

Irish dance is a significant part of Irish culture. It can be performed in groups or solo.

Irish social dancing is known as 'ceili'. Ceili dance, practised both competitively and socially, is performed by groups of two to sixteen people.

Solo Irish dance includes the most well-known form of Irish dance, Irish step dance. Step dance is characterised by the rigid upright body and intricate footwork of its performers.

In competitive Irish dancing, appropriate clothes are important. Most women wear colourful dresses with lots of ornamentation and big curly wigs (peruki).



Irish dancing was popularised with „Riverdance” a theatrical show first presented in 1994 during the 39th Eurovision Song Contest, featuring Irish dancing champions Jean Butler and Michael Flatley. To watch the event, click on the link.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0v\\_pu6miJ8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0v_pu6miJ8)