

Simplified Speech #032 – Dancing

Episode description

Are you a good dancer, or do you have two left feet? In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Morag talk about dancing and share fun expressions you can use to talk about dancing.

Fun fact

In the 1920s and 1930s, dance marathons were a popular craze. Couples would try to win prizes by seeing who could dance the longest. Sometimes these dance marathons would go on for weeks!

Expressions included in the learning materials

- To sweep the nation
- Popping and locking
- Two left feet
- A bro
- Say





Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript.

Andrew: Hey everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And you are listening to Culips. Hey, Morag.

Morag: Hey, Andrew. How's it going?

Andrew: I'm pretty good. How about yourself?

Morag: I'm all right, but I have a new frustration.

Andrew: A new frustration? What is this frustration that's new to you?

Morag: Well, for the past couple of months, there has been no one in the building I live in, above me or below me. So I am on the second floor, and the third and first floors were vacant. No one was living in them.

Andrew: No one was living in there?

Morag: That was very pleasant 'cause you didn't have to worry about making noise, and no one bothered you with noise.

Andrew: Awesome.

Morag: Well, I have currently an infestation of French raver **bros**.

Andrew: Wow, wow, wow, wow. OK, let's back it up.

Morag: Let's back it up.

Andrew: That was an interesting sentence because this word infestation. We usually use this word to talk about bugs or rodents, when they come into your house and they take over your house. This is an infestation. But you don't have an infestation of cockroaches, or ants, or mice. You have an infestation of French raver **bros**?

Morag: Yes, that is exactly correct. That is how I think of them. They're actually my downstairs neighbours, but they're just as annoying as an infestation of insects or rodents. There are five of them in a three-bedroom apartment.

Andrew: Oh no.



- Morag: They seem to be 18, maybe 19, and they constantly, constantly listen to bad dance music.
- Andrew: Bad dance music. So you hear that bass drum? Just the boom-boom.
- Morag: Boom-boom. Ah, drives me insane, yeah.
- Andrew: I'm curious. What is **a raver bro**? Who is **a raver bro**?
- Morag: Well **a bro** is ... That's a tough one. **A bro** is a typically masculine guy, kind of like a jock.
- Andrew: **A bro** is, at least when you're calling somebody **a bro** in a negative way, it's just a guy that has a bad attitude that you don't like. They're not a super terrible person, but they're still terrible enough. And you just wish that you didn't have to interact with them.
- Morag: Mmhmm. And the raver part is they are very much into EDM (electronic dance music), and they seem to go dancing a lot. And I saw them outside making friendship bracelets.
- Andrew: Cute.
- Morag: Yeah, and other things that you wear going dancing to electronic clubs and stuff. So that's where that is coming from.
- Andrew: Well, Morag, it's very timely that these neighbours have moved into your building because the topic for today's Simplified Speech episode is dancing. Something that your neighbours probably know a lot about.
- Morag: Yeah, yup. Too bad can't have them up here.
- Andrew: If you don't know, Simplified Speech is our series where we have natural conversations at a slower than usual conversational speed. And if you want to really maximize your time studying here today guys, check out our websites, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, to download the study guide for this episode. OK, Morag, let's get into it a little bit. We'll transition away from the French raver **bro** neighbours, and we'll talk about us, OK?
- Morag: All right, sounds good.
- Andrew: So dancing.
- Morag: Dancing. Do you like to dance, Andrew?
- Andrew: I do honestly enjoy dancing, but I'm a terrible dancer. I have **two left feet**.
- Morag: That's a great expression.



