

Catch Word #26 – Get Down

Transcript

Robin: Hello everyone!

Maura: Hi there!

Robin: This is Robin ...

Maura: And Maura, too ...

Robin: And we're back with our **Catch Word** podcast at Culips.

Maura: Yeah, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com and this is our Catch Word podcast. And what do we do in a Catch Word podcast?

Robin: We take one expression, one word, or one phrase, and we try to explain it as best we can.

Maura: Yeah, and we give you synonyms and examples and fun ways to use it.

Robin: Absolutely! So let's get into it.

Maura: Yeah, let's **get down**!

Robin: "**Get down.**"

Maura: That's the expression for today's episode, "**Get down.**"

Robin: And what does that mean, Maura?

Maura: Well "**to get down**" means "**to dance.**" Yeah, we use "**to get down**" to mean "dancing."

Robin: Absolutely! It's when you **move** your body from side to side on a **dance** floor.

Maura: Exactly. So we use it in more of a casual fun way, joking around with friends maybe, or you hear it on the radio or in songs. You really hear it in music, for sure.

Robin: Absolutely. So, for example, would you like to **get down** with me and my friends this weekend at the club?

- Maura: Yeah, I love **getting down** to good music.
- Robin: Yeah. Indeed.
- Maura: Yeah. So we wouldn't use it in a professional way, to talk about professional dancing or **dance** performance, it's really just casual, for fun, yeah. What's another slang term for dancing?
- Robin: We can talk about **shaking your booty**.
- Maura: Yeah, **shaking your booty**. Nice. So basically your **booty** is your bum.
- Robin: Your bum, your buttocks.
- Maura: Yeah, exactly. And you **move** your bum when you **dance**, most people do.
- Robin: You wiggle it from side to side, in a way so you're shaking—you're shaking, in a similar way that you'd shake a bag, shake salt—you're shaking your bum, **shaking your booty**.
- Maura: Right, so that's another one you hear in songs—and maybe in movies as well—people use that one. So “**to dance**,” “**to get down**,” “**to shake your booty**.” So what's another one?
- Robin: To **boogie**!
- Maura: Yeah, so “**to boogie**” again means “**to dance**.”
- Robin: “**To boogie**.” It means, yeah, “**to get down**,” “**shake your booty**.”
- Maura: Yeah, it's an older one. But you might hear people using it when they're joking around, or like we keep saying, in movies or on the radio or something like that.
- Robin: Absolutely. We could say for example, “Hey Maura, do you want to **get down** and **boogie**?”
- Maura: Oh yeah!
- Robin: OK, and that would mean do you want to go **dance**.
- Maura: Exactly! Hey Robin, have you seen Harp **boogie**?
- Robin: No I haven't. I heard she can really **shake her booty**.

- Maura: Oh yeah! She likes to **get down**. Ha ha ha, Harp!
- Robin: And another one? Do we have any more?
- Maura: Sure. You could simply say “**move**.” The verb “to **move**”, we can mean “to **dance**.”
- Robin: Yeah, *you like to **move** on the **dance** floor. I like to **move** it, **move** it. I like to **move** it, **move** it.* It's like that right?
- Maura: Yeah! So that's an example of how you'd hear it in a song, for sure. That is a song. Yeah, that's a good one. So “to **move**,” “to **get down**,” “to **boogie**,” “to **shake your booty**,” and one last one that's an older expression ...
- Robin: “To **cut a rug**.”
- Maura: Yeah, that one started a long time ago, in the 1920s.
- Robin: Where does it come from?
- Maura: Yeah. Well, there are two possibilities. One is that when you have a **dance** party you move the rug to the side of the room so that people can **dance** on the floor.
- Robin: Oh, OK!
- Maura: Yeah and another one that sounds possible too is that when you **dance** a lot you wear down the rug, so you cut a hole in the rug because you **dance** so much on the rug.
- Robin: OK. Poor rug. Poor rug.
- Maura: So, yeah, that one's not as popular, but you might still hear it around a little bit. “To **cut a rug**,” it's a fun one.
- Robin: Absolutely. Are there any more or is that it?
- Maura: That's it. So let's remind everyone of the slang for **dance** that we looked at. The first one is ...
- Robin: “To **boogie**.”
- Maura: Yeah, “to **boogie**,” or “to **get down**.”

