



# Larrys Corner

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## The Too Long Song

This is called Larrys Corner because when I teach I stand in the corner so I can see everyone.

If you want to read dance stories they are under Headlines or Larrys Corner.

[Http://www.comedancewithus.com](http://www.comedancewithus.com)  
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Do you have any likes or dislikes, stories, or helpful hints for dancing? If so, write it down and give to Larry Ablin or Barb Johnson. We will add it to one of the future News letters.

If you would like to tell us how you became interested in dancing, write it down and give to Larry or Barb, we will add your picture with it and put it in one of the future Newsletters. If you have anything you would like to write about, just write it up and give to Barb or Larry. I enjoy writing something for you.

Come Dance With Us

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You hear it! That great song you've been waiting for all night. You make a mad dash for the floor with that women (or man) you've been eyeing for hours, and you throw yourself into the heat of the music. A great horn solo, conga solo, piana solo, vocal solo and . . . bass solo later, you're starting to sweat. 5 minutes pass . . . 10 minutes pass . . . you and your partner are starting to show signs of severe exhaustion . . . dehydration . . . hard to move the feet . . . you can barely see through all the sweat . . . 15 minutes pass . . . the song has GOT to be over soon . . . then another round of solos start. Yikes . . . what is the band thinking? After 20 minutes you're just going through the motions. You're vainly hoping that the song will just end so you can collapse in a heap on the floor. Your partner, whom you used to admire greatly, has turned into your worst enemy. Why, oh why, won't the song end! Your feet have become lead weights, and yet still . . . the song plays on!

What can you do when a song plays for too long? You DO NOT have to wait it out. Some bands like to jam, and it can last for 30 minutes or more, regardless of the dancers. When this is going on it can become an embarrassing scene for some of those dancers who keep thinking to themselves, the end is right around the corner. I've seen people sweating so much it looked like they might drown. The light is gone from their eyes, and they've become zombies. It's time to do the right thing (for both you and your partner), and call for this dance.

It's hard to do - but you've got to lean over to your partner and call it quits. It's ok to say "I'm getting a bit tired", or "this is too long a song". You can make a joke out of it, crack a smile, talk about how you're getting old (maybe guys will want to stick with this one). The bottom line is that either partner can do it, IF it's done right.

For the men - you're the leaders. It's up to you to do it if you see your partner waning after 20 minutes. Be nice, be gentle, give her the opportunity to say enough. She will be so happy you had the courage to call it. What do you say? Be honest. Something to the effect of "This is a long song, would you like to break?". Then, DANCE HER OFF THE FLOOR. Do not just drop her and walk away. Take her in closed position, and, if possible, dance towards the edge and walk her from the floor.

For the ladies - Yes, you can do it too. However, it must be done with real flare. You've got to go the extra mile so the man doesn't think it's because of his dancing or him (yes, even if it is).

It's nice to say something to the effect of "Let's dance again later . . .".

Good Danceable songs usually last between 3-10 minutes, with a sweet spot of 4-6 (in my humble opinion).

## Travel

This is a mind boggling section! When I first did the things I'll explain in this section, the response I received blew my mind. But before we start, let me ask a question. How many of you have traveled to a new place (anywhere, even in the US), gone to a dance club, asked people to dance, only to be turned down over and over again? How many of you have been able to walk into a club alone in a new area, find people to dance with, and make a ton of new friends without getting sloppy drunk? :) No, it's not impossible, but it's damn difficult. Well, actually, it doesn't have to be. Before I get into it, let me tell you in advance, this section is written by a guy, who at the time was a beginner/intermediate dancer. I'm not quite sure what the results would be for a woman (they would probably be ok), but I can't recommend it (for obvious reasons as may become evident).

If you had asked me about trips to places I had taken before, I might have answered "they were fun", and maybe I had met a few locals wherever I went. However, since I've started dancing, trips and vacation have taken on an entirely new meaning (both for good and bad, as I'll explain). I've done some extensive traveling since the time I started dancing, and I've certainly had some of the greatest experiences in my life during these travels. I enjoy traveling quite a bit, but my job used to keep me from ever being able to do it, so when I got a chance to go travel a bit, I leapt on it. In the last Thirty years, I have been throughout the United states for work and dance.