- Andrew: Mmhmm, to have **two left feet**, if somebody has **two left feet** it means they're just bad at dancing.
- Morag: Mmhmm, I don't have **two left feet**, but I'm not a big fan of dancing in public.
- Andrew: In public. So you're a private dancer?
- Morag: It's fun to dance alone. Like, putting on music at home and, if the mood strikes you, just, you know, dancing! Jumping around, moving to the music. But I'm not a big fan of dance moves, I guess. Maybe I do have **two left feet**. It's fun to move your body to music, but knowing how to dance is another thing, is the real issue.
- Andrew: Yeah, I recently became friends with a guy who's a really good dancer. He went to a special high school—one of those art-focus high schools and studied dancing in high school. And so he can do all sorts of dance styles, but he was showing me some **popping and locking** and break dance moves, and I gotta say I was a little jealous, like it looked pretty cool.
- Morag: Yeah, it definitely can, but I think that guy is in the minority. I think most people seem to not know how to do dance moves. I think you can see that pretty well if you ever watch the dance floor at a wedding, **say**.
- Andrew: Dance floors at a wedding in Canada, it's one of the funniest things you'll ever see because I think, Canadians, we're just not good dancers. Of course, I don't wanna say everybody's a bad dancer in Canada but ...
- Morag: On the whole.
- Andrew: At least the weddings that my family members go to, like my cousin's wedding that I went to a couple of years ago, seeing all of my extended family dance, a little bit painful. I have to be honest, a little cringy.
- Morag: Very cringy. Maybe it's just watching older people dance, though. It's a ... I think as you get older, you lose some of the self-consciousness that would stop people from dancing. Just don't care. You just wanna have fun. So even if you look really silly, you'll still dance. I'm OK with that. It doesn't look good, but I think people should enjoy.
- Andrew: Yeah, I mean it's a lot of fun. You get to listen to music that you like. Obviously, if you're dancing to it, the music is exciting to you and it's great exercise. It's good to move around so.
- Morag: Very true.



- Andrew: It's easy to sit on the sidelines and laugh at people on the dance floor at a wedding, but I mean, if you do that, you're kinda the loser in that situation.
- Morag: It's true. So that's why you go and you join, and you laugh at yourself too. It's just more fun.
- Andrew: Now, another place you can go to dance is a nightclub, dance club. And I guess, I used to do this occasionally when I was younger. Haven't done it for a while now, and I don't know if I would like to visit a nightclub now, but I have in the past. What about you, Morag? Have you ever danced at a club, in the club?
- Morag: Definitely have. I have danced in the club, yup. Also, when I was younger, that happened more often. Although funnily enough, I was at a club all the time last year because I was working at a club.
- Andrew: Right.
- Morag: So I saw a lot of people dance, but I did not dance. I liked it better that way.
- Andrew: Cultures around the world usually have a traditional dance style. And Canada, our First Nations communities have, you know, lots of styles of traditional dance. And we both have Scottish heritage. Our families are from Scotland. And Scotland has a really interesting style of traditional dance, highland dance. Have you ever tried to do highland dancing?
- Morag: I didn't, although I have another friend who, she and her sisters all redheads.
- Andrew: Classic.
- Morag: Yeah, their father is from Scotland, and they all did highland dancing. It's really interesting. It's very, very aerobic. There's a lot of jumping.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's interesting to think about dance styles from around the world. And I kinda wish that, you know, Canada, we need to make a new dance for everybody in Canada. This would be really cool.
- Morag: That would be nice, but uh, I don't know.
- Andrew: I don't see it happening.
- Morag: Neither do I. Maybe we could adopt a dance that's popular, like ... Do you know, Andrew, are there any dance crazes **sweeping the nation**?
- Andrew: That's a good question. I don't know. I think at least from a Canadian perspective, we'd have to look to one of our pop superstars, like Justin Bieber or Drake. You know, Drake had that One Dance music video that



came out a couple of years ago, and there's some pretty funny dance moves in that video. Kinda went viral for a little bit. Maybe we should take those Drake kind of grandpa dance moves on as our national dance. I think I could get behind that.

Morag: If everybody does it, it's a OK, I guess. It's cool again.

Andrew: Perhaps, I don't know. Guys, if you haven't seen the music video for One Dance by Drake, you've been living under a rock first of all. But second of all, you should go to YouTube, and check that video out to see the funny moves that we're talking about.

Morag: Check out a Canadian icon.

Andrew: That's right. Morag, we will leave it at that for today, but just before we let you go, guys, I want to remind you about our website, Culips.com. It's the place where you can get the study guide for today's episode and also the place where you can listen to our back episodes, our previous episodes. So definitely go visit our website, and next time you're on Facebook, or maybe you're even on Facebook now, check our Facebook page, which is Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast. All right, that's it for today. I hope you enjoyed our conversation about dancing. Thanks for listening, and stay tuned because we will be back soon with a brand new Culips episode for you. We'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Morag: Bye.

