

Survival Tango Vocabulary!

abrazo	embrace, hug
adorno	adornment
amague	a feint
arrastre	drag
barrida	sweep
boleo	a rebounding leg action
cabeseo	nod
cadena	chain
calesita	carousel
caminada	walk
corrida	a run
cruzada, cruce	crossed position
enrosque	twisting movement
entrada	entry
firulete	embellishment
gancho	a hook
giro	turning motion
lapiz	pencil
llevar	to lead, to carry
llevada	a carry
marcar	to lead, to signal
media vuelta	half turn
molinete	windmill
ocho	figure-eight
ocho cortado	a cut-off "ocho"
parada	a stop
pasada	passing over
resolution	resolution
sacada	take-out
salida	point of departure
el sandwich	sandwich
sentada	seated position
Quieres bailar?	Do you want to dance?
Si, gracias	Yes, thank you.
Uno mas?	One more?
Como no?	Of course
Por favor.	Please.
Una vez mas	one more time

FAQs

What is the difference between Argentine tango and ballroom tango?

- Argentine tango refers to the style of social dance that is done in the tango clubs of Buenos Aires and now around the world. Fundamental to Argentine social tango is the improvisational basis of the dance. The dance is intended to express the music, so a desire to hear and respond rhythmically is essential. Rather than memorizing a prescribed group of steps, as is done in ballroom, the students are encouraged to learn how to lead and follow with each step being an invitation to further exploration. Class rotation of partners and an emphasis upon learning the dance as an individual rather than a couple, allows students to master the language of tango as a universal communication so when traveling, they can easily dance with strangers in Moscow or San Francisco. The connection between the two bodies is famously described by Juan Carlos Copes, "One heart and four legs".
<http://tangonova.com/odfaq/index.php?cat=1>

- Argentine Tango is THE TANGO danced at milongas around the world. American and International Tango (or together, Ballroom Tango) are competition sports that people study and practice for ballroom dance competitions. The movements are loosely based on Argentine Tango (some say parodies of), but are very stiff and uncomfortable, and you will rarely find people dancing these other Tangos socially. <http://www.sepiastudios.com/tango/>

Do I need a partner?

No. It is not required that you bring a dance partner to classes or practicas. However, for the purpose of practicing or outside any social events, you may need a dance partner. Go to classes and workshops and increase your chance of finding someone with whom you can practice.

What is a Practicas?

Practice sessions where dancers drill the basic movements and iron out trouble spots so you can enjoy dancing at milongas more. No formal instruction is given at practicas. You can always ask the more experienced dancers to help you with the details of a particular step or for exercises that you can practice at home to improve your dancing.

How should I dress for group lessons or 'practicas'?

Wear shoes not too tight nor too loose. The soles should be able to slide on a wooden floor. Dress-up in comfortable clothing that allows for free movement of legs and arms.

What is a Milonga?

The word Milonga has two meanings. It means a tango dance party where people dance Argentine Tango, Tango Milonga and Tango Vals. The lights are dimmed and candles are lit to give the room an intimate feeling. The music is usually played in tandas (sets of 3-4 songs). Milonga is also a kind of tango dance where the music is a little fast paced.

How should I dress for a 'Milonga'?

Most tangueros/tangueras dress in dark colors in a slightly more dressy fashion than every day apparel. Tango is meant to be sexy, elegant and sophisticated. Tango shoes should not fit too tight nor too loose, and the soles should be able to slide on a wooden floor.

For information on tango related topics:

<http://www.allabouttango.com/>
<http://www.tangoaficionado.com/links.htm>

Tango Argentino



art work courtesy of Miriam Ziven

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