Robin: “**To get down,**” “**to cut a rug,**” and “**to move.**”

Maura: Yeah, and don’t forget “**shaking your booty.**”

Robin: Absolutely! And don’t forget *to* **shake your booty!**

Maura: Exactly! And have a good time if you’re going out dancing. Do you want to go **get down** tonight, Robin?

Robin: Yeah, let’s go to the club.

Maura: OK, let’s go!

Robin: All right, take care.

Maura: Bye everyone.

Robin: Bye bye.

Detailed Explanation

Get down!

Like many phrasal or two-word verbs there is more than one meaning for the verb “**to get down**.” The one meaning for “**get down**” that we talked about in this episode is “**to dance**” because you feel relaxed, free and uninhibited.

Like we say, the expression “**to get down**” (as we used it in this episode) is not used in a serious way. It is almost always used in a joking way or otherwise in songs and videos.

A person might say, “Yeah, let’s **get down**” as you are dancing and laughing. Otherwise, people usually are more straightforward and simply say “**dance**.”



The expression “**get down**” is used all the time in music, especially **dance** music! Just a simple search on YouTube.com of the expression “**get down**” turns up lots of music videos. You will find some posted on our blog.

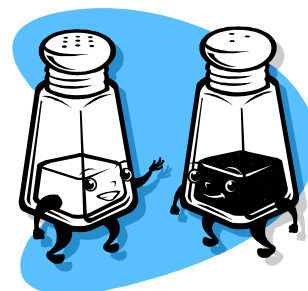
Here are some of the other definitions of “**to get down**”:

- To physically **get down** or to descend (Example: I **got down** from the mountain.)
- To be sad or depressed (Example: I **got down** after reading the bad news.)
- To give your attention to something (Example: I **got down** to work after I realized the deadline was coming soon.)
- To swallow, to get something in your stomach (Example: I had to **get** my lunch **down** in a hurry.)

Shake your booty

“To **shake**” something is to **move** it around. Like Robin says in this episode, you **shake** a salt shaker. You can also **shake** a bottle of juice when you buy it before you drink it. You **move** it back and forth.

“**Booty**” is just one of the many slang words for “bum” or “buttocks.” “Buttocks” is actually the proper term. Even “bum,” which is the most common way to refer to this body part, is a slang term.



Salt and pepper shakers.

So, “**to shake your booty**” means to **move** your bum! Many people **move** their bum when they **dance**.

“**Booty**” is also slang for sex, so be careful when using it. If you use it in the expression “**shake your booty**” it is clear that it is not sex.

To boogie

Boogie is another slang term for **dance**! “**To boogie**” means “**to dance**,” just like the other expressions. Let’s **dance**! Let’s **get down**! Let’s **boogie**!

“**Boogie**” can also be a kind of music, a bit like rock’n’roll and a bit like the blues. This music is also known as “boogie-woogie.”

To move

Of course, most people know the classic literal definition of “**move**” but we can also use it to mean “**dance**.” Because a person needs **to move** if they want **to dance**.

Jon: Hey, look at Sheila **move**. She is a great dancer!

We can also say “**move it**” like Robin does, and this also means “**to move** your body” or “**to dance**.” This is a real song by Reel 2 Real called *I Like to Move It*. It was popular in 1994 and it was redone for the movie *Madagascar* in 2005.

Used in a certain context, it is usually clear if you’re using “**move**” to mean “**dance**” or if you’re using it in a literal way.

To cut a rug

This is an older expression that also means “**to dance**.”

We give you the two theories about where the expression “**to cut a rug**” came from in this episode. Check out the transcript (the bottom part of the second page) to review the two possible origins of this expression.

This expression is not used often, but like the other ones, it could be in songs or movies, too. This expression is less popular than the others.