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Detailed Explanations

To sweep the nation

If something is **sweeping the nation**, it is very popular. That is, **to sweep the nation** means to be very popular or to be known quickly.

In this episode, Morag wonders if Andrew knows of any new dance crazes that are **sweeping the nation**. In other words, Morag wants to know if Andrew knows of any dance fads that are popular in Canada right now.

The idiom **to sweep the nation** is often used to describe trends, whether it's a new summer dance, a must-have Christmas toy, or a popular exercise style. For example, these days, it's common to see a news report on television and hear, "Fidget spinners are the new craze **sweeping the nation!**" This means that fidget spinners are in demand. So if someone is talking about an upcoming fad, they could say, "[Something] is set **to sweep the nation.**"

Here are a couple more examples with **to sweep the nation**:

Nathan:	Beth, what are you doing?
Beth:	I'm playing a game on my phone where I have to hunt creatures down.
Nathan:	What's it called?
Beth:	Pokémon Go.
Nathan:	What's that?
Beth:	You don't know? It's a super cool game that's sweeping the nation . Get with the program! Geez, you're so old!

Dean:	Hey, take a look over here! I just read an article online about this thing.
Patrick:	What is that? It looks like a toy.
Dean:	Yeah, this toy is set to sweep the nation this Christmas. If you want to buy one for your little boy, make sure you buy it early. It might soon be hard to find.
Patrick:	OK, thanks!



Popping and locking

The expression **popping and locking** refers to two dance styles. Popping is a type of dance where you jerk your muscles, and locking is a type of dance where you stop during a specific move. Although **popping and locking** are two separate styles of dancing, these terms are often linked together and are associated with hip-hop music. In fact, hip-hop dancers often blend these two styles in a routine.

In this episode, Andrew talks about a friend who studied dance and showed him some moves, like **popping and locking**. In other words, Andrew's friend showed him the style of popping, so how to jerk his muscles at various speeds so it looks like they are popping. He also showed him locking, so how to stop during a dance move, hold the pose, and continue at the same speed.

In casual or informal conversations, **popping and locking** is typically used to refer to hip-hop dancing.

Here are a couple more examples with **popping and locking**:

Trish:	Are you a good dancer?
Chris:	Not bad. I studied hip-hop at a dance academy a few years back.
Trish:	Hip-hop? Like popping and locking ?
Chris:	Yeah.
Trish:	Cool! Could you show me some moves?
Chris:	You bet!

Brad:	Where are you headed?
Philip:	I got dance class in 20 minutes.
Brad:	Are you any good?
Philip:	Well, I'm good at popping and locking , but not at krumping.
Brad:	Are popping and locking the same thing?
Philip:	No way! They're completely distinct art forms!



Two left feet

If someone has **two left feet**, they are a bad dancer. That is, the idiom **two left feet** means clumsy or awkward, especially at dancing. Imagine someone with two left feet. They would have a hard time walking, let alone dancing!

People usually use the expression **two left feet** to talk about themselves, as Andrew did in this episode. Because the expression brings to mind a humorous, cartoonish image of someone with two left feet, this expression is often used in a joking manner between friends. In other words, although calling a friend a bad dancer can be insulting, saying a friend has **two left feet** is more teasing than insulting.

You can also use **two left feet** to refer to a generally awkward or clumsy person, without speaking about dancing. For example, if a wide receiver in football trips over his own legs a few times, you could say, "He has **two left feet**." If a soccer player has difficulty dribbling the ball, you could say, "She has **two left feet**."

Be careful: you can't use the idiom **two left feet** to talk about someone who is uncoordinated because they had too much to alcohol.

Here are a couple more examples with **two left feet**:

Shirley:	I'm going dancing with friends Saturday night. Wanna come?
Bob:	I probably shouldn't.
Shirley:	Why? Can't you dance?
Bob:	It's not that I can't dance. It's that I'm embarrassingly bad. I have two left feet .
Shirley:	Well, come anyways. I promise I won't laugh.

