

People all over the world are learning how to dance salsa.

Billy Kimmel,

Narrator: You've probably been taking classes for as long as you can remember. But today learning doesn't end when you earn a diploma. Learning has become a lifelong pursuit – for career advancement and just for fun. What interests *you*? Would you prefer to brush up on your math skills or improve your chess game? Would you rather learn English or take a class in the latest software program? There certainly are a lot of choices, but not all learning takes place in traditional classrooms or from books.

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Billy Kimmel: From tap to tango, and samba to swing, learning to dance is one of today's hottest trends. And salsa dancing is the hottest of them all. Its popularity has quickly spread all over the world. . . Hi. I'm Billy Kimmel. During the next few minutes, we're going to visit some dance classes and clubs and get some advice on how to dance salsa style.

Rico's Dance Studio – Tokyo, Japan

Billy Kimmel: How's your dance class going?

Woman 1: It's fun!

Man 1: It's great!

Billy Kimmel: Why did you decide to take a salsa class?

Woman 1: Because I was interested in dance.

Man 1: Because a lot of our friends come here.

Billy Kimmel: What's the best way to improve your dancing?

Woman 1: By going out to nightclubs.

Man 1: By practicing hard.

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Billy Kimmel: You seem to be doing really well. How did you learn to dance like that?

Man 2: By coming to class every weekend.

Billy Kimmel: Now, why did you decide to take salsa lessons?

Man 2: Because . . . uh . . . my buddy from high school just opened up . . . uh . . . like a salsa class, and, uh, he just invited me, so I joined it.

Shin's Dance Studio – Seoul, Korea

Billy Kimmel: How did you learn to dance salsa?

Woman 2: Uh, I took some lessons.

Billy Kimmel: What's a good way to improve your dancing?

Woman 2: Uh, by practicing with a guy. But you have to find the . . . a good partner.

Woman 3: By moving to the music!

Man 3 and Woman 4: By just dancing!

Quest Dance Club – United States

Billy Kimmel: It's salsa night at the Quest Dance Club. People are here for some dance lessons before the band arrives. Rebecca Trost teaches salsa here at the Quest. . . Rebecca, why do you think salsa is so popular these days?

Rebecca Trost: I think people like the . . . uh . . . hypnotic rhythms of salsa. I think it appeals to a wide variety of people. I think . . . uh . . . they like to have something easy to do and, uh, enjoy the music as well.

Billy Kimmel: What do you recommend for people who want to learn salsa?

Rebecca Trost: I would recommend taking private lessons and/or group classes and then practicing.

Billy Kimmel: And what's a good way to improve your salsa dancing?

Rebecca Trost: Going out to the nightclubs, practicing out in the nightclubs, getting together with friends at parties or even in your own home.

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Billy Kimmel: How long have you been coming here?

Man 4: I've been coming here for about six years to Quest every Monday night . . . uh . . . because I love to dance salsa.

Billy Kimmel: And what is it about salsa dancing that you like?

Man 4: I think salsa, I mean, it's got . . . it's got a good driving beat, it's got a lot of passion to it, and I think that it's a fun type of partner dance.

Billy Kimmel: And do you have any advice for people who are thinking about learning salsa dancing?

Man 4: I think a lot of people who don't know they . . . uh . . . if they can really dance until they get out and try. I think dancing starts by taking the initiative. Take a class.

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Billy Kimmel: You're looking good out there. What brings you to the Quest on salsa night?

Man 5: Well, I come here to dance . . . um . . . because I like salsa. I'm from Puerto Rico, and I grew up . . . uh . . . going to the pubs and festivals – salsa festivals.

Billy Kimmel: Why do you think salsa is so popular?

Man 5: Because it is basically a mix of so many trends and cultures into one type of music, I think it is appealing to people. And also because it's . . . uh . . . really upbeat and people like that . . . uh . . . when they go dancing.

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Billy Kimmel: You seem to be enjoying yourself. Do you come here often?

Woman 5: Yes. I come here just about every week. I come here to dance.

Billy Kimmel: Why do you think salsa is so popular?

Woman 5: You don't learn a set of steps. You just listen to the music and interpret the music.

Billy Kimmel: What's the best way to learn salsa dancing? Any recommendations?

Woman 5: It depends on how you learn. Some people learn best by going to a class. I learn best by watching and listening to the music and then getting brave and trying it a little.

Billy Kimmel: Do you prefer taking lessons in a studio or going out to a club?

Woman 5: I prefer coming to a club and dancing here. There's a different energy; it's more social. But there's nothing wrong with taking lessons. I recommend it.

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Billy Kimmel: You're a great dancer. How did you get started? Did you take lessons?

Man 6: When I first started dancing, there weren't . . . there weren't really any schools around to learn from, so what I did was . . . um . . . I listened to salsa in the car – just about everywhere – to get familiar with the music and the rhythm. And then . . . um . . . on Sunday mornings, I'd wake up, put on the fastest salsa that I could, and just do the steps.

Billy Kimmel: Do you have any advice for people who want to learn salsa dancing?

Man 6: Learn by doing. Practice, practice . . . uh . . . yeah, exactly. Just practice.

Billy Kimmel: That's a good idea. Maybe I should try that. How hard can it be?

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Billy Kimmel: OK, how do I get started?

Woman 6: Well, you can start by learning your basic rhythms and steps. Follow me. Quick, quick, slow. Quick, quick, slow. Quick, quick, slow.

Billy Kimmel: Quick, quick, slow. . .

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Billy Kimmel: OK, I think I've got it.

Woman 6: I think you do! You're a natural.

Billy Kimmel: Hey, this is a lot of fun. You should try it. This is Billy Kimmel, actually salsa dancing, from the Quest Dance Club.