Wherever I have gone, even though I often travel alone, I have instantly made friends, met numerous people, and been invited into people's homes and lives. I doubt that, without dance, people can appreciate the kind of social avenues dancing opens up for you during travels. It's absolutely incredible, and it's a significant part of what this section is about. In summary, before I get down into it, the crux of the matter was, wherever I went, I instantly had a huge (sometimes too big) group of friends who went out dancing. Now, it certainly wasn't confined to dancing (some showed me around town, the sites, let me stay with them, etc . . .), but to arrive in a strange new place, and instantly have a large group of friends whom you meet and bond with almost instantly, **NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD YOU GO**, is simply incredible. Whenever I went somewhere I knew absolutely **NOBODY**, yet by the time I left, it felt like I knew **EVERYBODY**. All this, sometimes in the course of just a few days . . .

On these trips, as opposed to trips earlier in my life, I would tend to go out dancing almost every single night. Some of these trips were quite long (a few weeks or more), so you can imagine the amount of nightlife I'm talking about.

## Hints for Life

1. It hurts to love someone and not be loved in return, but what is more painful is to love someone and never find the courage to let that person know how you feel.
2. A sad thing in life is when you meet someone who means a lot to you, only to find in the end that it was never meant to be and you just have to let go.
3. The best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.
4. It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.
5. It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone.
6. Don't go for looks, they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it only takes a smile to make a dark day seem bright.
7. Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be; because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.
8. Always put yourself in the other's shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other too.
9. A careless word may kindle strife; a cruel word may wreck a life; a timely word may level stress; a loving word may heal and bless.
10. The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.
11. Love begins with a smile, grows with a kiss, ends with a tear. When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live life so that when you die... you are the one smiling and every one around you is crying.
12. Final thought - Only one person in this world will make you happy and that's yourself. Remember 10 little words. If it is to be, It is up to me.

I hope this makes a difference in your lives. Once in a while I'll share my thoughts with everyone.

## How do I Start?

Well, you've gotten this far! You are actually at a dance website. Congratulations! If you are just starting out, welcome to a wild ride. Dancing will prove rewarding to you in ways you can barely imagine right now! It's the most fun you can have standing up. However, starting out isn't easy! You'll miss the beat, lack coordination, fear the unknown, and of course be scared of making a total ass out of yourself. These ALL play into the equation. It takes time, lessons (yes, it does), practice, and a little addiction, to get the most out of it.

The first thing you have to do is take lessons, and I recommend group lessons at least 2 times a week (and three is better). Why so much? Well, it takes a little time to get the beat that you hear in your ears, and feel in your heart, into your feet. Repetition helps! If you take lessons in the beginning, many times a week, it reinforces things you learn. In addition, after two to three weeks of group classes, take a private lesson! Private lessons really help you pick up the style, and leading/following technique, that aren't necessarily abundantly clear (or even forthcoming) in group classes. You want an example? Well, a perfect example, for the ladies, is "arm tension" (i.e. how to feel a man's lead without locking up your arms in front of you). Private lessons can REALLY help!

Next up, dance! Dance with everybody, everywhere, anytime. You're just starting out, you're not expected to be Fred Astaire! Dance with as many people as you possibly can, and don't be afraid to ask that great dancer that you see in the club for a dance, or some help (or some pointers). When asking people more advanced than yourself, be mindful of Etiquette for Beginners, but generally, you're ok asking just about everyone you see to dance. Even if you have a partner, don't only dance with them! It pays to learn to lead and follow from a variety of people, spread yourself around. You will learn FASTER!

Finally, get out of the classes and into the dance clubs, and halls! That's where a lot of the fun is anyway, and why hold it off. A lot of the classes are in the clubs anyway, but if you're taking classes, make sure to make it out to the Ballrooms and clubs at least once a week (preferably more). Not only is it a blast to go out dancing, but in the beginning it can help reinforce those things you learn in class. Nothing like some real world practice. It also help you get used to the music which is played in the dance halls, which by and large, is faster than what you find in your typical dance class! Check out Beginner Friendly dance halls to find places to go out that are better bets for beginner dancers!

Most importantly, have fun (you'll find it hard not to)! We begin with this, and we end with this. That's what dancing is all about. Relax, take a deep breath, and get ready for the ride of your life . . .