Wendy:	Wow! Take a look at Sean's father. He's such a good dancer.
Patrick:	Yeah, he's killing it. That's surprising.
Wendy:	Why do you say that?
Patrick:	Because Sean seriously has two left feet .
Wendy:	Oh, I see. Yeah, he could learn something from his father.



A bro

A bro means a stereotypical man who hangs out with like-minded people, and who is particularly interested in sports and partying. In this episode, Morag refers to her downstairs neighbours as French raver **bros**. By this, she means they are French-speaking males who like to go to raves or listen to rave music. She uses the word **bro** as an insult.

The term **bro** is often used in college fraternities and sport locker rooms. In fact, *frater* in Latin means brother, and a fraternity is considered a type of brotherhood, just as a sorority is a sisterhood. It is common for men in locker rooms to call each other **bro**, along with other terms, like dude or buddy.

Bro can also be used in a more neutral way. It is common for a man to refer to a close male friend as a brother. In this sense, you can say **bro** instead of brother or friend. Women can use the term to refer to a male friend, but men wouldn't refer to a woman as a **bro**.

The word **brah** is a variation of the word **bro**. Both words mean the same thing: a like-minded male or a brother or friend. However, people use **brah** to make their slang sound cooler.

Here are a couple more examples with **a bro**:

Darryl:	Hey, bro ! What's up?
Charles:	Not much, brah.
Darryl:	Gonna hit up the party Friday night?
Charles:	For sure! It's going to be off the hook!

Deacon:	Hey, did something happen between you and Pete? I thought you guys were bros .
Mark:	We used to be, but not anymore.
Deacon:	How come?
Mark:	We just started hanging out with different crowds. That's all.
Deacon:	Oh, that's too bad. He's really cool.



Say

The term **say** has multiple meanings in English. At one point in this episode, Morag ends a sentence with the word **say**. When Morag talks about how few people know how to dance well, she says “I think you can see that pretty well if you ever watch the dance floor at a wedding, **say**.” By using the word **say** at the end of the sentence, she is acknowledging that what she just said was an example that illustrates her point. In other words, when used this way, **say** means for example.

You can also use **say** to set up a hypothetical situation. For example, if someone says, “**Say** I wanted to renovate my bathroom, how much would that cost?,” they are using the term **say** as an abbreviated form of let’s say. In other words, when used at the beginning of a sentence, **say** can mean let’s say, if, supposing, or in the event.

When used as an adverb, **say** means about or approximately. For example, if a friend is planning a vacation, but doesn’t know how many days yet that they will be away, they could say, “I might be gone for **say** 6 days.”

Here are a couple more examples with **say**:

Stephanie:	Are we still good to go hiking on the weekend?
Mavis:	Yup! It should be fun.
Stephanie:	I know, right? Do you want to drive or take the bus?
Mavis:	The bus. Because if we’re too tired, say , we might not want to drive back.
Stephanie:	Good call.

Deli vendor:	Good afternoon!
Kate:	Good afternoon!
Deli vendor:	What can I get ya?
Kate:	Um, the honey-glazed chicken looks good, but so does the maple turkey. How about a bit of each?
Deli vendor:	Sure! How much would you like?
Kate:	About 400 grams of the chicken and say 200 grams of the turkey.
Deli vendor:	Coming right up!



Quiz

1. If you are no longer bros with someone, you are _____.
 - a) no longer married
 - b) children of divorced parents
 - c) no longer friends
 - d) not playing on the same team anymore

2. True or false: Popping and locking are types of hip-hop dancing.
 - a) true
 - b) false

3. In North America, in the 1950s, the twist was a popular dance. In other words, the twist _____.
 - a) sweep the nation
 - b) swept the nation
 - c) sweep the dance floor of the nation
 - d) swept the dance floor of the nation

4. Which of the following people most likely has two left feet?
 - a) John, who is a good dancer
 - b) Kenny, who is bad at computer games
 - c) Laura, who is embarrassed
 - d) Jessica, who is a bad dancer

5. What does the word say mean in the following dialogue example?
Mary: It was a long time, like twice the length of the movie Avatar, say.
 - a) for example
 - b) so long
 - c) too bad
 - d) many instances



Quiz Answers

1.c 2.a 3.b 4.d 5.a

Episode credits

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