more than 15 minutes late, it is your responsibility to give yourself a short warm up on the side. Always apologize after class for your tardiness.

2. Follow the Academy's dress code

Be dressed and ready for class. Remove street shoes before entering the studio and do not wear your dance shoes outside of the studio.

3. No chewing gum

Do not chew gum, eat or drink during class. Sometimes you may be permitted to have a water break but it's typically best not to leave the room to do so. Bring a water bottle to every class!

4. Let your body language show your desire to learn

Do not fold your arms, yawn or sit. Dance is all about RESPECT. So go out of your way to show your teacher some! Stand with your arms by your side or behind your back when you aren't dancing. Folded arms demonstrate attitude and yawning or sitting demonstrates boredom, and there is no room for either in dance class.

5. Secure your hair neatly back

Do not do your hair in the studio. Have your hair ready before class and make sure it is secure. You should not have to fix your hair constantly during class, if you are it is not secure.

6. Give your complete attention to the teacher

Please. Please. Please. Your teachers are exhausted from telling you to stop talking over and over. I know, you love your dance friends and have soooo much to tell them but... SAVE IT FOR LATER! Each class deserves your undivided attention. Do not talk unless you have a question for the teacher (and questions are always welcome).

7. NO PHONES IN CLASS

Power off cell phones, put them in the cell phone bin or keep them safely zipped in your dance bag. If you are on your phone during class your teacher will take your phone from you and will not be given back till the end of class. Do not check your phone in dance class unless specifically approved by your teacher for special emergency situations.

8. Accept corrections with grace and a smile

If a teacher corrects you, congratulations! That means they are invested in your development. Perfection is a myth, so don't let your ego get in the way of your progress. If you hear a correction being given to another student, pay attention! There is a good chance it applies to you as well.

9. Practice as if you are performing for an audience

If you treat every class as if it were a performance, then every performance will feel like class! This simple trick will greatly improve all areas of your dancing, including performance quality, technique and basic stage/studio etiquette.

10. Thank the teacher at the end of class

Show your gratitude for dance by clapping and saying thank you after each class. Always curtsey, thank them, or show appreciation in whatever way they have requested. It is good practice to also thank your teacher after receiving every correction or compliment.

11. Don't look at the clock

When you look at the clock, you're communicating to the teacher that you're tired of class and ready for it to be over. Even if that isn't how you are feeling, that's how it translates. Stay engaged the whole class. Trust that the teacher will let you out when it's time for class to end.

12. DO support and encourage others in class

If you see someone do something brilliant in class, tell them! If you love your teacher's choreography, express that! Class shouldn't be a space filled with negative energy. Communicate the moments that you're genuinely inspired by others. You'll make everyone's day brighter, and that positivity will come back around to you!

13. Do not correct the teacher

If the teacher has made a mistake (which is bound to happen) and it is causing confusion in the class, it is fine to politely ask for clarification. If you have a difference of opinion, it is best to save it for after class.

14. Leave the drama at the door

If you just spent the day arguing with a friend or parent, no matter what, that baggage needs to be left outside the studio. Think of the entrance to the dance studio as a threshold and a right of passage to temporary peace.

15. Use the restroom before or after class

Dancers should be certain to use the bathroom before class and make an effort not to leave class to use the restroom. If absolutely necessary, the student should wait until the break after the warm-up to ask permission to use the bathroom.

16. Respect your dance studio

Always leave the studio clean and organized, as you found it. Clean up after yourself, put your garbage in the trash, and do not leave your belongings laying around.