

# DANCING FOR ADULTS

**Whether you're 8 years old or 80 years young, dance has the power to transform your life.**

From better physical and mental health to improved emotional and social well-being, moving your body to music offers benefits for every age and stage of life.

## Physical Benefits of Dance

Dance is exercise, so the physical benefits are similar to other forms of cardio activity—but with the added fun of music and movement.

### 1. Improves cardiovascular health

Dancing gets your heart pumping! The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends 150–300 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75–150 minutes of vigorous activity each week. Dancing of any style can help you meet those goals while having fun.

### 2. Builds balance and strength

Unlike typical workouts that mostly happen in one plane of motion (like walking, cycling, or running), dance incorporates lateral, rotational, and dynamic movements. This works every muscle group, boosts strength, and improves balance.

### 3. Gentle on the body

Many dance styles, like ballroom, are low-impact and adaptable for people with limited mobility or chronic conditions. Instructors can modify movements, making dance accessible to nearly everyone.

## Mental Benefits of Dance

### 4. Boosts cognitive performance

Research shows that dancing can maintain—and even enhance—memory, planning, and organizational skills as we age. The combination of movement, rhythm, and music strengthens the brain in unique ways.

### 5. Challenges your brain

From remembering choreography to coordinating steps, dance requires focus and mental agility. Styles like tap dancing, in particular, give your brain a workout while keeping you engaged and learning.

## Emotional Benefits of Dance

### 6. Truly inclusive

Dance is for everyone. Whether you're moving your whole body or just your upper body, you can express yourself through movement. It's one of the most welcoming forms of physical activity.

### 7. Encourages social connection

Dance is often shared. Whether it's in a class, with friends, or alongside family, dancing together builds community and belonging while strengthening social bonds.

### 8. Boosts your mood

Dance is expressive and freeing—it helps release stress, reduces anxiety and depression, and builds confidence. Simply put, it feels good to move to music.

✦ **Bottom line:** Dance isn't just about steps and rhythm—it's about improving your body, mind, and spirit. It's one of the most joyful and effective ways to stay healthy and connected at any age.