

# 10 Things Every Wedding Couple Should Know

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Whether you getting married in a year or just got engaged, everyone knows that weddings require planning. Although your first dance does not need to be a professional exhibition, it should be just as important as your invitations, catering, flowers and music. Here are some things you should know before your wedding:

- **When Should You Get Started.** It is recommended that couples start at least 6 months prior to their wedding date so that you can choose your song, type of dance and take lessons before the last stressful weeks before your wedding. If you wait last minute, don't fret! Most studios can accommodate you for a private lesson or two the same week of your wedding.
- **Private or Group?** Private lessons are highly recommended for wedding couples. A private lesson allows you to get personalized attention that you cannot get in a group class. In a private lesson, the instructor can help you meet your specific needs. For example, your instructor can help you decide whether a choreographed dance is best for you or random dance patterns in order to ensure your first dance looks as natural as possible. Some studios offer wedding group classes or crash courses. These types of classes are a great way to meet other couples and are recommended for those couples who have at least one year before their wedding. This way you still have an opportunity to take private lessons if you wish to do so.
- **How Many Lessons Should You Take.** The average couple takes 10-20 private lessons to prepare for their first dance. The more lessons you take, the more time you will have to master the dances you are learning. However, keep in mind that the amount of lessons you take will depend on your day-to-day schedule and availability.
- **Choosing A Wedding Song.** You want a wedding song that is memorable to you as a couple, but is also easy to dance to and not too long. Most DJ and Band companies are able to provide you with a list of songs that you may choose from. Once you have made some selections, you should discuss these songs with your instructor to help you narrow down your selection.
- **Father-Daughter/Mother-Son Dance.** For most couples and their parents, dancing with each other can be awkward as most parents are used to dancing with each other or don't dance at all. It is recommended that you practice dancing with your parent before your wedding day. You may wish to take some private lessons with your parent to introduce your parent to the song you have selected and get comfortable dancing together.
- **Learning Other Dances.** Although your first dance may be the primary reason you are taking lessons, you may want to learn other dances as well. On your wedding day, the DJ or Band will play a variety of music. It is suggested that you learn at least the basics in several dances so that you will be able to dance to different types of songs if you wish. For example, the lindy and/or swing are great for 50's music (Chubby Checker's Twist and Glen Miller's In The Mood are very popular at weddings), whereas the foxtrot may be great for big band music (Frank Sinatra or Tony Bennett). In addition, you may find that learning a step or turn in one dance will help you master a step or turn in another dance.
- **Practice Makes Perfect.** Take advantage of any socials or parties offered by the dance studio. Dancing in a social setting will help you to practice your dancing in a "real" atmosphere.
- **Find Out About Your Instructor's Experience and Credentials.** Ask your instructor about his or her dance training and teaching experience. Many different certifications are available. Your teacher's education and experience should demonstrate a commitment to safety, professionalism and ongoing education.
- **The Studio.** Beyond certification, potential students should look for a dance studio that offers the types of classes they want and whose staff is professional and open to their concerns.

- Be Patient With Your Progress. Mastering Ballroom and Latin Dancing takes time. Don't be discouraged if you do not learn as quickly as you would like. The more you practice, the more you will gain confidence and be comfortable on the dance floor. Remember, perfect dance does not exist, everyone is constantly learning. If you are worried about others judging you, DON'T. After all, it's your wedding. Smile, relax and have fun!