

## Achy Breaky Imperatives

**Level:** Elementary or Pre-Intermediate

**Objective:** Imperatives  
Body part vocabulary  
Prepositions of movement  
Intensive Listening

**Video:** Achy Breaky Heart Line Dance  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGpZ9bchCJw&feature=fvst>

**Song:** Achy Breaky Heart by Billy Ray Cyrus (free at [www.grooveshark.com](http://www.grooveshark.com))

**Auxiliary Vocabulary:** to clap, to tap, to rock back on your foot, to step, to slide, to stick out, a pattern, a quarter-turn, a heel

### Plan:

Play a quick game of Simon Says. Introduce the auxiliary vocabulary through the game.

It's a good idea to then demonstrate the dance one time for your students while playing the music (I recommend practicing at home before class). However, I have had problems with students, especially male students, revolting against the idea of dancing. For this reason it's better to just tell your students they are going to have to follow some instructions without explaining that it's a dance.

Pair the students up and hand out the instructions (page 2 is for elementary and page 3 is for pre-int & up). Students should run through it one time and then switch.

At the end you can play the video or song to show them what it should look like.

Finally, have the class do the dance together with the music. If some students refuse, as I've had happen, just ask them to wait outside while those that want to participate do it. Of course, there is no language being practiced when you actually just do the dance, so, if a lot of students aren't up for it, just skip it. It's supposed to be for a laugh at the end of class.

**Follow-Up:** Students write their own instructions about an activity they like. It could be a dance, how to play a sport, a recipe, or instructions for what they do at their jobs everyday. When students are finished writing their instructions, they can team up with a partner in front of the class. As one student reads out the instructions, their partner acts them out.

**Start:** Stand straight with your feet together.

**Part 1:**

- 1) Step to the right with your right foot.
- 2) Cross your left leg behind your right foot.
- 3) Step to the right again.
- 4) Bring your legs together.
- 5) Tap the floor with your left foot.

**Part 2:**

- 1) Step to the left with your left foot.
- 2) Cross your right leg behind your left foot.
- 3) Step to the left again.
- 4) Bring your legs together.
- 5) Tap the floor with your right foot.

**Part 3:**

- 1) Take 3 steps back – right, left, right.
- 2) Rock back on your right foot
- 3) Clap.

**Part 4:**

- 1) Step forward with your left foot.
- 2) Slide your right foot forward to meet your left foot.
- 3) Tap the ground.
- 4) Do the same thing a second time.

**Part 5:**

- 1) Stick your left leg out.
- 2) Tap the floor with your heel.
- 3) Bring your foot back
- 4) Do the same with the right leg.

**Part 6:**

- 1) Move your left leg out to the left.
- 2) Tap the floor twice with your toes.
- 3) Slide your left leg in front of you.
- 4) Tap the floor twice.
- 5) Repeat this pattern twice, but only tap the floor once (i.e. left one tap, front one tap, left one tap, front one tap).

**Part 7:**

- 1) Jump and quarter-turn to your left.
- 2) Clap.

**Part 8:** Start again from part one.

**Start:** Stand straight with your feet together.

**Part 1:**

1) Step to the right with your right foot. 2) Cross your left leg behind your right foot. 3) Step to the right again. 4) Bring your legs together and tap the floor with your left foot.

**Part 2:**

1) Step to the left with your left foot. 2) Cross your right leg behind your left foot. 3) Step to the left again. 4) Bring your legs together and tap the floor with your right foot.

**Part 3:**

Take 3 steps back – right, left, right, then rock back on your right foot and clap.

**Part 4:**

Step forward with your left foot and bring your right foot to meet your left foot and tap the ground. Do the same thing a second time.

**Part 5:** Stick your left leg out and tap the floor with your heel, then bring your foot back and do the same with the right leg.

**Part 6:** Move your left leg out to the left and tap the floor twice with your toes. Now, slide your left leg in front of you and tap the floor twice. Repeat this pattern twice, but only tap the floor once. The step should go left-one tap, front-one tap, left-one tap, front-one tap.

**Part 7:** Jump and quarter-turn to your left, then clap.

**Part 8:** Start again from part one.