To talk about professional dancing

We say in this episode that we do not use these expressions for professional dancing. We use these expressions more casually, like at a **dance** club.

There are many types of **dance**. Here's a short list for you:

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Tap
- Modern
- Hip hop
- Country line-dancing



Ballet

There are also very specific **dances** with specific **dance** steps. Here's another short list:

- The Limbo
- The Macarena
- The Foxtrot
- The Tango
- The Waltz



The Tango

Lyrics from songs using the above expressions

There are so many songs that use the expressions for “**dance**” that we tell you about this episode. We will post some of the videos for you on our blog. In case you want to do some research yourself, here are some song titles and lyrics that use these expressions. (Lyrics are the words to a song.*)

Get Down

The Backstreet Boys (1996)

You're the one for me
You're my ecstasy
You're the one I need

Get down

Get down

And **move it** all around
(x2)

Hey baby love I need a girl like you
But tell me if you feel it too

I'm in delusion every minute every hour
My heart is calling out for you

...

Shake Your Booty

K.C. and the Sunshine Band (1976)

Everybody, get on the floor, let's **dance**!
Don't fight your feelings, give yourself a chance!
Shake shake shake, shake shake shake,
Shake your booty! Shake your booty!
Oh, shake shake shake, shake shake shake,
Shake your booty! Shake your booty!

...

The Boogie That Be

The Black Eyed Peas (2003)

...

[Chorus:]

Bounce boo, to the **boogie** that be
You know I
Want you to come **boogie** with me
We can
Dip left, slide right, all night
It's time to be wild, freestyle

It's on and poppin'
Ain't no stoppin'
Us from rockin'

...

Cut Me Loose

Sam Sparrow (2008)

...

Nothing cuts me loose like the music
I **cut a rug** up all night long
When I hear my favourite song
Nothing cuts me loose like the music

I said it cut me loose
It just cut me loose

...

("To be cut loose" means "to be released.")

*Lyrics in English can sometimes be really crazy and abstract. Even English speakers do not understand the meaning of the words sometimes.

And don't forget to shake your booty

At the end of this episode we say, "Don't forget **shaking your booty**" and "Don't forget **to shake your booty**." There is a difference between these two sentences.

"Don't forget **shaking your booty**" means that you should not forget the expression, "to shake your booty." This is when a noun comes after "don't forget," like "do not forget the expression." It is saying do not forget a thing. Here are some other examples used in this way:

Don't forget John's Birthday!

Don't forget cooking class tonight.

"Don't forget **to shake your booty**" is different. When we say "Don't forget to do something" this means "do not forget to do the task or action." So Robin means to say, don't forget to **dance**!

Here are some other examples:

Don't forget to walk the dog.

Don't forget to do your homework.

Don't forget to have fun!

So "Don't forget **shaking your booty**" means "Don't forget the expression 'to shake your booty'." "Don't forget **to shake your booty**" means "Don't forget to **dance**." So Robin makes a little joke here, telling us all we need to go **get down**!

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)

1. “Get down” means “to dance.” Is this it’s only meaning?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) maybe

2. In the expression “to shake your booty,” what is “booty”?

- a) head and neck
- b) bum or buttocks
- c) from side to side
- d) feet or toes

3. “Boogie” means “Dance,” but it could also mean _____.

Fill in the blank.

- a) a foot injury
- b) a musical instrument
- c) a type of music
- d) a guitar

4. Where do you most often hear the expressions we discussed in this episode?

- a) at school
- b) at dance school
- c) when people talk about professional dance
- d) in songs and movies

5. In the 1920s, this expression for dance became popular: “To cut a _____.”

Please fill in the blank.

- a) hole
- b) bug
- c) rug
- d) rat

6. Which other verb can mean “to dance”?

- a) to jump
- b) to go
- c) to smile
- d) to move

7. What is the meaning of “Don’t forget to shake your booty”?

- a) don’t forget
- b) don’t forget your bum
- c) don’t forget to dance
- d) don’t forget the expression “to shake your booty”

Answers: 1.b 2.b 3.c 4.d 5.c 6.d 7.c